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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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**REPORT OF THE 4TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE STC ON
AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, WATER AND
ENVIRONMENT (ARDWE), 13-17 DECEMBER 2021**

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**Fourth Ordinary Session of the Specialised Technical Committee (STC) on
Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment
16 December 2021
Zoom Virtual Platform**

STC4/ARDWE/MIN

REPORT

A. INTRODUCTION

1. The African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government adopted the configuration of the Specialised Technical Committees (STCs) and the modalities of their operationalization (Assembly/AU/Dec.227 (XII) and Assembly/AU/Dec.365 (XVII) in January 2009 and July 2011, respectively, as Organs of the Union in accordance with Article 5 (1) (g) of the Constitutive Act. One of the Specialised Technical Committees that was established is the Specialised Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (ARDWE). The Specialised Technical Committees are composed of Ministers or senior officials responsible for sectors falling within their respective areas of competence. The Ministers are responsible for preparing projects and programmes of the Union and submitting them to the Executive Council. They also have the duty to ensure the supervision, follow-up and evaluation of the implementation of decisions taken by the organs of the Union and the coordination and harmonisation of projects and programmes of the Union. The STC is also expected to carry out any other functions assigned to it for the purpose of ensuring the implementation of the provisions of relevant AU Acts. The STCs are expected to meet at least every two years in order to discharge the responsibilities vested upon them by the AU Assembly.

2. It is against this background that the Ministerial Segment of the Fourth Ordinary Session of the Specialised Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (herein referred to as 'the STC') took place virtually on a Zoom Platform on 16 December 2021.

3 It is important to note that the Fourth Ordinary Session was held in the context of:

- a. The restructuring of the department that made two fundamental changes namely: (i) creation of two separate Directorates, and (ii) creation of a Blue Economy Division;
- b. The COVID19 Pandemic and its impact on the various sectors under the STC;
- c. UN Food Systems Summit that was held in September 2021.

B. OBJECTIVES

4 The objective of the Fourth Ordinary Session of the STC was to review progress made in the implementation of previous AU and STC Decisions, provide policy guidance, adopt reports, frameworks and programmes, as well as recommendations that will be presented for consideration by the Executive Council of the African Union.

C. PARTICIPATION

5. Delegates from the following Member States participated in the STC: Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Saharawi

Republic, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, The Gambia, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda and Zambia.

6 Delegates from the following Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and organisations also attended the open plenary sessions: Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CENSAD), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Southern African Development Community (SADC), Arab Maghreb Union (UMA), European Union Delegation to the AU, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) among others..

D. OPENING SESSION

7. The Opening Session was presided over by the outgoing Chair of the STC-ARDWE, Hon. Angela Thoko Didiza Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development of the Republic of South Africa. She welcomed all Honorable Ministers, Deputy Ministers and all their representatives who have participated in the 4th STC, ARDWE. She recognized the Senior Officials and Technical Experts who had been part of the meetings since 13 December 2021. She equally recognized the presence of the development partners present to engage in the important matters of the STC. She then formally declared the meeting open and invited the Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment to deliver opening remarks.

E. OPENING STATEMENTS

8. Her Excellency, Amb Josefa Sacko, Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment welcomed all the participants to the Ministerial Segment of the 4th STC on behalf of the Chairperson of the Commission, H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat. She expressed her gratitude to the participants for making time to attend the statutory meeting to review progress made in the implementation of the previous STC decisions, provide policy guidance for the activities of the department. She expressed desire of holding the 5th STC physical in Addis Ababa in 2023. She noted the progress made in implementation of the previous decisions despite the challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

9. Among other achievements, she mentioned holding large and small events virtually including the Extra-ordinary Session of the STC, ARDWE on 15 July 2021 that endorsed the African Common Position to the United Nations Food Systems Summit. She expressed gratitude to the Member States for entrusting and re-electing her for the second term as the Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment with two Directorates: Agriculture and Rural Development as well as Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy. She outlined the progress made in implementation of initiatives, projects and programmes in the

fields of Agriculture and Rural Development including the CAADP Biennial Review Report and the CAADP Business Plan 2022-2025. She highlighted the regional consultations on the CAADP Communication tools following the recommendations of the 3rd STC which were organized in collaboration with Regional Economic Communities and chaired by the Members of the Bureau of the 3rd STC. She also mentioned the continental and regional consultations held on the establishment of the African Union Food Safety Agency (AFSA), an urgent imperative as expressed by Member States during the joint meeting of Ministers responsible for Agriculture, Trade and Finance of 27 July 2020.

10. Amb. Josefa Sacko observed that in order to facilitate movement of agricultural products and services both trade and non-trade, DARBE developed a Food Safety Strategy as well as the Plant Health Strategy for Africa that will boost the implementation of the Sanitary and Phyto Sanitary (SPS) Framework. She also mentioned that in order to accelerate access to inputs and input services, the department has developed Continental Guidelines for the harmonization of Seed Regulatory Frameworks in Africa as well as Guidelines on the use of Biotechnology for Food and Agriculture in Africa. The department has also established the African seed and Biotechnology Platform, rolled out the implementation of the Sustainable Mechanisation Framework and the Irrigation Development and Agricultural Water Management Framework.

11. The Commissioner went on to outline other achievements in the areas of Post-Harvest Losses, Land Governance, Digital Agriculture, Rural Women, Common African Agro-Park Programme, Agribusiness and Investment. Regarding the Directorate of Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy, the key achievements mentioned include the development of the Climate Change Strategy, African Green Recovery Plan, African Pavilion at the UNFCCC COP26 in Glasgow, as well as the establishment of a multi-hazards early warning system and early action continental Situation Room among others.

12. The Honourable Angela Thokozile Didiza, Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development delivered the statement on behalf of the Republic of South Africa, the outgoing Chair of the STC. She congratulated Amb. Sacko upon her re-election which was a show of confidence in her work and that of her team during her tenure and called for continued implementation of the AU and STC Decisions.

Hon. Didiza highlighted the unprecedented challenges that are facing the African food system with a confluence of shocks which include climate change, pests particularly locusts, Fall Army Worm and diseases such as African swine fever, Avian Flu, foot and mouth etc. She added the once-in a generation COVID-19 pandemic which has challenged policy makers to think differently on how to develop and grow the agricultural sector. She raised a question on how to build resilient and sustainable food value chains in Africa.

13. She announced that following the United Nations Food Systems Summit, Member states will all be implementing continental and country commitments that were worked on prior to the Summit. She expressed appreciation to the Ministers for the various roles played in mobilizing stakeholders and holding various country dialogues as part of the preparations for the Food Systems Summit held in September 2021. Africa was able to coordinate and present an African Common position that was tabled in the pre-Summit held in Rome by President Kagame and the Summit where the President of the AU H.E. Tshisekedi presented the position.

14. She expressed concerns about food security given the weaknesses of the food systems exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on economies. She commended the efforts of the 3rd STC Bureau and the Commission in collaboration with the FAO leadership in developing a response to COVID-19. She singled out the Task Force that was established to oversee the implementation of the actions identified by the African Ministers for Agriculture in the Political Declaration adopted on 16 April 2020. She also noted the convening of joint virtual meeting of the African Ministers responsible for Agriculture, Trade and Finance to reaffirm commitment to implementation of the AfCFTA and also put agriculture at the centre as countries rebuilt better their economies post-pandemic. This has led to a closer working relation between the Ministers of Agriculture and Finance to ensure that agriculture investment is at the centre of strategies for economic recovery in a number of areas. She also acknowledged efforts of the Ministers of Environment through AMCEN for the COVID-19 responses made.

15. Hon. Didiza talked of the resolution that the STC, ARDWE commit to the decisions of the Heads of State by ensuring coordination of the various sub-sectors. Hence, the Ministers of AMCEN and AMCOMET were engaged to become part of the STCs by ensuring that their reports to the AU Summit would be through the STC. She commended the leadership of AMCEN and AMCOMET for making it possible to comply with the decision of the Heads of State such that this STC can actually undertake its work as is expected to within the constitutional framework of the STC. She thanked the Ministers of Environment for the efforts made in organizing the COP 25 and COP 26 and called upon Senegal to sustain the coordination efforts in the given mandate.

F. ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ELECTED BUREAU

16. The Office of the Legal Counsel announced the outcome of the election of the new Bureau with a mandate of two years beginning in December 2021 as follows: .

- **Chair: Arab Republic of Egypt (Northern Africa)**
- **1st Vice Chair: Republic of Rwanda (Eastern Africa)**
- **2nd Vice Chair: Republic of Gabon (Central Africa)**
- **3rd Vice Chair: Republic of Côte d'Ivoire (Western Africa)**
- **Rapporteur: Republic of South Africa (Southern Region)**

G. INAUGURATION OF MULTI-HAZARDS EARLY WARNING SYSTEM AND EARLY ACTION CONTINENTAL SITUATION ROOM

17. The Commission invited the STC for the soft launch and presentation of the Situation Room. The presentation commenced with a short video showing the journey to the establishment of the Situation room. Views from various stakeholders, including Member States, Regional Economic Communities, the African Centre for Meteorological Applications for Development - ACMAD - were aired, which all converged on the necessity of a continental situation room. The presentation then gave an overview of the components of the situation room and the products, namely the continental watch and the situation report. The benefits of the situation room for the AU Member States and RECs were underscored.

18. Mr Amjad Abbashar, Head of the United Nations Office for Disaster Reduction (UNDRR) Africa Regional Office, welcomed the establishment of a Situation Room and congratulated the AU Commission for the operationalisation for at project, critical in saving lives, providing reliable and centralised data that had economic and social applications.

19. The Centro Internazionale in Monitoraggio Ambientale Research Foundation - CIMA - as a technical partner to the establishment of the Situation Room, welcomed the operationalisation of the Situation Room, and assured the AUC and the UNDRR of their technical and scientific support given their extensive experience in early warning systems.

20. In her statement, the Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable development highlighted the importance of the Multi-hazards Early Warning System (MHEWS) and Situation room. She noted the recent disasters that have affected Sub-Saharan Africa. She stated that the inauguration of the situation room was just the beginning of a long journey to a truly multi-hazard Early warning system. She extended appreciation to the government of Italy and the UNDRR for the support.

On the Inauguration of Africa Multi-Hazard Early Warning System and Early Action Situation Room for Disaster Risk Reduction:

21. The Continental Situation Room was launched, virtually, by Hon. Al-Sayed el-Quseir, Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, Arab Republic of Egypt and Chair of the STC. Hon. Al-Sayed emphasized that the establishment of the Situation Room is key to contributing towards reducing disaster mortalities and economic losses at micro level and improved disaster risk management at macro level through improved availability and access to early warning information as well as harmonized early warning systems. On behalf of the STC, the Minister extended his utmost

appreciation to the African Union Commission and partners for the support rendered towards the operationalisation of the Situation Room and concluded that the sustainability of the Situation Room and the Multi-Hazard Early Warning Programme is dependent on the inputs from the RECs and Member States that directly interface with the hazards as well as continued financial and technical support from the cooperating partners.

22. The STC took note of remarks by H.E. Amb. Josefa Sacko, Commissioner ARBE on the Inauguration of the Continental Situation Room.

23. The STC commended the AU Commission for establishment of the Situation Room and applauded the Government of Italy for the support.

H. HAND OVER REMARKS BY OUTGOING CHAIR OF THE BUREAU

24. The Honourable Angela Thokozile Didiza, Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development congratulated Egypt upon assuming the Chair of the STC and delivered the handover report of the Republic of South Africa.

I. ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY INCOMING CHAIR OF THE BUREAU

25. The Hon. Al-Sayed el-Quseir, Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, expressed gratitude to the outgoing Chair of the 3rd STC Bureau commending the progress made during her tenure. The Chair thanked Member states for electing Egypt to Chair the STC Bureau for the next two years. He accepted the responsibility with humility and pledged to work diligently in supporting the work of the Commission on Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment.

J. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF THE STC

26. The meeting adopted the agenda of the STC as presented.

K. PRESENTATION OF THE 3RD CAADP BIENNIAL REVIEW REPORT

27 In the presentation, the Commission highlighted that the report was the third on the implementation of the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods and would be presented to the 35th Ordinary Session of the Heads of State and Government in February 2022. The presentation indicated that 51 Member States reported in 2021 compared to 49 in 2019 while four did not report. Forty-nine (49) indicators were tracked compared to 47 in 2019 and country progress was assessed based on the 2020 benchmark of **7.28 out of 10**. The report revealed that while only one country (Rwanda) was on track towards achieving the Malabo Commitments by 2025, 19 Member States were progressing well and 31 were not on track.

28. The meeting then discussed the presentation on CAADP communication and advocacy tools. The communication tools were very much appreciated, particularly the interactive nature of the tools, and the fact that they would be used to show country-level progress in accomplishing the Malabo commitments and for peer review and learning. Finally, the meeting took stock of the report on regional consultations on the Communication Tools.

29. Concerned about the current status of food and nutrition security on the continent and the need to accelerate the implementation of CAADP for a resilient food system on the continent, the STC:

30. Endorsed the 3rd CAADP Biennial Review report for its submission to the 35th Ordinary Session of the Head of States and Governments in February 2022.

31. Endorsed the CAADP communication and advocacy toolkit and dashboard for use to communicate the Biennial Review findings.

32. Requested AUC, Member States, Regional Economic Communities, and AUDA-NEPAD to mount a strong communication and dissemination campaign on the findings of the report.

33. Called Upon AU Member States, working in collaboration with all stakeholders, to ensure that national dialogues are convened to reflect on and discuss the results of the report, and to prioritize and develop policy and programmatic responses to speed up the implementation of the Malabo Declaration.

34. Advocated for stronger political leadership and commitment to enable the governments to mobilize stakeholder buy-in for financing and implementation of key recommendations.

To this end, the STC;

35. Requested AU Member States, RECs, AUC and AUDA-NEPAD to establish a central multi-sectoral coordination mechanism required for effective CAADP implementation.

36. Requested the Commission to submit a proposal to the Permanent Representatives Committee to establish a Sub-Committee on Agriculture, Food security, Nutrition and Rural Development to oversee the implementation of the programs in agriculture, food security, nutrition and rural development;

37. Urged Member States to design, fund and implement carefully selected priority programs and projects to fast-track the achievement of the seven Malabo Commitments. In this regard, Member States should intensify efforts to develop and implement Malabo-compliant high-quality National Agriculture Investment Plans (NAIPs).

38. Requested AUC, AUDA-NEPAD and development partners to strengthen the capacity of Regional Economic Communities by providing them with more human and financial resources, given the critical role they play in mobilizing Member States in the Biennial Review process

39. Requested AUC, AUDA-NEPAD and RECS to strengthen partnerships guided by the findings of the report to ensure alignment with the CAADP agenda.

40. Requested AUC and AUDA-NEPAD to strengthen the mutual accountability systems to include accountability for actions and results by a broader range of players, including the private sector, farmer organizations, civil society organizations and development partners.

41. Called Upon AU Member States to use the CAADP Biennial Review mechanism to report on progress in the implementation of the pathways for food systems transformation in the Africa Common Position to the UN Food System and national dialogues report and called upon the Commission to update the reporting templates to reflect such.

42. Requested AUC and AUDA-NEPAD to undertake an Independent evaluation/audit of the overall Biennial Review process to establish the efficacy of the self-reporting system and to suggest measures to strengthen the quality and robustness of the process at national, regional and continental levels.

43. Encouraged AU Member States to integrate the CAADP Biennial Review data collection process into existing national monitoring and reporting systems, including the Joint Sector Review processes.

44. Requested AUC and Member States to develop and strengthen implementable mechanisms for peer learning.

45. Requested AU Member States to establish stronger emergency response plans and commit to building more resilient food systems to respond better to future shocks.

PRESENTATION AND DELIBERATIONS ON SPECIFIC REPORTS REQUESTED BY THE STC

L. REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS ON THE CAADP BIENNIAL REVIEW COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY TOOLS (TOOLKIT AND DASHBOARD)

46. The Commission made a presentation on the background of the regional consultations related to the toolkit and dashboard citing the decision and criteria. The meeting was informed that consultations established the usefulness of the communication tools and their ability to help them assess country-level progress towards the Malabo Commitments. The Member States called for only one CAADP biennial review communication tool, hence the need to embed the biennial review dashboard into the biennial review toolkit, which has since been accomplished. It was agreed that the tools were necessary for Regional Economic Communities to compare the performance of Member States towards accomplishing the Malabo Commitments and to offer the needed support to Member States to improve upon areas in which they are performing poorly. The Consultations also led to wider appreciation of the ability of Member States and RECs to develop customised dashboards to regularly

assess their performance. Member states also observed that the tools assist countries to be accountable for commitments that were collectively agreed upon. The STC:

47. **COMMENDED** the report and **REQUESTED** the Commission to share the two presentations with Member states through the Embassies/Permanent Missions or any other available means. The STC:

48. **ENDORSED** the CAADP biennial review toolkit and the CAADP biennial review dashboard as communication and advocacy tools for use in disseminating the findings of the biennial review reports.

.M. THE SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS OF FOOD SAFETY LABORATORIES INFRASTRUCTURE AND CAPABILITIES IN AFRICA

49. The Commission recalled the proposal to the 2nd STC on establishment of a Pan African Food Safety Laboratory and the recommendation to conduct a situation analysis of existing food safety laboratory infrastructure on the continent. Hence, the findings of the situation analysis were presented to the Ministers to inform the next steps including a decision on the options for the establishment of the Pan African Food Safety Laboratory. The presentation highlighted the Methodology, Scope, Nature or status of laboratories covered; Physical infrastructure and equipment; Food and feed hazards covered as well as Laboratory capabilities. **The STC:**

50. **Recalled** the decision of the 2nd STC STC2/ARDWE/MI requesting the AUC to conduct a situation analysis of existing food safety laboratory infrastructure on the continent in order to inform a decision on the proposal for the establishment of the Pan African Food Safety Laboratory

51. **Took Note** of the report presented by the Commission including the three options proposed to strengthen food safety laboratory capabilities on the continent;

52. **ENDORSED** the approaches of designating existing national food safety laboratories as either regional or continental food safety reference laboratories, as the most effective mechanisms to enhance the performance of food testing laboratory capacities in Africa

53. **ADVOCATED** for the possibility of establishment of a Pan African Food Safety Laboratory through a Public-Private Partnership arrangement. The AU could, therefore, play an oversight role to ensure integrity and neutrality of the laboratory especially in case of dispute and; support resource mobilization efforts. The oversight role would be played by the African Union Food Safety Agency (AFSA) and/or the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat.

N. AFRICA FOOD SAFETY AGENCY

54. The Commission also recalled that the 3rd STC of 2019 having noted the preparatory work by the AU Commission in conducting consultations with member states and partners in 2012, 2013 and the 2019 scoping study, requested the Commission to undertake further consultations on the functions of the Agency in order to avoid duplication with existing regional and continental structures. In view of the presentations, the STC:

55. TOOK NOTE of the inclusive and meaningful stakeholder consultations undertaken by the Commission as recommended by the 3rd STC;

56. RECOGNIZED the need for the continent to improve food safety coordination, reduce food borne disease burden and facilitate food trade. And that the roles, functions and the structure of the proposed AFSA are relevant and will contribute to addressing continental needs on food safety.

57. TOOK NOTE of the proposed revisions to establish the AU Food Safety Agency with the roles, functions and structure recommended by stakeholder consultations;

58. REQUESTED the AUC to submit a proposal for the establishment of the AU Food Safety Agency to the relevant PRC Sub-Committees within the framework of the current AU reforms including structural, legal and financial implications;

59. FURTHER REQUESTED the Commission to work with the Office of the AU Legal Counsel to prepare the Statutes of the Centre, a document that will define the mandate, structure, staffing, rules and procedures of the Agency.

O. THE REVISED 2021-2030 INTEGRATED AFRICAN STRATEGY ON METEOROLOGY (WEATHER AND CLIMATE SERVICES)

60. The presentation on the Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology (Weather and Climate Services) was made by the Commission, in collaboration with Mozambique, the 3rd Vice Chair of the Africa Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET). The Strategy aims to provide strategic direction on the development and application of meteorology (weather and climate services) to support Africa's social and economic development including in sectors such as agriculture and food security, health, water management, aviation, infrastructure, marine and blue economy, disaster risk reduction, energy, *inter alia*.

61. The presentation highlighted the objectives as well as the core pillars of the Strategy. The five pillars of the Strategy are:

- Increase political support and recognition of national meteorological services (NHMs) and Regional Climate Centres (RCCs)
- Improved observation networks, data access and processing
- Improved weather, water, climate and climate change services

- Research and Innovation, development and training
- Strengthened partnerships with relevant institutions, the private sector and civil society

62. The meeting highlighted the important cross-sectoral nature of meteorology in contributing to Africa's development. The Strategy also plays a critical role in rationalising water, weather, and climate services, as well as in supporting informed adaptation, management of weather and climate related risks, and strengthening of capacities in various sectors highlighted by the strategy. The Commission informed the STC experts that the strategy was endorsed by the African Ministers Responsible for Meteorology during the 5th Session of AMCOMET which took place on 16-17 March 2021 where it was recommended that the Strategy be submitted to the 4th STC-ARDWE for adoption and further consideration for endorsement by the Executive Council. The STC:

63. ADOPTED the Revised Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology (Weather and Climate Services) (2021-2030) and **REQUESTED** the Executive Council to endorse the Strategy

64. ENCOURAGED Member States to implement the Strategy and take into account the Continental Strategy when developing/reviewing their national strategies

65. CALLED UPON the AUC to develop a monitoring and evaluation framework for the strategy.

P. PRESENTATION OF THE AFRICA CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

66. The Commission made a presentation on the Africa Climate Change Strategy. The presentation noted that the aim of the Strategy is to harmonise Climate change action in the continent. It further noted that the Strategy is aligned to the Agenda 2063 objectives and other existing frameworks. The vision and objectives of the Strategy were highlighted. The presentation also gave an overview of the strategic intervention areas of the Strategy. The presentation informed the meeting that a consultative process was followed in the development of the Strategy including regional consultative workshops. The **STC**:

67. ENDORSED Africa's Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and action plan (2022-2032)

68. REQUESTED the African Union Commission in consultation with Member States to identify a flagship or priority area that could be implemented in the lead up to the United Nations Climate Change Conference of Parties (UNFCCC COP)

69. CALLED UPON African Union Member States, RECs and relevant stakeholders to facilitate and support the implementation of the Strategy at the national, regional, sub-regional and local levels.

Q. PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF EXPERTS AND SENIOR OFFICIALS

70. The Report of the Experts and Senior Officials was presented by the Commission on behalf of the Chair of the Expert's meeting, which took place on 13-14 December 2021. On the Report of the Experts and Senior Officials, the STC:

71. **ENDORSED** the Report with amendments.

R. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

72. The **Kingdom of Morocco** took the floor to commend the outgoing Chair and welcome the new Bureau. Morocco further highlighted the various projects and initiatives that it was implementing, including promoting women in fisheries and expressed its support to launch the process of the CAADP biennial review anew.

73. The **Republic of Mozambique** proposed the approval of the climate change strategy and proposed its alignment with the Situation Room.

73. The **United Republic of Tanzania** welcomed the initiatives on disaster risk reduction especially the Africa Institutional Framework on Multihazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS) and expressed its support for DRR interventions especially by exchanging data to mitigate increasing transboundary risks. Tanzania exhorted Member states to strengthen continental initiatives through data sharing, and to increase budgetary action to proactively manage risks including through supporting the early warning systems. Tanzania supports the creation of an African disaster operations capacity and capability which would build upon the Institutional Framework on MHEWS. Tanzania requested that Swahili language be used for future meetings.

75. The **Republic of Chad** indicated their agreement with the recommendations of the experts report and highlighted the importance of initiatives on pastoralism, citing that they organised a colloquial on pastoral security. The Republic of Chad requested more work to be done to address agro-pastoral conflicts. Chad also highlighted the need to support food safety laboratories.

76. The **Republic of Uganda** highlighted the importance of conservation and sustainable utilization of the Animal Genetic Resources found in various parts of Africa. Uganda endorsed the report on the promotion of the regional genebanks to African Animal Resources Seed Centres of Excellence and highlighted their anticipated contribution towards building a formidable pool of technical expertise across Africa as pertains to conservation and genebanking. In addition, Uganda supported the motion on the creation of the African Union Animal Resources Back-up

Center. The Republic of Uganda reaffirmed her commitment to the Global Plan Action and championing of cryoconservation and sustainable use of Animal genetic resources in Africa.

77. The **Republic of Malawi** asserted that it remains committed to continental initiatives and thus fully endorses the 2nd CAADP Business plan 2021-2025. Malawi launched the Malawi 2063 vision which is aligned to AU Agenda 2063 - The Africa We Want. Malawi will pay attention to the blue economy, rural development, women empowerment, landscape management, inter alia, and appeals for financial and technical support to achieve these targets. Malawi further reaffirmed their commitment to Malabo declaration commitments.

78. The **Republic of South Africa** requested the experts and senior officials to guide Ministers on the decisions discussed in the senior official segment, as well as the implementation of previous decisions of STC to allow the STC to review its progress. South Africa supports the intervention on the Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology Strategy (Weather and Climate Services) as well as the Africa Climate Strategy and action plan 2022-32, and hopes this will allow Africa to focus on adaptation measures.

79. The **Republic of Rwanda** supports the resolution of the sessions. Supports the recommendation of increasing investment on agriculture research and productivity. Calls on Member States to look into the strategies developed by the African Union Commission are aligned with individual Member States. Reiterates the commitment to the Malabo declaration. Rwanda informed the STC that they will host the Africa Green Revolution Forum in 2022 and invited Member States to participate and further elaborate on the issues raised at the STC.

80. The **Republic of Zambia** stated that it was cardinal for the continent to start looking critically at the recommendations put forward by the STC. Zambia remains committed to the core principles of the AU on agriculture, rural development, environment and adaptation and seconds the adoption of the STC resolutions. Zambia has potential in livestock and fisheries development. Due to climate change it is important to work together with other member states to mitigate climate change. To this effect, Zambia has established a new Ministry of Environment. The implementation of the STC resolutions and outcomes.

81. The **Congo** supported all the initiatives taken on the occasion of the STC and fully understands the significance of food insecurity on our continent particularly in view of the climate change crisis. Congo highlighted the importance of these initiatives, including food safety laboratories, especially in view of cross-border trade under the CFTA and called for such laboratories to be implemented at sub-regional level. Congo requested for regional laboratories in addition to the Continental laboratory

82. The Expert from Mozambique took the floor to support the initiatives on climate change and meteorology, highlighting that many sectors of the economy and society depend on meteorology, for instance fisheries, agriculture, infrastructure, health, energy, water, and many others. Mozambique stressed that Africa requires robust infrastructure to tackle climate change. Mozambique emphasised the need to have robust infrastructure to mitigate climate change including early warning systems, informing the STC that for every \$1 invested by countries in meteorology especially on forecasting, they will eventually be saving \$10 from natural disasters. Therefore called on Member States to have in place integrated holistic metrological strategies in order to reach goals against climate change.

83. The **Republic of Senegal** expressed its support to the decision on gene banks and seconded Congo's proposal for labs at sub-regional level, as well as initiatives on DRR as articulated by Tanzania. Senegal also emphasised the need to mobilise resources on livestock. Senegal asserted that Africa should not be lagging behind on tackling the Petite Ruminant Peste (PPR) given the importance of small ruminants in the continent.

84. The **Republic of Angola** stated that it continues to engage with environmental initiatives and food security initiatives, and that it aligns itself with the strategies considered by the STC. Angola reiterated its interest in being considered for the Centres of Excellence on Fisheries and Aquaculture and reaffirmed its engagement.

85. The **People's Democratic Republic of Algeria** called upon AU Member States to implement the recommendations made by the STC and expressed their support for the civilian response capacity to disasters.

86. The **Republic of Gabon**, as a member of the STC bureau, expressed its commitment to the aims of the STC. Gabon highlighted the efforts put in place to improve its performance on the CAADP Scorecard.

S. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISIONS OF THE 3RD STC ON ARDWE*On the report of the implementation of previous decisions and recommendations, the STC:*

87. ADOPTED the report on implementation of previous decisions and recommendations of the 3rd STC and;

88. REQUESTED the Commission to work with the Bureau to strengthen 5 the human and financial capacity of the Department and improve its capacity to effectively deliver on the outcomes.

On the 3rd CAADP Biennial Review Report, the STC:

89. CONCERNED about the current status of food and nutrition security on the continent and the need to accelerate the implementation of CAADP for a resilient food system on the continent, the STC:

90. ENDORSED the 3rd CAADP Biennial Review report for its submission to the 35th Ordinary Session of the Head of States and Governments in February 2022.

91. ENDORSED the CAADP communication and advocacy tools (the CAADP biennial review toolkit and the CAADP biennial review dashboard) for use to communicate the biennial review findings.

92. REQUESTED AUC, Member States, Regional Economic Communities, and AUDANEPAD to mount a strong communication and dissemination campaign on the findings in the report.

93. CALLED UPON AU Member States, working in collaboration with all stakeholders, to ensure that national dialogues are convened to reflect on and discuss the results of this report, and to prioritize and develop policy and programmatic responses to speed up the implementation of the Malabo Declaration.

94. ADVOCATED for stronger political leadership and commitment for the governments to mobilize stakeholder buy-in for financing and implementation of key recommendations. **To this end, the STC;**

95. REQUESTED AU Member States, RECs, AUC and AUDA-NEPAD to establish a central multi-sectoral coordination mechanism required for effective CAADP implementation.

96. REQUESTED the Commission to submit a proposal to the Permanent Representatives Committee to establish a Sub-Committee on Agriculture, Food security, Nutrition and Rural development to oversee the implementation of the programs in agriculture, food security, nutrition and rural development;

97. URGED Member States to design, fund and implement carefully selected priority programs and projects to fast-track the achievement of the seven Malabo Commitments. In this regard, Member States should intensify efforts to develop and implement Malabo-compliant high-quality NAIPs.

98. REQUESTED AUC, AUDA-NEPAD and development partners to strengthen the capacity of Regional Economic Communities, given the critical role they play in mobilizing Member States in the Biennial Review process, by providing them with more human and financial resources.

99. REQUESTED AUC, AUDA-NEPAD and RECS to strengthen partnerships guided by the findings of this report to ensure alignment with the CAADP agenda.

100. REQUESTED AUC and AUDA-NEPAD to strengthen the mutual accountability systems to include accountability for actions and results by a broader range of players, including the private sector, farmer organizations, civil society organizations and development partners.

101. CALLED UPON AU Member States to use the CAADP Biennial Review mechanism to report on progress in the implementation of the pathways for food systems transformation in the Africa Common Position to the UN Food System and national dialogues report and called upon the Commission to update the reporting templates .

102. REQUESTED AUC and AUDA-NEPAD to undertake an Independent evaluation/audit of the overall Biennial Review process to establish the efficacy of the self-reporting system and to suggest measures to strengthen the quality and robustness of the process at national, regional and continental levels.

103. ENCOURAGED AU Member States to integrate the CAADP Biennial Review data collection process into existing national monitoring and reporting systems, including the Joint Sector Review processes.

104. REQUESTED AU and Member States to develop and strengthen implementable mechanisms for peer learning.

105. REQUESTED AU Member States to establish stronger emergency response plans and commit to building more resilient food systems to respond better to future shocks.

On the COVID 19 Reponses

106. On COVID-19 Responses, the STC took note of the reports prepared and presented by the Commission and appreciated and congratulated the efforts of the Commission in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic

On the CAADP Business Plan 2022-2025, the STC:

107. ENDORSED the CAADP Business Plan 2022-2025 and;

108. REQUESTED the AUC and AUDA-NEPAD to develop an implementation plan that will include clear targets and milestones; a detailed coordination mechanism and; a strategy to enhance ownership and buy-in by all stakeholders

On the Food Safety Strategy for Africa, the STC:

109. RECALLED the Executive Council Decision (Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1(X)) establishing “the Agreement on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA),

where State Parties under Annex 7 on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) agreed to implement the protocols on Trade in Goods concerning SPS.

110. FURTHER RECALLED earlier decisions (EX.CL/Dec.1073-109 6(XXXVI), (STC3/ARDWE/MI) requesting the domestication and implementation of the AU SPS Policy Framework adopted in 2019.

111. ADOPTED the Food Safety Strategy for Africa;

112. REQUESTED the AUC and development partners to mobilize resources to support domestication and implementation of the Food Safety Strategy for Africa at national, regional and continental levels;

113. REQUESTED the AUC and AUDA-NEPAD to develop an implementation plan that will include clear targets and milestones; a detailed coordination mechanism and; a strategy to enhance ownership and buy-in by all stakeholders.

On the Plant Health Strategy for Africa, the STC:

114. ADOPTED the Plant Health Strategy for Africa

115. REQUESTED the AUC and development partners to mobilize the necessary resources to facilitate the implementation and domestication of the Plant Health Strategy for Africa at national, regional and continental levels.

116. FURTHER REQUESTED the AUC to develop Continental Guidelines for harmonization of pesticides registration to improve plant health on the continent.

117. FURTHER REQUESTED the AUC and AUDA-NEPAD to develop an implementation plan that will include clear targets and milestones; a detailed coordination mechanism and; a strategy to enhance ownership and buy-in by all stakeholders.

On Stakeholder Consultations and Revised Proposal for the Establishment of an African Union Food Safety Agency (AFSA), the STC:

118. RECALLED the decision of 3rd STC Agriculture Rural Development Water and Environment in October 2019 and endorsed by the Executive Council February 2020: EX.CL/1187(XXXVI); requesting the Commission to undertake further consultations on the functions of the Agency in order to avoid duplications with existing regional and continental structures

119. FURTHER RECALLED the decision of the Joint meeting of Ministers in charge of Agriculture, Trade and Finance held in July 2020, requesting the Commission to fast-track the establishment of the Africa Food Safety Agency

120. TOOK NOTE of the inclusive and meaningful stakeholder consultations undertaken by AUC DARBE as recommended by the 3rd STC

121. RECOGNIZED the need for the continent to improve food safety coordination, reduce foodborne disease burden and facilitate food trade. And that the roles, functions and the structure of the proposed AFSA are relevant and will contribute to addressing continental needs on food safety.

122. TOOK NOTE of the proposed revisions to establish the AU Food Safety Agency with the roles, functions and structure recommended by stakeholder consultations.

123. REQUESTED the Commission to submit a proposal for the establishment of the AU Food Safety Agency to the relevant PRC Sub-Committees within the framework of the current AU reforms including structural, legal and financial implications.

124. FURTHER REQUESTED the Commission to work with the Office of the AU Legal Counsel to prepare the Statutes of the Agency, a document that will define the mandate, structure, staffing, rules and procedures of the Agency

On the Situational Analysis of Food Safety Laboratories Infrastructure and Capabilities in Africa, the STC:

125. RECALLED the decision of the 2nd STC STC2/ARDWE/MI requesting the AUC to conduct a situation analysis of existing food safety laboratory infrastructure on the continent in order to inform a decision on the proposal for the establishment of the Pan African Food Safety Laboratory

126. TOOK NOTE of the report presented by the Commission including the three options proposed to strengthen food safety laboratory capabilities on the continent;

127. ENDORSED the approaches of designating existing national food safety laboratories as either regional or continental food safety reference laboratories, as the most effective mechanism to enhance the performance of food testing laboratory capacities in Africa

128. ADVOCATED for the possibility of establishment of a Pan African Food Safety Laboratory through a Public-Private Partnership arrangement. The AU could therefore play an oversight role to ensure integrity and neutrality of the laboratory especially in case of dispute and; support resource mobilization efforts. The oversight role will be played by the AFSA and/or the AfCFTA Secretariat

On the Strategy for Managing Invasive Species in Africa 2021–2030 the STC:

129. ENDORSED the strategy for Managing Invasive Species in Africa

130. REQUESTED the AUC and development partners to mobilise the necessary resources to facilitate the implementation and domestication of the Strategy for Managing Invasive Species at continental, regional and national levels.

131. FURTHER REQUESTED the AUC and AUDA-NEPAD to develop an implementation plan that will include clear targets and milestones and a detail coordination mechanism

132. REQUESTED the AUC and AUDA-NEPAD to develop an implementation plan that will include clear targets and milestones; a detailed coordination mechanism and; a strategy to enhance ownership and buy-in by all stakeholders.

On the Declaration on Food Fortification and Bio-fortification in Africa, the STC:

133. ENDORSED the Declaration on Food Fortification and Bio-fortification in Africa and recommended its submission to the 35th Ordinary Session of Heads of State and Government in February 2022

On the implementation of the African Seed and Biotechnology Programme, the STC:

134. TOOK NOTE of the progress report on the implementation of the 10 years action plan of the ASBP (2021-2030).

135. ENDORSED the African Seed and Biotechnology Platform and accompanying Operation Guidelines as the coordination mechanism for the implementation of the African Seed and Biotechnology Programme.

136. ENDORSED the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) as the host institution for the Secretariat of the African Seed and Biotechnology Partnership Platform.

On the Guidelines on use of Biotechnology in food and Agriculture in Africa, The STC

137. RECOGNIZED the sovereign right of AU Member States to adopt Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)

138. ENDORSED the Continental Guidelines on the use of Biotechnology to enhance agricultural productivity for food security and nutrition to enhance transparency and create confidence among AU Member States, for the safe use of biotechnology in food and agriculture in Africa and enhance public awareness.

139. REQUESTED the AUC and AUDA-NEPAD and partners to support specific biotechnology initiatives towards continental level harmonized policies and standardized biosafety regulatory procedures.

On the Guidelines for the harmonisation of seed regulatory frameworks in Africa, the STC

140. ENDORSED the Guidelines for the harmonisation of seed regulatory frameworks in Africa and;

141. REQUESTED the Commission to develop an action plan for its implementation

142. FURTHER REQUESTED AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs and Development partners to mobilise resources for its domestication and implementation.

On recommendations for Action on Africa Fertiliser Summit, Soil Health, and Africa Soil initiative, the STC:

143. ENDORSED the convening of the Africa Fertiliser and Soil Health Summit II in 2022- 2023.

144. ENDORSED the development of the Soils Initiative for Africa (SIA) which will be an integral part of the Africa Fertiliser and Soil Health Action Plan.

145. ENDORSED the creation of a consortium mandated to support the preparation of the Africa Fertiliser Summit II, the Soils Initiative for Africa, and the Africa Fertiliser and Soil Health Action Plan

On the 4th AU-EU Agriculture Ministers Conference, the STC:

146. ENDORSED the report of the 4th AU-EU Agriculture Ministers Conference in the context of the upcoming 6th EU-AU Summit, as setting the base for the ongoing and future AU-EU agri-food cooperation and in the broader context of the AU-EU partnership also linked to the green transition and recovery as well as the AfCFTA and regional economic integration.

147. URGED the AU and the EU to enhance implementation of the various initiatives to realize the objectives of the AU-EU Rural Transformation Action Agenda.

On Boosting Investment in Agriculture Research in Africa, the STC:

148. ENDORSED the report on: Boosting investment in agriculture research in Africa “Building a case for increased investment in agricultural research in Africa”;

149. REQUESTED AU Member States to:

- Raise and expand the level of agricultural Research and Development investment to address sustainable agricultural intensification-economic, environmental and social challenges, agricultural higher education to increase the size and improve the quality of their programs;
- Provide a more enabling policy environment to attract the private sector to invest in agricultural research and development as well as exploring innovative R&D funding mechanisms,
- Develop systematic human resource strategies, incorporating existing; anticipated skills gaps and training needs.

- Encourage the Adoption of the outcome of the approved agricultural research at farmer level through appropriate extension and dissemination systems with focus on the small farmers' needs and building their resilience ;

150. URGED Global, Continental, Regional and Sub regional R&D players to work in collaboration with AUC, RECs & Member states to enhance coordination, support and promote cross country collaborative R&D to reduce duplications and enhance complementarities;

151. URGED development partners to work in collaboration with AUC and AUDA-NEPAD to support member states R&D programmes and synergistically complement the national needs based on its priorities;

152. ENCOURAGED Private sector to increase their investment in agricultural R&D as well as to encourage Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in Africa.

On the reports submitted for information, the STC

153. TOOK NOTE of the following reports:

- The Framework to upscale bio fortification in Africa;
- The Report on the implementation of the Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative
- The Report on the implementation of the Decision on the framework for irrigation development and agricultural water management (IDAWM) practices in Africa.
- The Report on the development of the Digital Agriculture Strategy;
- The Framework on Rural Infrastructure

On the AFRICAN AGRIBUSINESS YOUTH STRATEGY (AAYS), the STC:

154. NOTED that Africa has the youngest population in the world with more than 400 million young people aged between the ages of 15 to 35 years. Such a youthful population calls for an increase of investment in economic and social development factors, in order to improve the development index of African nations.

155. ADOPTED the African Agribusiness Youth Strategy and the key steps for implementation for MS to harmonize/Develop Youth Strategies in line with the continental African Agribusiness Youth Strategy

156. REQUESTED Member States to develop policies that ensure youth have access to finance via financial institutions or credit facilities.

157. COMMITTED to design specific programs for strategic agri-food value chains, including for youth in high-risk areas such as fragile states, conflict and post-conflict areas, IDPs/refugees in line with the AAYS.

158. CALLED for a fair representation of youth in policy dialogue and decision making processes and support the strengthening of youth organizations and networks, including in the implementation of the AAYS

159. REQUESTED the AUC to report the AAYS through the CAADP Biennial review process

160. ENCOURAGED Member States to set up a youth enterprise fund particularly targeting youth in the Agribusiness sector and to ensure funding for its operationalization.

161. ENCOURAGED Member States to develop capacity building/development programs on TVET, financial management and digital literacy.

162. ENCOURAGED Member states to increase access to productive resources for youth, notably land, through frameworks, policies and laws.

163. CALLED for a fair representation of youth in Public–Private dialogues and decision-making processes and to support the strengthening of youth organizations and networks, including in the implementation of the AAYS.

164. REQUESTED the AUC and AUDA-NEPAD to develop an implementation plan that will include clear targets and milestones; a detailed coordination mechanism and; a strategy to enhance ownership and buy-in by all stakeholders.

On the INVESTMENT GUIDELINES FOR YOUTH IN AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS IN AFRICA, the STC:

165. ENDORSED the Investment Guidelines for Youth in Agri-food Systems in Africa, support its dissemination and uptake by relevant stakeholders

166. ENCOURAGED AU Member States, development partners, and financial institutions to accelerate investments for and by youth in agri- food systems, taking into consideration the diversity of their constraints, needs and aspirations of youth inclusive investments at national and regional levels.

On THE REPORT ON THE PROGRESS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE COMMON AFRICAN AGRO-PARKS (CAAPs), the STC:

167. COMMITTED to support the sensitization and leadership engagement activities on the CAAPs by engaging with fellow Ministers in charge of Finance and of Trade in our respective countries;

168. URGED the 4th STC bureau Ministers to support the leadership engagement and advocacy missions organized for the High-Ranking Experts/Emissaries who will be recruited and assigned to carry out missions towards African Heads of States and High Profiles Investors for promoting the CAAPs.

169. REQUESTED the AUC to continue with its resource mobilization efforts for availing adequate resources for successful implementation of the planned activities.

170. FURTHER REQUESTED the AU Commission to develop criteria to assess member states eligibility to host a demonstration project of the CAAPS

On the DEVELOPMENT OF THE LAND GOVERNANCE STRATEGY, the STC:

171. ADOPTED the AU Land Governance Strategy as a Continental Strategy to guide AUC, ALPC, RECs, MS and non-state actors to achieve the aspirations stated in the Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges in Africa.

172. ENCOURAGED AUC to provide financial resources for the implementation of the Land Governance Strategy.

173. REQUESTED AUC, RECs and Member States to put in place measures to ensure capacity development of staff on land governance issues and compliance to LGS principles and provisions.

On THE REPORT ON THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION TO INSTITUTIONALIZE THE AFRICAN LAND POLICY CENTRE (ALPC), the STC:

174. RECALLED the decision of 3rd STC requesting AUC to seek technical assistance with a view to assess and report on possible options of institutionalizing the ALPC as well as the legal, structural and financial implications of such an action.

175. TOOK NOTE of an assessment of the operational framework of the ALPC was undertaken to determine the most sustainable, efficient and effective institutional and management arrangements for fulfilling the Centre's mandate.

176. URGED AUC to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) that will clarify their roles and responsibilities towards the institutionalization of ALPC and implementation of the AU Agenda on Land.

178. CALLED the AUC, ECA and AfDB to provide technical, human, financial and operational support to the interim ALPC pending the formal establishment of the ALPC by the AU policy organs.

179. ENDORSED the proposal to establish the African Land Policy Centre (ALPC) as a Specialized Technical Office of the African Union

180. URGED the commission to work with the Office of the AU Legal Counsel to prepare the Statutes of the Centre, a document that will define the mandate, structure, staffing, rules and procedures of the centre.

181. ENDORSED the temporary establishment of the ALPC at UNECA for a defined period of time (minimum of 2 years, and maximum of 5 years) and transfer it to the African Union Commission Headquarters.

On the AGRIBUSINESS INCUBATION AND ACCELERATION IN AFRICA, the STC:

182. RECALLED the Malabo Declaration of 2014 and its call for job creation for young people in agri-food value chains

183. COGNIZANT of the African Union Continental Agribusiness Strategy that emphasizes the promotion of inclusive and equitable agribusiness, with a focus on training, mentoring, incubating and coaching the next generation of business people and agribusinesses

184. TOOK NOTE of the United Nations Food Systems Summit of 2021 which highlighted the role of agri-food Small Scale and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and youth in developing sustainable and equitable food systems

185. URGED Governments to improve the policy environment to strengthen the agribusiness incubation/acceleration ecosystem across the Continent:

186. **ENCOURAGED** Governments to include feasibility studies and development of business plans as a pre-requisite for establishing any new publicly funded Incubators/Accelerators.

187. **URGED** Governments to prioritize funding and establishing agribusiness incubation facilities targeted towards establishing strategic regional value chains and regional food processing

188. **REQUESTED** that Government and partner-funded initiatives should be long-term oriented, with resource commitments over a minimum period (5+years) and with clear sustainability strategies for medium to long-term funding given that it takes time to establish effective incubators

On the Report of the African Union Guidelines for Securing Pastoralism and Preventing Conflict in Africa: Secure, peaceful and sustainable pastoralism, the STC:

189. ENDORSED the AU Guidelines to secure pastoralism and prevent conflicts in Africa and calls upon Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Member States (MS) to promote their use to inform regional instruments and national legislations;

190. REQUESTED the AU Commission to support RECs to develop and/or review their regional guidelines/protocols, facilitate experience sharing among themselves as well as among their member states, and identify and mobilize regional expertise in view of providing technical assistance to their states in implementing the guidelines/protocols.

191. ENCOURAGED the AU Member States and RECs to review their pastoral policies to ensure domestication of these guidelines;

192. REQUESTED the AUC, AUDA NEPAD and partners to strengthen pastoralism data systems at national and regional levels; and support peer learning

193. REQUESTED Member States, RECs, and African Union Commission (AUC) and development partners to capacitate pastoral associations and communities in support of sustainable and peaceful pastoral development, in complementarity with farming and other rural productive activities;

195. REQUESTED the AU Commission to disseminate popularize information on the guidelines, through development and dissemination of appropriate tools;

196. CALLED UPON Development partners to facilitate the AU Commission, RECs and Member States in making use of the above-mentioned guidelines, taking into consideration regional and national specificities

On the establishment of five regional gene banks and their endorsement as African Union Animal Resources Seed Centers of Excellence, the STC:

197. TOOK NOTE of the reports on the selection process of the five gene banks as Regional gene banks.

199. ENDORSED the recommendations of the reports on the selection of the five regional gene banks.

200. ENDORSED the five regional gene banks as African Union Animal Resources Seed Centres of Excellence.

201. URGED the AU Commission in collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to support the operationalization and sustenance of the five African Union Animal Resources Seed Centres of Excellence.

202. CALLED UPON the AU Commission to support the establishment of a continental backup centre at the African Union Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (AU-PANVAC) for the storage of genetic materials from African Member States.

203. REQUESTED the AU Commission to support the adoption of the Continental guidelines for the harmonization of seed regulatory frameworks by the five African Union Animal Resources Seed Centres of Excellence.

204. REQUESTED the AU Commission to support the adoption of the Continental Guidelines on the use of Biotechnology by the five African Union Animal Resources Seed Centres of Excellence.

205. REQUESTED the AU Commission to mobilize resources for the operationalization and sustenance of the five African Union Animal Resources Seed Centres of Excellence and a back-up continental gene bank.

On the Livestock Sector Advocacy Report: Increased Investment in the Livestock Sector, the STC:

206. ENDORSED the recommendations of the Livestock Sector Advocacy Report; **ENCOURAGED** AU Member States and RECs to prioritize the livestock sector in their investment plans and ensure that spending is commensurate to the sector's contribution to their economies;

207. CALLED UPON the AU Commission, RECs and MSs to jointly plan with development partners to ensure official development assistance is commensurate with the livestock sector contribution;

208. REQUESTED the AU Commission to support resource mobilization for implementation of the recommendations of the Livestock Sector Advocacy Report.

On the Guidelines to Support Fast-Tracking Implementation of the Livestock Development Strategy for Africa, the STC:

209. CONCERNED about the delays in the implementation of the LiDeSA

210. ENDORSED the Guidelines to Support Fast-Tracking Implementation of the Livestock Development Strategy for Africa

211. REQUESTED the AU Commission and Development partners to mobilize resources for its implementation

On the Guidelines for Enhancing Inclusion of Livestock in Regional and National Agriculture Investment Plans, the STC:

212. ENDORSED the Guidelines for Enhancing Inclusion of Livestock in Regional and National Agriculture Investment Plans;

213. ENDORSED the establishment of the Directors of Animal Production and Chief Veterinary Officers Forum to champion implementation of the LiDeSA and strengthening of inclusion of livestock in the R/NAIPs and creation of an apex multistakeholder Africa Livestock Development Platform;

214. URGED AU MSs and RECs to support vibrant national and regional Livestock Policy Hubs to advocate for inclusion of livestock in RAIPs and NAIPs;

215. REQUESTED the AU Commission and Development Partners to strengthen capacities, mechanisms and infrastructure for functional data, information and knowledge management for investment decision making in the African livestock sector

216. URGED the AU Commission to mobilize resources for implementation of the Guidelines for Enhancing Inclusion of Livestock in Regional and National Agriculture Investment Plans

On the Animal Welfare Environment- Sustainable development Nexus, the STC:

217. RECOGNIZED that Animals and therefore Animal Welfare, are crucial to Africa's agro-economy, and that the exploitation and inhumane use of animals is a key driver

of the triple environmental crises of biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution, as well as the emergence of the current global COVID-19 pandemic

218. CALLED UPON AU Member States to increase their sense of commitment and ambition to protect all animals, including wildlife and other living species, and the 27 Global Community to ensure that any use of natural resources, including terrestrial, ocean, sea and marine resources, is ecologically sustainable and humane, particularly the humane and sustainable farming practices;

219. ENDORSED the Recommendation by the African Animal Welfare Conference in 2019, that the African Union sponsors a Resolution to the United Nations Environment Assembly calling for the recognition of the Animal-Environmental- sustainable development Nexus

220. URGED the Global Community to take action to operationalise the One Health concept with effective coordination and civil society participation mechanisms, and the AU Commission to champion the global community to support the endorsement of the Resolution on Animal welfare-Environment-sustainable development Nexus, at the United Nations Environment Assembly

221. REQUESTED the Commission to work with the United Nations Environment Programme and other partners to mobilize resources for strengthening the Animal Welfare Environment- socio-economic development Nexus for Achievement of Continental and Global Commitments.

On the renewed commitment for enhanced progress towards control and eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants by 2030, the STC:

222. TOOK NOTE that PPR remains a major constraint to food and nutrition security, livelihoods, resilience and trade in sheep and goats and call upon AU Member States, the AU Commission and partners to renew and enhance commitments to the eradication of PPR to ensure that the continued presence of the disease in Africa does not derail the attainment of the target for its global eradication by 2030.

223. FURTHER NOTED that wild ruminants play an important role in ecosystem services and also contribute to tourism and that the presence of PPR in sheep and goats poses a threat to some species of wildlife at the livestock/wildlife interface;

224. URGED AU Member States to include PPR control and eradication as a priority in their National Agriculture Investment Plans (NAIPs) and in key negotiations with development partners to ensure adequate budgetary allocations and disbursements for the effective and timely implementation of the PPR National Strategies.

225. REQUESTED the AU Commission, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs and Member States with the support of FAO, OIE and stakeholders, to accelerate efforts to mobilize resources for a continentally coordinated programme for the eradication of PPR from Africa by 2030. To this end,

226. WELCOMED AND SUPPORTED the on-going discussions initiated by the AU Commission and partners with the European Union and advocates that Africa's funding needs for PPR eradication be brought to the attention of the forthcoming AU-EU Summit as a priority.

On the progress report of the Africa Integrated Assessment on Air Pollution, the STC:

227. ENDORSED the report on the progress of the Africa Integrated Assessment on Air pollution

On the reports from the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) on the 17th, 8th Special Session, and first part of the 18th Session, the STC:

228. ADOPTED the reports from the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) on the 17th, 8th Special Session, and first part of the 18th Session held in October 2019, 30 November-1 December 2020 and September 2021 respectively

On the report on the Revised Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology (Weather and Climate Services) (2021-2030), the STC:

229. ADOPTED the Revised Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology (Weather and Climate Services) (2021-30) and **REQUESTED** the Executive Council to endorse the Strategy

230. ENCOURAGED Member States to implement the Strategy and take into account the Continental Strategy when developing/reviewing their national strategies

CALLED UPON the AUC to develop a monitoring and evaluation framework.

On the report of the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET), the STC:

231. TOOK NOTE and **ADOPTED** the report of AMCOMET in the development and application of weather and climate services including implementation of the Abidjan Declaration and the Cairo Declaration

On the Africa Institutional Framework for Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action, the STC:

232. ENDORSED the Africa Framework for Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action and its delivery Programme 2022-2030

233. REQUESTED the African Union Commission to work with the relevant STC and the PRC to address the financial, legal and structural requirements

234. ENCOURAGED the implementation of Multi-hazard Early Warning programmes in close collaboration with the meteorological, hydrological and other relevant sectors.

On the COVID-19 Disaster Recovery Framework, the STC:

235. ADOPTED the COVID-19 Disaster Recovery Framework to guide recovery effort from systemic risks to maintain broader resilience perspective, focusing on multiple risks that societies are facing, creating necessary preconditions for the society to prepare for disruption, cope with and recover from them if they occur, and adapt to new context conditions

236. REQUESTED the African Union Commission to develop an action plan to be presented to the relevant STC and the PRC to address the financial, legal and structural requirements

237. URGED AU Commission to mobilize international cooperation for the implementation of the COVID-19 Recovery Framework for Africa in member states

On the report on the creation of African disaster operations capacity and capability, the STC:

238. ADOPTED the report and **ENDORSED** the creation of a continental civilian capacity for disaster preparedness and response which will draw from individual African Member States' capacities to provide timely assistance to disaster stricken countries

239. DIRECTED the AUC Commission to organise a meeting, as soon as possible, of national services of AU Member States in charge of civil defense and response to disasters, which will aim at agreeing on modalities, including financial and structural implications, to establish the civilian capacity

On the report on Africa's Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and action plan (2022-2032), the STC:

240. ENDORSED Africa's Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and action plan (2022-2032)

241. REQUESTED the African Union Commission in consultation with Member States to identify a flagship or priority area that could be in the lead up to the UNFCCC COP

242. CALLED UPON African Union Member States, RECs and relevant stakeholders to facilitate and support the implementation of the Strategy at the national, regional, sub-regional and local levels.

On the report on the implementation of the Partners' Coordination Platform (PCP) on Water and Sanitation Programme Africa, the STC:

243. TOOK NOTE of the report and the progress of the PCP as well as the support of the EU Water Cooperation.

On the report on preparation for the 9th World Water Forum and convening of the AU Summit on Water and Sanitation, the STC:

244. REQUESTED the AU Assembly to approve the convening of an AU Summit on Water and Sanitation on the margins of the 9th World Water Forum in Senegal.

On the report from the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), the STC:

245. TOOK NOTE of the report and **ENDORSED** the Africa Sanitation Policy Guidelines (ASPG).

246. ENCOURAGED Member States to use the ASPG to update or develop comprehensive sanitation policies to improve the enabling environment towards accelerating the achievement of the Africa Water Vision and the SDGs

On the report on the implementation of the Strategy to Combat Illegal Exploitation and Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora, the STC:

247. TOOK NOTE of the presentation of the Monitoring and Reporting tool for the AU Strategy on Combating Illegal Exploitation and Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora report.

248. CALLED UPON AU Member States to report on the implementation of the strategy through the online platform.

249. WELCOMED the invitation by Rwanda to AU Member States to participate at the Congress on African Protected Areas to be held in March 2022 in Kigali, Rwanda.

On the presentation on the status of negotiations on post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the STC:

250. TOOK NOTE of the presentation on the status of negotiations on the post 2020 framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity and

251. COMMENDED the efforts of the African Group of Negotiators on biodiversity in championing Africa's priorities at the UNCBD COP-15

On the presentation on the implementation of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative, the STC:

252. TOOK NOTE of the SADC GGWSSI strategy

253. REQUESTED the Commission to develop a ten-year continental strategy for the implementation of the GGWSS

On the presentation on Implementation of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy, the STC:

254. TOOK NOTE of the progress report on the implementation of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy

255. RECOMMENDED updating the title of the STC-ARDWE to reflect the expanding mandate of the Department on Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment;

256. TOOK NOTE of the expression of interest by Angola and Namibia in hosting an African Union Centre of Excellence on Fisheries and Aquaculture and **URGED** the AUC to conclude the assessment process.

257. UNDERTOOK to consult with the Office of the Legal Counsel, with the aim of reviewing the draft Terms of Reference of the proposed ministerial sectoral committee on Blue Economy

Report on the progress of the Africa Integrated Assessment on Air pollution

258. The Commission, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) (Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) made a presentation on the preparation of the Africa Integrated Assessment on Air Pollution and Climate Change. The presentation highlighted the progress made in the assessment and also the roadmap leading up to the completion of the assessment. The **STC:**

259. TOOK NOTE of the report on the progress of the Africa Integrated Assessment on Air pollution

Reports from the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) on the 17th, 8th Special Session, and first part of the 18th Session held in October 2019, 30 November-1 December 2020 and September 2021 respectively.

260. South Africa hosted the 17th Ordinary Session of AMCEN in Durban, 11-15 November 2019 under the theme "Taking action for Environmental Sustainability and Prosperity in Africa". At this meeting, South Africa assumed the Presidency of AMCEN from Gabon and the Durban Declaration on Taking Action for Environmental Sustainability and Prosperity was adopted.

261. The 8th Special Session of AMCEN took place virtually on 30 November and 1 December 2020, and on 4th December (Ministerial segment) under the theme "Enhancing environmental action for effective post-COVID-19 recovery in Africa". The African Green Stimulus Programme (AGSP) and a ministerial statement made which reaffirmed the commitment to enhance environmental resilience as well as protect and sustainably utilize natural resources for the region's development were formally adopted.

262. The first part of the 18th Ordinary Session of AMCEN took place virtually on 13-16 September 2021 under the theme “Securing people’s well-being and ensuring environmental sustainability in Africa. Senegal assumed the Presidency of AMCEN from South Africa, and the African Green Stimulus Programme On-line Platform was officially launched while Ministers adopted a statement re-affirming their commitment and efforts to recover from the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic by prioritising green and sustainable recovery measures. Africa’s priorities and key messages for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP15, UNFCCC COP26 and United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)-5.2 were also adopted. The STC was requested to consider and adopt the reports of the AMCEN 17th Ordinary Session and Part one of the 18th Ordinary session of AMCEN and the draft decision for the report. On the reports from the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) on the 17th , 8th Special Session, and first part of the 18th Session. The STC:

263. ENDORSED the Reports and the Decisions from the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) on the 17th , 8th Special Session, and first part of the 18th Session held in October 2019, 30 November-1 December 2020 and September 2021 respectively.

Report on the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET)

264. The AMCOMET Expert Chair reported on the work undertaken by AMCOMET since the 3rd STC-ARDWE in October 2019. It was highlighted that, among other activities, AMCOMET supported the revision of the Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology (Weather and Climate Services) which comprises of five pillars: Policy; Improved observation networks, Data access and processing; Improved weather, water and climate services including early warning systems; Research, innovation, Development and training; and Strengthening partnerships. The Chair further reported on the support AMCOMET provided to the AUC on facilitating Member States’ smooth transition from the use of weather and climate data and information from meteorological second generation (MSG), to meteorological third generation (MTG) satellites for weather and climate monitoring in Africa. **The STC:**

265. ADOPTED the report of AMCOMET in the development and application of weather and climate services including implementation of the Abidjan Declaration and the Cairo Declaration.

On the African Institutional Framework for Multi-hazard Early Warning and Early Action

266. The Commission proceeded with the presentation on the African Institutional Framework for Multi-Hazard Early Warning systems ([MHEWS]) as well as the state of play of operationalising the Situation Room, which aims to provide life-saving early-warning services covering multiple hazards to all AU member states by 2030. The MHEWS Framework was developed in recognition of the rising Africa risk index as the

continent is getting more and more vulnerable. Similarly, the hazards causing disasters have been increasing in frequency and severity in recent years. In response to the context, the MHEWS Framework was developed. The framework was informed by the findings of assessments and consultations with MS and RECs. The Framework proposes an operational model and delivery programme that will ensure that Member states, RECs have fully functional and operational MHEWS systems and interoperable situations that are connected with continental situation room. The framework also includes annexes on legal and data sharing policy which are important preconditions for an effective MHEWS. The framework also includes the roadmap and the implementation phases of the programme, which is envisaged to run for at least 7 years. The STC:

267. ENDORSED the Africa Framework for Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action and its delivery Programme 2022-2030

268. REQUESTED the African Union Commission to work with the relevant STC and the PRC to address the financial, legal and structural requirements

269. ENCOURAGED the implementation of Multi-hazard Early Warning programmes in close collaboration with the meteorological, hydrological and other relevant sectors.

Report on the COVID-19 Disaster Recovery Framework

270. The Commission presented the Disaster Recovery Framework (DRF) and indicated that the main objective of the framework is to guide resilient socio-economic recovery efforts of the continental, regional and national levels. The presentation commenced with contextual analysis of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on various sectors. The framework proposes transformational policy and programmatic actions that would be undertaken in a short, medium and long term to respond to the pandemic and other disasters within the COVID-19 contexts; recover from the pandemic and the other disasters and build back better from future crises and disasters. The presentation concluded with the request to the STC to adopt the framework and urged the AUC and MS to implement it. Discussions around the DRF included proposals for further coordination around the framework to rationalise it with existing programmes such as GRAP and the Africa Green Stimulus Programme as well as efforts with RECs. The STC:

271. ADOPTED the COVID-19 Disaster Recovery Framework to guide recovery effort from systemic risks to maintain broader resilience perspective, focusing on multiple risks that societies are facing, creating necessary preconditions for the society to prepare for disruption, cope with and recover from them if they occur, and adapt to new context conditions

272. REQUESTED the African Union Commission to develop an action plan to be presented to the relevant STC and the PRC to address the financial, legal and structural requirements

273. URGED AU Commission to mobilize international cooperation for the implementation of the COVID-19 Recovery Framework for Africa in member states

On the Creation of the Africa Disaster Operations Capacity and Capability

274. On the Creation of African disaster operations capacity and capability, the Commission highlighted that there was an urgent need to put in place a mechanism to respond to the disasters which were increasing in frequency and intensity. The Peace and Security Council of the AUC on 19 October 2021 through PSC/AHG/COMM.1042 endorsed the need to create continental civilian capacity for preparedness and response to disasters. Recent disasters transcend national borders and affect multiple states simultaneously, hence undermining the ability of the states to support their neighbours as each grapples with response within their territorial boundaries. As Africa envisions being a global player, the continent requires a continental mechanism that will enable its members to proudly join nations across the world in responding to global crises facing humanity, further demystifying perceptions that view Africa as a passive victim and recipient. The STC:

275. ADOPTED the report and

276. ENDORSED the creation of a continental civilian capacity for disaster preparedness and response which will draw from individual African Member States' capacities to provide timely assistance to disaster stricken countries

277. DIRECTED the AUC Commission to organise a meeting, as soon as possible, of national services of AU Member States in charge of civil defense and response to disasters, which will aim at agreeing on modalities, including financial and structural implications, to establish the civilian capacity.

Report on Preparation for 9th World Water Forum and Convening of AU Summit on Water and Sanitation

278. The Commission presented the preparations for the World Water Forum which will take place in March 2022 in Dakar, Senegal, and reported on key activities conducted in preparation for the World Water Forum as well as the planned activities for the coming period until March 2022, the date of the Forum. The Commission requested the STC to appeal to the Assembly to approve the holding of the Africa Forum on Water and sanitation on the margins of the World Water Forum to be held in Senegal in March 2022. **The STC:**

279. REQUESTED AU ASSEMBLY TO APPROVE the convening of an AU Summit on Water and Sanitation on the margins of the 9th World Water Forum in Senegal.

Report on the implementation of the Partners' Coordination Platform (PCP) on Water and Sanitation Programme Africa (PCP)

280. The Commission presented the progress and key activities carried out and planned activities for 2022 under the PCP. The 3rd Session of STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment held in October 2019 on the Water and Sanitation Report, endorsed the Partners Coordination Platform on Water and Sanitation Programme in Africa (PCP) to support the work of the Commission and the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) to facilitate effective reporting of progress to the AU Summits, serve as a platform to facilitate sharing of information, best practises and foster collective learning to ensure water for all. PCP 2 Adopted the Terms of Reference (ToR), which spelt out the working modality. Established a Small Working Group (WG), which finalised the Thematic Clusters:

281. Working Group (WG) Theme 1: Financing, Investments and Resource Mobilisation; WG Theme 2: Water Supply, Sanitation, Hygiene and Wastewater; WG Theme 3: Water Infrastructure for Growth; WG Theme 4: Managing and Protecting Water Resources; WG Theme 5: Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction; WG Theme 6: Governance and Institutions; WG Theme 7: Information Management and Capacity Development; and PCP Overall Coordination & Communication; Sub-themes: Coordination, Management, Reporting, Monitoring, Evaluation, Documenting, Facilitating inter-cluster linkages and linkages with the larger AU systems. PCP2 agreed on the following: Partners to support the convening of the AU Water and Sanitation Summit in 2022; Follow up interventions on Water and Sanitation in Africa in implementation of the Africa Water Vision 2025, SDG Goal 6 and Agenda 2063; 3rd meeting of PCP (PCP3) to hold 24th May 2022 at a venue to be determined depending on the COVID 19 prevailing situation and Support Reporting for the next round of the African Water and Sanitation Report to the AU Assembly. The STC:

282. TOOK NOTE of the report and the progress of the PCP as well as the support of the EU Water Cooperation.

Report from the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW)

282. The AMCOW report included an overview of the Africa Sanitation Policy Guidelines (ASPG) as well as updates on activities conducted under AMCOW. The STC:

284. REQUESTED AU EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO ENDORSE the Africa Sanitation Policy Guidelines (ASPG).

285. URGED Member States to use the ASPG to update or develop comprehensive sanitation policies to improve the enabling environment towards accelerating the achievement of the Africa Water Vision and the SDGs

Presentation on the implementation of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative, the STC:

286. The Commission made a presentation on the implementation of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative (GGWSSI) Great Green Wall Initiative on the Sahel and Sahara (GGWISS), highlighting that this is a flagship initiative of the AU which has evolved over almost a decade, with the aim of supporting livelihoods, mitigating climate change, and combating desertification and land degradation while giving ownership to local populations concerned. The GGWISSI is an important tool in tackling resource-based conflicts, and has been expanded to the SADC region where the need to implement such an initiative has become urgent. In view of the growing scope of the initiative, it is urgent to endow it with the capabilities to deliver. The STC:

287. TOOK NOTE of the SADC GGWSSI strategy

288. REQUESTED the Commission to develop a ten-year continental strategy for the implementation of the GGWSS

On the presentation on Implementation of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy, the STC:

289. TOOK NOTE of the progress report on the implementation of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy;

290. RECOMMENDED updating the title of the STC-ARDWE to reflect the expanding mandate of the Department on Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment;

291. TOOK NOTE of the expression of interest by Angola and Namibia in hosting an African Union Centre of Excellence on Fisheries and Aquaculture and **URGED** the AUC to conclude the assessment process.

292. UNDERTOOK to consult with the Office of the Legal Counsel, with the aim of reviewing the draft Terms of Reference of the proposed ministerial sectoral committee on Blue Economy.

26.0 CLOSING SESSION

293.In her closing remarks, H.E. Amb. Josefa Sacko thanked the Chair of the STC and all the delegates for attending the meeting. She is looking forward to working with the newly elected Bureau. On the 3rd Biennial Review, she congratulated Rwanda, the only country on track as well as other countries that have made tremendous progress. She further informed the meeting that the theme for the coming year is on

nutrition. She is confident that the outcomes of the meeting will enable the Commission and all stakeholders to contribute to the AU theme of the year on nutrition. She urged member states to recommit on CAADP and she expressed that she will rely on the STC to provide guidance. She alluded to the comprehensive reports and guidance documents presented during the course of the 4th STC and confident it will allow member states to effectively contribute to CAADP implementation.293.

294. The Chair of the Bureau of the STC, Hon. Al-Sayed el-Quseir, Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, Arab Republic of Egypt and Chair of the STC thanked all participants and contributors to the STC.294.

295. The STC meeting was declared closed at 18.30pm EAT.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AAYS	African Agribusiness Youth Strategy
ACMAD	African Centre for Meteorological Applications for Development
AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Agreement
AfDB	African Development Bank
AFSA	African Union Food Safety Agency
AGSP	African Green Stimulus Programme
ALPC	African Land Policy Centre
AMCEN	African Ministerial Conference on Environment
AMCOMET	Africa Ministerial Conference on Meteorology
AMCOW	African Ministers Council on Water
ARDWE	Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment
ASBP	African Seed and Biotechnology Programme
ASPG	African Sanitation Policy Guidelines
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
AUDA	African Union Development Agency
AU-EU	African Union-European Union
CAADP	Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme
CAAPs	Common African Agro-Parks
CCAC	Climate and Clean Air Coalition
CENSAD	Community of Sahel-Saharan States
CIMA	Centro Internazionale in Monitoraggio Ambientale Research Foundation
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
COP	Conference of Parties
DARBE	Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment
DRF	Disaster Recovery Framework
EAC	East African Community
EAT	East African Time
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EU	European Union

FARA	Forum for Agricultural Research and Development
GGWSSI	Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
H.E.	Her Excellency
IDAWM	Irrigation Development and Agricultural Water Management
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
LiDeSA	Livestock Development Strategy
MHEWS	Multi-hazards Early Warning System
NAIP	National Agriculture Investment Plan
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
PCP	Partners Coordination Programme
PPR	Peste des Petits Ruminants
PRC	Permanent Representatives Committee
R&D	Research and Development
RAIP	Regional Agriculture Investment Plan
RCC	Regional Climate Centre
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SIA	Soils Initiative for Africa
SME	Small and Medium Scale Enterprises
STC	Specialised Technical Committee
ToR	Terms of Reference
UMA	Arab Maghreb Union
UNCBD	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNEA	United Nations Environment Assembly
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Climate Change Conference
WG	Working Group

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



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EX.CL/1310(XL) ANNEX 1

Third Biennial Review Report of the African Union Commission on the Implementation of the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods.

Assembly Decision (Assembly/AU/2(XXIII)) of June 2014

Highlights on “Accelerating CAADP Implementation for a Resilient African Food System”

**Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Biennial Review Report
2015 - 2020**

Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (DARBE)

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

Acronyms and abbreviations

Acronyms and abbreviations	Definition
AATS	Africa Agricultural Transformation Scorecard
ACT	African Conservation and Tillage Network
AfCTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
AfDB	African Development Bank
AFFM	Africa Fertilizer Financing Mechanism
AFSI	Africa Food Safety Index
AGRA	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa
Ak2063	AKADEMIYA2063
APHLIS	The African Post Harvest Loss Information System
ARDWE	Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment
ASBP	African Seed and Biotechnology Programme
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
AUDA-NEPAD	African Union Development Agency
AU-IAPSC	African Union Inter-African Phytosanitary Council
AU-IBAR	African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources
AU-SAFGRAD	African Union Semi-Arid Food Grains Research and Development
BAT	Bio-vision Africa Trust
BMGF	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
BR	Biennial Review
BRR	Biennial Review Report
CA	Conservation Agriculture
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CAC	Codex Alimentarius Commission of the FAO
CAMFA	Conference of African Ministers for Fisheries and Aquaculture

COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease of 2019
DARBE	Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment
DRC / DR Congo	Democratic Republic of the Congo
DREA	Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture
EAC	East African Community
e-BR	Electronic (web-based) Biennial Review system for data entry and management
ECAF	European Conservation Agriculture Federation
ECCAS	Economic Commission for Central Africa States
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EOA-I	Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
F-SAMA	Framework for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Africa
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IC	Information and Communication
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
IDAWM	Irrigation Development and Agricultural Water Management
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IFPRI	The International Food Policy Research Institute
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
IWMI	International Water Management Institute
JSR	Joint Sector Review
KCOA	Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture
MAPLE	Malabo Policy Learning Event
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MS	Member States
MSP	Mechanization Service Provider
NAFSIPs	National Agricultural and Food Security Investment Plans
NAIP	National Agriculture Investment Plans

NPCA	NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency
NRI	Natural Resources Institute
ODA	Official Development Assistance
PACA	Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa
PFRS	Policy Framework and Reform Strategy
PRNFAA	Policy Research Network for Fisheries & Aquaculture in Africa
PS	Permanent Secretary
PVS	Performance of Veterinary Services
RAIP	Regional Agriculture Investment Plans
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
ReSAKSS-ECA	Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System – Eastern and Central Africa
ReSAKSS-SA	Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System – Southern Africa
ReSAKSS-WA	Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System – Western Africa
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SPS	Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary
SSA	Sub-Saharan Africa
STC	Specialized Technical Committee
TASAI Inc.	The African Seed Access Index
TOT	Training of Trainers
TOR	Terms of Reference
TWG	Technical Working Group
UMA	Arab Maghreb Union
UN	United Nations
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNFSS	United Nations Food Systems Summit
WCCA	World Congress on Conservation Agriculture

FOREWORD

1. We are pleased to present to you the Third CAADP Biennial Review Report which is the main mutual accountability tool to track the progress of the African Union (AU) Member States in implementing the Malabo Declaration, with 51 countries reporting in 2021 – up from 49 countries in 2019 and 43 in 2017.
2. In essence, the Malabo Declaration provides the direction for Africa’s agricultural transformation for the period 2015 – 2025, within the Framework of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), as a vehicle to contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the First Ten-year Implementation Plan of Africa’s Agenda 2063.
3. The current report is being released in a special context, against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak that started in early 2020, which has had a toll not only on the health of our population but also our economies including the agriculture sector. This unprecedented pandemic affected food systems in many ways by disrupting the input and output markets, as well as the production of the various commodities mostly undertaken by smallholder farmers consisting of mainly women and youth, as discussed during the Ministerial meetings convened in April and July 2020, jointly by the AUC and FAO, on the impact of this health crisis on the agriculture sector. The effects of the pandemic on Africa’s food systems is being compounded by other shocks during the reporting period. These include the locust outbreaks in 2020 which affected the countries in the horn of Africa, the fall armyworm in 2018 and 2019; and extreme weather patterns due to climate change. The rising security challenges posed by terrorism threats in the Sahel region is also noteworthy as we are reporting on the performance of the affected countries against the Malabo targets.
4. This state of play clearly points to the need for strengthening the resilience of our food systems, as envisioned by the UN Secretary General, H.E. Mr. António Guterres while convening the United Nations Food Systems Summit this year in September in New York, which was timely and resonates well with the theme of the 3rd BR report: *“Accelerating CAADP Implementation for a Resilient African Food System”*. In keeping with the commitment for Africa to speak with one voice in international fora, the African Union Commission (AUC) and AUDA-NEPAD in collaboration with the UNECA formulated an Africa Common Position to the UNFSS that was endorsed by the Extra-Ordinary Session of the STC on ARDWE in July 2021. The common position was presented by the Commissioner for DARBE, on behalf of the AU Chairperson, in September 2021 during the UNFSS.
5. This third CAADP BR Report is also timely in capturing the progress made by African Union Member States mid-way through the implementation of the Malabo commitments and goals to be achieved by 2025 and embarking on preparation of the second AU CAADP Business Plan for the 2022-2025 period. Thus, this report provides valuable information in orienting, preparing and implementing the second AU CAADP Business Plan accordingly.
6. The report highlights country performance against the 46 indicators selected in 2019 to track the progress towards a fully transformed agriculture. It benefitted from the momentum created during the two previous reviews. It is gratifying to note that considerable efforts have been deployed in ensuring that quality data are used to evaluate the countries performance

by using the electronic biennial review (e-BR) system, building on lessons learned so far. These involved several training sessions of experts, rounds of data review and cleaning at the national, regional, and continental levels.

7. While only one country is on-track to achieve the Malabo goals and targets by 2025, twenty 25 countries increased their overall score between 2019 and 2021. This is encouraging because it shows that while not on track, the majority of Member States are making steady progress toward the goals and targets by 2025. The report highlights the urgency to build a resilient agriculture sector as the mainstay of the African economies to fast-track the development agenda of the continent. As such, concrete and bold interventions are needed at the various levels to materialize the transformative goals and targets captured in both the National Agriculture Investment Plans (NAIPs) and the Regional Agriculture Investment Plans (RAIPs).
8. The report is the result of collaborative efforts of AU Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and several technical organizations and individuals, under the leadership of the African Union Commission and the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD). Through this report, we are pleased and humbled to provide this Third CAADP Biennial Review Report, the current status of the progress made by Members States of the African Union in implementing the Assembly Decision as contained in the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods of June 2014.

Amb. Josefa Sacko
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African Union Commission (AUC)

Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki
Chief Executive Officer
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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Third CAADP Biennial Review (BR) reporting cycle has benefited from the overall coordination of AUC-DARBE and AUDA-NEPAD throughout the process. Our sincere gratitude is extended to the logistics teams that supported the process at various stages. The Policy LINK team is highly appreciated for the excellent logistical support provided throughout the third BR cycle by organizing and facilitating various meetings during the third BR process and the final write-shop during which this report was drafted and finalized. The communication team of AUC at large and that of DARBE in particular, are greatly appreciated for the support they rendered. Various staff of AGRA provided relentless support to ensure that implementation of the Third BR cycle was efficaciously accomplished. Finally, but not least, the secretarial team of DARBE are recognized for all the administrative support provided.

Several experts from partner institutions and Member States contributed to the finalization of the third Biennial Review (BR) cycle and report. First and foremost are the CAADP teams in all the 55 AU Member States who collected and compiled the data that provided the backbone of this report. The Regional Economic Communities (RECs) did all the coordination work to ensure that Member States were able to complete the data collection process in time and include their country data in the electronic BR system. The RECs also acted as invaluable liaison between the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Member States. The Member States, and the various technical experts that supported the review of the data provided by the Member States. The BR Task Force team leaders and members are recognized for their overall leadership and direction provided throughout the BR process.

African Union Commission (AUC); African Union Development Agency – New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD); African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR); African Union Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (AU-IAPSC); African Union Semi-Arid Food Grains Research and Development (SAFGRAD); Agence nationale de la Statistique et de la Démographie; AKADEMIYA2063 (Ak2063); Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA); Arab Maghreb Union (UMA); Biovision Africa Trust; Centre National de Recherche Agronomique (CNRA), Cote d'Ivoire; Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA); Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness Management, Egerton University; East African Community (EAC) Secretariat; Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOAI); Economic Community for Central Africa States (ECCAS); Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); General Directorate of Studies and Sector Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, Burkina Faso; Institute of Marine Biology and Oceanography, Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone;

Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD); International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI); International Water Management Institute (IWMI); Natural Resources Institute (NRI), University of Greenwich; Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa/ GIZ African Union Office; Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa (PACA); Policy Research Network for Fisheries & Aquaculture in Africa (PRNFAA); Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System – Eastern and Central Africa (ReSAKSS-ECA); Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System – Southern Africa (ReSAKSS-SA); Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System – West Africa (ReSAKSS-WA); Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Secretariat; The African Post Harvest Loss Information System (APHLIS); The African Seed Access Index (TASAI Inc.); The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI); Université Nazi Boni, Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso; the University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria; the University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria; and the USAID Feed the Future, Policy LINK.

This Third CAADP Biennial Review Report has been produced with financial support from the AU, AGRA, BMGF, and USAID/Policy LINK. The report has benefitted from the research and efforts of various authors and experts who contributed to the writing of different sections of the report and/or review of sections and the overall draft. The African Union Commission would like to express its deepest gratitude to all the authors and co-authors as well as experts and reviewers who made the completion of this report possible.

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INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This is the Third Biennial Review Report on the progress in the implementation of the Malabo Declaration on “Accelerated Africa Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods” ((ref.: Doc. Assembly/AU/2(XXIII)) that was adopted by the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government in June 2014 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, to strengthen the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP).
- 1.2. The Malabo Declaration has seven commitments. Under Commitment 7 of the Declaration, AU Heads of State and Government requested the AU Commission and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA)¹ to produce a progress report for presentation to the AU Assembly every two years, starting from 2017. The inaugural and 2nd Biennial Review Reports were presented to and endorsed by the AU Assembly in January 2018 and February 2020, respectively.
- 1.3. Building on the lessons of the two previous cycles and in adherence to the request from the AU leadership, the African Union Commission (AUC) and the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) collaborated closely with partner institutions to: (i) review and update the mechanisms they had developed to enhance Africa’s capacity for knowledge and data generation and management to strengthen evidence based planning and implementation; (ii) advocate for the institutionalization of a system for peer review that encourages good performance on achievement of progress made in implementing the provisions of the Malabo declaration and recognize biennially, exemplary performance through awards; and (iii) conduct the third full cycle of the biennial review reporting, with the view to report on progress to the Assembly of the African Union during its 35th Ordinary Session in February 2022.
- 1.4. The third BR cycle was conducted in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and the United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS), for which the AU convened a joint meeting of ministers in charge of agriculture, trade and finance from the AU Member States on the impacts of COVID-19 on African food systems, and the preparation and the presentation of the African common position to the UNFSS as a continent. In both instances, there was a recommitment to advance agricultural transformation of the continent through strengthening the implementation of CAADP and the BR process as the tool to assess progress on the implementation of the recommendations and the game changing solutions contained in the Africa common position to the UNFSS.
- 1.5. During the period under review, the agriculture sector in Africa was also challenged by the fall armyworm and the desert locust invasion especially in the horn of Africa, and climate related episodes such as floods and droughts in southern, eastern and western Africa.
- 1.6. This 3rd BR report was produced midway through the decade of the Malabo declaration (2015-2025). However, the scope of the recommendations go beyond achieving the 2025 targets and provide an opportunity to reflect on Africa’s

¹ In July 2019, renamed the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD).

journey to the SDG 2030 goals, but also on the post-Malabo CAADP agenda in the context of the second ten years' implementation plan of Agenda 2063.

- 1.7. Consistent with the previous reports, the seven (7) Malabo Commitments were translated into seven (7) thematic areas of performance: (i) re-committing to the principles and values of the CAADP process; (ii) enhancing investment finance in agriculture; (iii) ending Hunger in Africa by 2025; (iv) reducing poverty by half, by 2025, through inclusive agricultural growth and transformation; (v) boosting intra-African trade in agricultural commodities and services; (vi) enhancing resilience of livelihoods and production systems to climate variability and other related risks; and (vii) strengthening mutual accountability to actions and results.
- 1.8. The aim of this report is to present individual Member States and collective performances in order to trigger continental, regional and national level action programmes to drive agricultural transformation in Africa. The report also helps to create more appetite for individual entities to strengthen national and regional institutional capacity for agriculture data collection and knowledge management to inform actions. Building on this principle, it is anticipated that this would support improved evidence-based planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, mutual learning and foster alignment, harmonization and coordination among multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder efforts. Such efforts include the CAADP Malabo Policy Learning Event, the Permanent Secretaries' Retreat, engagements led by Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and platforms organized by partners.
- 1.9. The report highlights the inclusive nature of the process and methodological approach that was used to collect and analyse data and write the report. Furthermore, the report also presents the key findings at continental and regional levels, the detailed profiles and scorecards of individual Member States, and sets of recommendations for individual Member States, regional bodies and continental institutions.
- 1.10. The report is complemented by an online CAADP BR Communication Toolkit, used as a smart and powerful online interactive tool that presents the BR data in various forms, making it more easily accessible to users. The tool was developed by AU and its partners in close consultation with RECs, technical experts and other stakeholders as an accompanying output of the BR Report to facilitate the dissemination of its findings. The tool is designed to make it easier for policymakers and other stakeholders at national and regional level to interact with the data and information provided. The Toolkit contains clear graphics, analyses and maps that facilitate easier access to the information.
- 1.11. For the first time, the report includes a section on the implementation of AU decisions, thematic in nature, and specific to agricultural transformation in Africa, on: Seed and Biotechnology; Livestock Development; Fisheries and Aquaculture; Irrigation; Mechanization; Fertilizer Use; Sanitary and Phytosanitary Capacities, Land Policy; and Ecological Organic Agriculture. This reporting period covers progress made by Member States in the implementation of the Malabo declaration for the period 2015 to 2020.
- 1.12. As reflected in the key findings, the report presents the seven (7) thematic areas of performance, aligned with the commitments in the Malabo Declaration. It also evaluates country performance in achieving the goals and targets,

which have been disaggregated into twenty-three (23) performance categories, and further divided into forty-six (46) indicators.

- 1.13. In this Third BR Report, countries are considered ‘**on-track**’ if their total score is equal to or higher than the **benchmark of 7.28**; or ‘**progressive**’ when their score is equal to or more than 5 but less than 7.28; or ‘**not-on-track**’ if their score is less than 5.
- 1.14. A total of fifty-one (51) AU Member States reported in this 3rd cycle of the Biennial Review process, up from the 49 Member States that reported in the 2nd Biennial Review cycle, and 43 in the inaugural Biennial Review cycle. Out of the 51 Member States that reported, 25 Member States registered increased scores between 2019 and 2021 review cycles. This reflects the commitment by Member States to the CAADP BR process and their efforts to address the shortfalls revealed in the inaugural and 2nd BR reports.
- 1.15. While only Rwanda is **on-track** to meet the goals and targets of Malabo by 2025, nineteen (19) countries are classified as progressive. With an overall score of 4.32, the **continent is not-on-track** to meeting the Malabo goals and targets by 2025. Regarding financing, the report shows that only four (4) countries invested at least 10% of their national expenditure on agriculture. Only one country is on track to meeting the *Ending Hunger* goal by 2025. Both empirical observations and research findings presented in this report, show that the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts on agriculture and food security on the continent, could partly explain this low performance of the continent.
- 1.16. For every reporting Member State, performance against the set targets is presented in the form of a “Country Scorecard in implementing the Malabo Commitments”.

THE 2021 BIENNIAL REVIEW REPORT PREPARATION PROCESS AND METHODOLOGY

2A. The Process

- 2.1. The process towards the 2021 Biennial Review report was significantly disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic that began in early 2020 and led to reduced travel, cancellation of physical meetings, as well as adoption of other measures designed to curb the spread of the virus.
- 2.2. As a precursor to the 3rd Biennial Review cycle, the AUC and AUDA-NEPAD, in collaboration with partners, organized the Malabo Policy Learning Event (MAPLE) in December 2020, focused on reviewing lessons from the 2nd Biennial Review (BR). The event took place virtually due to the safety restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic. Nearly 200 participants drawn from across Africa and representing the Public Sector, Private Sector, farmer groups, civil society, youth, academia and media explored the lessons from the two previous cycles. The main topics of discussion, which subsequently helped shape the current BR process were i) An exploration of country and regional performance

according to the second BR report to draw out implications of that performance; ii) Some highlights of examples of how Member States are using the BR to inform programming and policy practices; iii) Learning and sharing of information about available policy tools, tips, and resources; iv) Improving country data systems; and v) The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the overall BR process.

- 2.3. Subsequently, the BR Task Force, which is a team of technical experts drawn from various institutions across Africa and which provides technical backstopping for the BR process, carried out a **critical analysis of the BR process, indicators, and methods** to make suggestions for improvement of the data collection and analysis processes. The BR Task Force is divided into eight (8) Technical Working Groups (TWGs) organized around the performance areas of the Malabo Declaration. Members of the TWGs, met each week over several months in 2020, not only to carry out the Critical Analysis of quality of data, process, and methods, but also to offer technical guidance. As a result of these engagements, the BR Technical Guidelines, the BR Reporting Template, and the BR Technical Notes were updated.
- 2.4. During the 2020 critical analysis and review process, the BR Task Force highlighted the following data related issues and changes: i) Previously silent or unutilized indicators² in the BR system were either included in the analysis or completely removed from the data collection; ii) The e-BR, the web-based tool for data entry and management, was improved to identify errors by flagging unusual entries. It was also improved to accommodate information on source of data to improve data traceability; iii) Several new indicators to track the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), livestock development and ecological agriculture were suggested. But it was felt that a lot more technical work would be needed to develop any new indicators in the future; and iv) Common data errors and gaps were identified which require additional investments by the AU and Member States in building capacity for collecting and managing data.

The Roadmap for the third BR process

- 2.5. Working closely with Regional Economic Communities and technical experts, a roadmap for the 3rd BR process was prepared by the AUC. The roadmap covered the various steps and timelines required to produce the third BR report

Training of trainers

- 2.6. Due to some significant changes in the reporting templates and also because there were new experts joining the BR process, a Training of Trainers (TOT) workshop was organized virtually on 24-26 February and 4 March, 2021. About 64 experts participated in the TOT sessions which covered technical elements of the BR and planned for the BR continental training workshop for country experts.

² There were 3 (2.2, 2.3 and 4.1ii) silent indicators in the inaugural and second BR cycle because there was not enough information to calculate the target values. For this third BR cycle, two (indicators 2.2, 2.3) were included in the analysis and one was completely removed from the data collection (indicator 4.1ii)

Training of national experts

2.7. During this third BR process, AUC organized three BR continental virtual training sessions for national experts. The first was the continental training of national experts organized from March 15-19, 2021; a second one from 7-9 April 2021 was the "make-up training" for Member States that missed the first training. The third training was organized specifically for the Comoros (1-3 June 2021). The sessions were organized virtually with the support of Policy LINK, with the technical and financial support of AKADEMIYA2063 (Ak2063) to ensure the interpretation and translation of the third BR reporting tools as well as the mobilization of experts from Ak2063/ReSAKSS and IFPRI during the continental training. Following the training, the third BR process at country level was launched.

Data collection and validation at national level

- 2.8. After the continental training, each REC organized with their Member States to implement their BR roadmap. The RECs led and coordinated the steps on data collection and validation at the national level. Particularly, the African Union Commission, with technical support from AGRA and its partnership with Ak2063/ReSAKSS, facilitated the mobilization of the technical support needed by the RECs to facilitate data collection and validation at the national level. At all levels of accountability (national, regional, and continental), the main challenges were: (i) the timely collection, cleaning, and analysis of the data; (ii) the limited resources to support the multi-stakeholder validation of the draft national BR reports; and (iii) the impacts of, and restrictions imposed in some Member States due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout the process, the AUC and AUDA-NEPAD continuously encouraged AU Member States to integrate the biennial review process into regular monitoring and evaluation systems of government, in order to alleviate logistical and financial challenges and improve the quality of the process and its results.
- 2.9. Like it was in the inaugural and second BR processes, each Member State was expected to organize a national multi-stakeholder workshop to review and validate the report and data before its submission to the respective RECs, with a signed letter from the Permanent Secretary or an authority of the ministry of agriculture. With the support of technical partners, RECs review and validate the Member State reports, carry out the first data analysis, and prepare regional BR summaries that are validated at the regional level before their submission to AUC.

BR technical write-shop

2.10. After the first submission of country reports and data by the end of July 2021, the deadline was extended to 31 August 2021 to allow RECs and Member States that had not made the first deadline to send in their data and reports. This shift was possible because the date for the STC meeting, to which the report must be submitted, was changed from October to December 2021. Each REC mobilized regional experts and organized a review of country reports following guidelines transmitted to RECs by the AUC. The regional validation was organized with the support of AUC through direct funding from AGRA and technical backstopping from Ak2063/RESAKSS. Overall, all RECs were able to achieve

this important milestone and send comments and observations to Member States for correction in the country report, as well as in the e-BR system, aiming at their final submission on September 3, 2021. Even when the write-shop started, the AUC still extended the deadline to allow Member States that were running late to review and have a final submission of their report and data in the e-BR system by September 8, 2021. This was the final cut-off deadline for all submissions. In the e-BR system, 51 Member States submitted their data on time.

- 2.11. The write-shop prepared the draft Third CAADP Malabo Biennial Review Report and offered an opportunity to several biennial review experts as well as all the institutions that have been contributing to this process to produce the first draft of the report. More specifically, the write-shop covered: (i) five (5) days of data cleaning and consolidation; (ii) discussion of the theme of the third BR report; (iii) three days of writing the draft report; (iv) the preparation of the individual country scorecards; (v) the preparation of the consolidated draft continental third BR Report; and (vi) the post-February 2022 BR roadmap. A final validation meeting was held in November 2021 among AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, Experts of the Bureau of the STC, and RECs ahead of presenting the report to the 4th Ordinary Session of the STC on ARDWE in December 2021.

BR Communication Tools

- 2.12. As part of the wider consultation process, the 3rd Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (ARDWE) held on the 21-25 October 2019, requested the STC Bureau and AUC to hold consultations with RECs on the two communication and advocacy tools (the CAADP Biennial Review Dashboard and CAADP Biennial Review Toolkit) that had been developed to facilitate utilization of the findings of the second BR report. Thus, during this third BR cycle, the AUC implemented the recommendations of the third STC. The consultations were virtually organized with all five (5) regions (Central Africa, Southern Africa, Eastern Africa, Northern Africa, and Western Africa) and chaired by the representative of the region in the STC Bureau. Other participants during these consultations included experts from the region, the AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, and development partners. The consultations generated a broader consensus and ownership of these BR communication and advocacy tools with strong recommendations from the five regions in order to improve the BR communication tools.

Technical support to the BR process

- 2.13. In partnership with the traditional BR technical partners and institutions, technical support was extended at different steps in the implementation of the third BR continental roadmap. BR experts from Ak2063/RESAKSS, IFPRI, FAO, AGRA, amongst others, provided technical support during the critical analysis, the updating of third BR reporting tools (Technical Guidelines, Country Reporting Template, and e-BR platform), training of trainers (TOT), the training of national experts, the data collection, the data cleaning and assessment, and data validation at country level, data validation and review at RECs level, and data cleaning during the technical write shop. BR experts trained during TOT and from other institutions (universities and think-tanks) provided the technical support during the regional validation.

In the context of COVID-19, Policy LINK team provided the support to hold virtually the main BR trainings, the BR Task Force meetings, the CAADP monthly coordination meetings with RECs and AUDA-NEPAD, and other meetings related to BR process.

- 2.14. A new improvement during this third BR process was the budget support provided to the Member States and RECs to enable them undertake some of the critical activities of the BR roadmap at the Member State and REC levels. Through this grant to the AUC from AGRA, the Member States and RECs were facilitated to undertake: (i) some data collection and compilation at the Member State level; (ii) implementation of the national validation meetings; (iii) the regional experts to undertake the validation of the national data at the regional level; (iv) regional validation meetings; and (v) other activities directly related to the BR process. This grant also provided some funding for the technical write-shop.
- 2.15. The RECs played a very instrumental role in engaging and mobilizing Member States and this eased and facilitated the role of the AUC and AUDA-NEPAD in compiling the Third Biennial Review Report successfully.

2B. The Methodology

- 2.16. The Africa Agricultural Transformation Scorecard (AATS) was developed to present the progress made by individual Member States and to recognize and award the best performing Member States towards achieving the Malabo Declaration goals and targets by 2025.
- 2.17. The AATS is based on benchmarking methods to evaluate country performance in achieving the goals and targets set in the Malabo Declaration.
- 2.18. As the overall target year of the Malabo Declaration is 2025, the benchmarking method provides a gradual and incremental scale for evaluating the biennial progress against the indicators in the form of a score. By comparing the scores across Member States, the AATS enables peer-to-peer metric comparison of performance in order to stimulate continuous improvement of interventions towards common agreed targets. In this case, the benchmarks seek mainly to allow Member States to see how to improve their performance over time, and to search for best practices in order to overcome identified challenges while reinforcing the culture of continuous improvement, and providing a sense of urgency in achieving agriculture sector goals.
- 2.19. The updated 2021 Technical Guidelines provide details on the methodology used to compute each of the 46 performance indicators with the required set of parameters. The 2021 Technical Notes provide further details on the methods used to calculate the performance scores, with the year 2015 as reference for performance measurement, including the weighting system used to aggregate the scores across the different thematic areas.

- 2.20. In line with the performance structure of the Biennial Review (7 commitment areas disaggregated in 23 performance categories, and further into 46 indicators), there are four types of scores: the ***I-score*** which is the score attributed to the performance indicator based on a scale of 0 to 10; the ***C-score*** which is an aggregation of the *I*-scores for the performance category; the ***T-score*** which is an aggregation of the *C*-scores for the performance theme or commitment area; and the ***O-score*** which is the overall score (or aggregation of the *T*-scores) in achieving the Malabo Declaration. For each aggregated score (i.e. *C*-score, *T*-score, and *O*-score), an equal weighting system is used.
- 2.21. The corresponding computing algorithms, fully detailed in the 2021 Technical Notes, have guided the design of the database for country data compilation to generate the 2021 Scorecard.
- 2.22. The Comparison of Country Scores in implementing the Malabo Declaration and the 51 Country Profiles presented in Chapter 7 from the ***Africa Agriculture Transformation Scorecard (AATS)*** which summarizes individual country progress in achieving commitments of the Malabo Declaration.
- 2.23. The following standard technical definitions must be noted to facilitate complete understanding of the Biennial Review Report and the AATS.
- 2.24. A Target: Is a value to be reached at an ultimate year (target year) by an item expressed in a commitment. As an example, the commitment to “*triple intra-African trade in agricultural commodities and services by 2025 from 2015*” – the target is 200% to be achieved by the target year of 2025 from the baseline year of 2015.
- 2.25. An Indicator: Is a parameter or a combination of parameters that measures directly (without any further calculation) the value of the item that is measured. As an example, for the commitment in section 2.24, the indicator is the “*growth rate of intra-African trade*”.
- 2.26. A Milestone: Is the value to be reached by the indicator in a measurement year for the country to be on-track in reaching the target, with the assumption that the progress is linear. As such, the milestone may vary from year to year. As an example, for the commitment in section 2.24, the milestone for the third year (2018 measurement year) is 60% [equal to $(200\%/10) * 3$]. It is to be noted that the milestone may remain constant if the target is the same for each year. As an example, for the commitment to “*increase government expenditures to agriculture as a share of total national expenditures, to at least 10% each year*”, the milestone for each year is 10%.
- 2.27. A Score: Is a value based on a scale of 0 to 10 that reflects performance against an indicator in the particular year. As in the example of the commitment in section 2.26, a country having reached 150% progress in a particular year will have a score of 7.5 [equal to $(150/200)*10$].
- 2.28. A Benchmark: Is the score corresponding to the value of the milestone, which is the minimum score that a country must have to be on-track in that particular year. As with a milestone, the benchmark may vary from year to year and reach the maximum value of 10 in the target year or it may remain constant at 10 each year. The benchmark for this reporting period (2020 measurement year) is 7.28 compared to 6.66 in the last BR (2018 measurement year).

- 2.29. ON-TRACK: Means that the Member State obtained a score that is equal to or greater than the benchmark (7.28) and is, therefore, well on the trajectory to reach the target for the Malabo commitments.
- 2.30. NOT-ON-TRACK: Means that the country obtained a score that is lower than the benchmark and is, therefore, NOT on the trajectory to reach the target for the Malabo commitments.
- 2.31. A new category of performance was introduced in the third BR cycle to indicate Member States that are PROGRESSING WELL meaning the Member State whose overall score is five or greater than 5, but less than the benchmark of 7.28, and therefore, still NOT on the trajectory to reach the target for the Malabo commitments.

2C. Data Quality Issues

- 2.32. Obtaining high quality data for the BR process has remained a top priority. This is because the values of the indicators on which the BR scores are calculated are a result of policies and investments and how they interact with other factors and then impact sectors, firms, communities, households, and individuals. Therefore, having high data quality will help improve the statistical significance and reliability of estimated relationships between policies, investments, and outcomes so that policymakers and investors can be more confident in using results of strategic analysis to make policies and investments that are more likely to lead to desirable outcomes. This will in turn strengthen the links between policies and investments and the BR scores, so that policymakers can also be confident that selecting policies and investments that lead to desirable outcomes will also lead to higher BR scores.
- 2.33. Various data quality issues have been identified since the first BR report³, and different strategies have been implemented to improve the quality of the data. For example, introduction of the online portal (eBR) during the second round of the BR has helped to improve the rate of compiling, checking, and processing the data, documentation of the data, and timeliness of producing the scorecard and related results used in preparing the BR report. The eBR also has helped create a time-series database, mostly from 2014 on more than 250 variables that can be used to create more indicators beyond the 46 in the BR and to conduct solid strategic analysis on various issues related to agriculture and food systems transformation. In this third round of the BR, the eBR system was further enhanced to reduce many of the common data entry errors (e.g., unintended zeros, units of measurement, and implausible ratios and percentages, among others) by placing various restrictions on the fields or cells of data entry. Training of the country teams also included examples of the various data quality issues from the previous round.

³ The CAADP inaugural Biennial Review and Africa Agricultural Transformation Scorecard: Results and areas for improvement (Benin, S., Ulimwengu, J., and Tefera, W. 2018); Improving data quality for the CAADP biennial review: A partnership initiative piloted in five countries (Benin, S., Karugia, J., Matchaya, G., and Yade, M. 2020).

2.34. These steps have helped to increase the quality of the data by reducing many of the common errors mentioned above and positioning the database for conducting solid strategic analyses. But the following data quality issues still remain: (i) Internal inconsistencies. These are based on crosschecking various data parameters for internal inconsistencies such as illogical responses, very high or low values including implausible ratios and percentages, and sum of the parts being different from the aggregate value, among others; and (ii) Differences with third party data. Because agricultural value added is prominent in the BR as it is used in six indicators across three themes (2.1ii, 2.2, 2.3, 3.2i, 3.2ii, and 4.1i), we used data from the widely acknowledged World Development Indicators to crosscheck. There are significant differences between the two in nearly all the countries, which is mostly due to data on the deflator in the BR for converting value added in current LCU to constant LCU, where negative values are reported, or the base year does not match the reported values.

KEY FINDINGS

3A. Progress in Achieving Commitments – Continental Performance

- 3.1 For the 2021 Biennial Review Report, 51 out of 55 Member States submitted their validated national reports to their respective RECs. These are: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central Africa Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, DR Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Eswatini, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.
- 3.2 The four Member States that were unable to meet the deadline date and time and are thus without scores in the report are: Mauritius, Sahrawi, Sao Tome and Principe, and Somalia. Two of these Member States – Mauritius and Saharawi – submitted data/reports in formats that could not be included in the electronic database (e-BR).
- 3.3 The Third Biennial Review report presents some interesting findings that point to the need for accelerating CAADP implementation to build a resilient African food system. Of the 51 Member States that reported progress in implementing the Malabo Declaration during the 2021 Biennial Review cycle, only one country, namely Rwanda, is on-track towards achieving the CAADP Malabo commitments by 2025. A striking fact is that this number is lower than the four (4) Member States that were on-track in 2019 during the second Biennial Review cycle, and 17 in the inaugural BR cycle. Though the remaining 50 Member States are not on-track, 21 of them are regarded as progressing well, having scored 5 and above, but less than the 7.28 benchmark in this 2021 Biennial Review cycle, as presented in the figures in blue color in the an African Agricultural Transformation Scorecard (AATS) at the beginning of Chapter 7. It

is also important to note that the benchmark for the Biennial Review cycles increased from 3.96 out of 10 in 2017 to 6.66 in 2019 to 7.28 in 2020, and this benchmark will progressively increase until the 2024 measurement year.

- 3.4 The overall score for the whole of Africa is 4.32. Although this score is higher than the overall score of 4.03 for 2019 Biennial Review cycle, the continent is still not-on-track to meet the CAADP/Malabo Commitment by 2025.

Commitment 1: Recommitment to the Principles and Values of the CAADP Process

- 3.5 As part of the CAADP process, AU Member States are required to show commitment to the ideals and principles of CAADP and follow relevant CAADP processes. This Commitment requires that Member States reach 100% achievement by 2018. Overall, unlike in the 2019 Biennial Review where only two (2) of the forty-nine (49) Member States that reported were on-track on this commitment, in this reporting period, three (3) out of the fifty-one (51) Member States that reported on this indicator, are on-track to achieve this Malabo Commitment. These Member States are Rwanda, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe. This represents an improvement in progress, of about 2% points from the 2019 Biennial Review.
- 3.6 This Commitment is tracked through three specific indicators. All the three indicators are highlighted in this report (CAADP Process Completion Index; Existence of, and quality of, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder coordination body in the sector; and Evidence-based policies, supportive institutions and corresponding human resources).
- 3.7 The first indicator tracks the completion of national CAADP processes. The 2020 milestone for this indicator was achieved by 31 of the 51 Member States that reported. This implies that five (5) more Member States have achieved the target for this indicator in 2021 when compared to the 2019 results. The average performance of the Member States that have not met the 2020 milestone is at 52.9% (against a target of 100%).
- 3.8 The second indicator seeks to strengthen multi-sector coordination among stakeholders to improve implementation of the CAADP towards results, through establishment of a functional multi-sectorial and multi-stakeholder coordination body. Out of the fifty-one (51) Member States that reported, ten (10) Member States (Central African Republic, Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Namibia, Rwanda, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe) achieved the target of 100%. Another six (6) Member States (Algeria, Benin, Libya, Niger, Seychelles, and Sudan) had a score of less than 50% implying that more effort should be applied in those Member States to achieve this indicator. The conclusion is that whereas many Member States showed improvements, the progress was not robust enough to meet the targets set for the 2021 Biennial Review report on this indicator.
- 3.9 The third indicator tracks the progress Member States have made to ensure that there are evidence-based policies, supportive institutions and corresponding human resources critical to driving investments through the NAIPs to attain

the goals and targets articulated in the Malabo Declaration. Out of the 51 that reported on this indicator, only eleven(11) Member States (Benin, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, The Gambia, Mali, Morocco, Rwanda, Tanzania, Tunisia, and Zimbabwe) achieved the 2020 target of 100%. This is about double the number of Member States that achieved this goal in 2019 (six Member States), but still well below the 29 Member States that were on track in 2017.

- 3.10 Thirty-one (33) Member States, representing 64.7% of the Member States that reported on this third indicator, scored between 50% and 99.91% and hence showed strong efforts towards achieving this goal. However, the data reveals that eight(8) Member States (15.7%) with scores below 50% are not on-track to develop the enabling policy environment, and institutional and functional capacities necessary for more rigorous planning and implementation of agriculture sector investment plans, which are core to delivering the Malabo Declaration. The 8 Member States are; Algeria, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Libya, Sierra Leone, Eswatini and South Sudan. Whereas many Member States showed improvements, progress needs to be sped up to meet the targets by 2025.

Commitment 2: Enhancing Investment Finance in Agriculture

- 3.11 The African Heads of State and Governments committed themselves to enhance public and private investment finance to agriculture. This commitment is tracked through six specific indicators on expenditures on agriculture by government, donors, and private sector, and on increasing access to financial services by smallholder farmers. Performance in two of the indicators i) government expenditures on agriculture and ii) farmers' access to financial services, are highlighted in this report.
- 3.12 Overall, only four Member States (Egypt, Eswatini, Seychelles, and Zambia) out of the 51 that reported on this thematic area of enhancing investment finance in agriculture, despite it being a key driver of agricultural transformation, were on-track. This is an improvement since no country was on track in the last review period for this indicator.
- 3.13 The first indicator highlighted in this report is on public agriculture expenditure as a share of total public expenditure, which is targeted at 10 percent. Member States have allocated public spending to agriculture at various rates ranging from 0.1 percent to 10 percent. Only four Member States achieved the target in this 3rd BR cycle. The four, representing 8 percent of the 51 Member States that reported on this indicator, are : Burundi, the DR Congo, Ethiopia, and Mali.
- 3.14 The second indicator highlighted in this report is on increasing access to and use of financial services by smallholder farmers for the purposes of transacting agricultural business (purchasing inputs, machinery, storage technologies, etc.). Access to finance for farmers is still a huge challenge across the continent as only two Member States (Egypt and Seychelles), representing 5% of 40 that reported, are on-track to achieve the target of 100%. There is no change in the number of Member States that surpassed the target compared with the previous BR. The overall performance

was low, with more than 50 percent of the reporting Member States achieving a value of less than 30 percent in this indicator.

- 3.15 Enhancing investment finance in agriculture, especially public expenditures in agriculture, is a fundamental instrument for the African governments to achieve food security, reduce poverty, increase resilience, and environmental health. Thus, Member States need to put more emphasis on this Commitment by increasing public investments in agriculture and creating conducive environments to enhance private sector and donor investments in the sector as well as the agrifood system.

Commitment 3: Ending Hunger by 2025

- 3.16 With regards to the commitment to ending hunger by the year 2025, African Union Member States committed to improve access to agricultural inputs and technologies, increase agricultural productivity, reduce post-harvest losses, improve food safety, reduce food and nutrition insecurity, and improve social protection coverage for the vulnerable groups. During the third BR cycle, overall, Kenya is the only country that is on track with a score of 6.40 with respect to this commitment (the benchmark for this commitment is 6.32 out of 10). The Commitment is tracked through 21 specific indicators, 12 of which are highlighted in this report.
- 3.17 Fertilizer use in arable crop production is an important determinant of overall yield and land productivity especially considering the low nutrient status of most African soils. The performance target was to ensure a minimum use of at least 50kg/ha. Out of the 51 Member States that reported on this indicator, only 5 Member States (Egypt, Ethiopia, Morocco, Seychelles and Tunisia) were on-track in meeting the 2020 milestone, that is, they are already using 50kg of fertilizer per hectare. A close look at the overall score shows that 13 Member States recorded some progress towards meeting the benchmark (with a score of 5 to 9.99, out of 10). This implies that 33 Member States are still using less than 25kg of fertilizer per hectare. However, the low or sub-optimal use of fertilizer in arable crop farming in the continent constitutes a major hindrance to ending hunger and attaining a resilient food system. It is recommended that Member States should put in place policies and plans to facilitate small holders' physical and economic access to fertilizer in the right mix and at the right time.
- 3.18 Access to irrigation technology and other agricultural water management solutions is indispensable to building a resilient food system against the backdrop of declining productivity and high weather variability. The performance target was to increase the size of irrigated areas by 100% in 2025 from the 2015 baseline. Out of the 43 Member States that reported on this indicator, 11 of them were found to be on-track in meeting the 2020 milestone of 7.5: Angola (10), Cameroon (10), Central Africa Republic (10), Chad (10), Eritrea (10), Ethiopia (10), The Gambia (10),

Liberia (9.19), Namibia (10), Rwanda (7.55), and Sierra-Leone (10). The 2020 assessment shows that most of the Member States that were on-track in the previous review had dropped except for Central Africa Republic and Eritrea. This shows the need for Member States to put in place sustainable plans to expand areas under irrigation. Member States are advised to plan and develop their agricultural water management agenda in line with their specific technical, agro-ecological and socio-cultural peculiarities.

- 3.19 Access to agricultural inputs is pivotal to enhancing yields and productivity in agriculture and Africa's quest to end hunger by 2025. For example, quality seed value chains ameliorate food and nutrition security, resilience and livelihoods of smallholder farmers. This is because increasing the availability and use of quality seed of new, improved and preferred varieties at the right time, in correct product/seed mixes and volumes, drives agricultural growth and farmer livelihoods necessary to sustainably feed a growing population in a changing climate. Of the 18 Member States that reported on this indicator, ten(10) Member States were on-track with a score of above 5 and equal to, or less than, 10: Ghana (10), Gabon (10), Ghana (10), Lesotho (10), Malawi (10), Mauritania (10), Nigeria (8.06), Rwanda (10), Togo (10) and Zimbabwe (6.75). The other nine (9) were not-on-track (Benin, Kenya, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Tunisia, Uganda and Zambia). High quality and optimal supply of agricultural inputs remains indispensable in achieving increased productivity for a resilient food system and hence the need to put in place adequate regulatory processes, and enabling policies and legal frameworks to facilitate access to inputs.
- 3.20 Access to quality advisory services in agricultural production is important in all relevant segments of the food system. Advisory services constitute a key production input that can limit efficiency in the food system and build resilience. A total of 42 Member States reported on this indicator out of which only seven (7) Member States were on track in meeting the 2020 milestone of 10: Botswana, Egypt, Morocco, Seychelles, Tunisia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe (all with a score of 10). It is evident that most of the Member States that were on track in the previous review are also on track in the 2020 review. This is an indication of an entrenched agricultural advisory service system in the member states. There is a need to strengthen the public agricultural advisory system and encourage private sector participation in agricultural information sharing to food system actors in the Member States that were not on-track. Member States also need to leverage appropriate digital (IC) technology to improve provision of inclusive agricultural advisory services. A functional system of agricultural extension officers is critical to ensuring the reliable and timely delivery of quality and certified inputs that reaches farmers.
- 3.21 Agricultural research spending as a share of agricultural GDP is a measure of public agricultural research investments by Member States. The target is to increase the level of investments in agricultural research for development to at least 1% of the agricultural GDP from the period 2015 to 2025. A total of 42 Member States reported on this indicator, out of which 21 were found to be on track to meeting the 2020 milestone of 5: Botswana (9.25), Burkina Faso (5.02),

Burundi (10), Cape Verde (9.89), Cameroon (5.29), Congo (10), Djibouti (8.88), Egypt (8.53), Gabon (6.04), Ghana (10), Lesotho (6.0), Liberia (5.02), Mauritius (10), Morocco (9.18), Namibia (8.75), Rwanda (7.97), Seychelles (10), Sudan (10), Togo (5.62), Tunisia (10) and Zimbabwe (9.75). This implies that those seven (7) Member States that got a score of 10, are already investing at least 1% of their agricultural GDP into agricultural research. This shows a great improvement over the previous review where only 4 Member States were on-track. Also, with the exception of Mauritius, all the Member States that were on track in the previous review are also on-track in the present review. This is an indication of funding commitment from increased awareness and the need to sustainably fund agricultural research for development.

- 3.22 The Malabo target for the proportion of farmer households with ownership or secured land rights is 100% by 2018. Therefore, the 2020 milestone for this indicator is a maximum score of 10. Ownership of secured rights to agricultural lands provides the incentive to increase investments in land improvement practices for sustainable land management. Building soil health is important for attaining a resilient food system. As such, secured access to farmland will encourage farmers to make long term investments on sustainable land management practices against the backdrop of decreasing soil fertility and land productivity. Out of the 38 Member States that reported, only Egypt was found to be on-track with a score of 10. The implication of this is that most small-holders do not have secured access to farm land. Therefore, there is a need for Member States to put in place a land tenure policy to facilitate secured rights of farm households to farmlands.
- 3.23 The continental target for increasing agricultural productivity, as part of the efforts to end hunger in Africa by 2025, is for each AU Member States to double the growth rate with focus on yields of five national priority commodities by 2025. Only seven (7) Member States were on-track with regards to meeting the 2020 milestone for increasing yields; namely, Burundi (54.03%), The Gambia (74.89%), Rwanda (93.87%), Seychelles (180.70%), Sierra Leone (105.45%), Uganda (51.16%). Zimbabwe (78.7%) Burundi (83.6%). It is worthy to point out that Uganda was on-track for all the three parameters assessed under agricultural productivity.
- 3.24 Reducing post-harvest losses is an efficient way of increasing food availability and quality without putting additional pressure on the environment and economy to produce more food. Out of the 20 Member States that reported data on postharvest losses in priority commodities, 11 are on-track to meet the 2020 milestone of reducing postharvest losses by at least 25%. South Africa and Kenya registered remarkable progress in reducing postharvest losses above the Malabo target of 50% (by 99.88% and 63.16%, respectively). Reductions of postharvest losses by other on-track Member States include Uganda (48.86%), Senegal (44.98%), Côte d'Ivoire (41.76%), Rwanda (25.82%), Angola (37.72%), Ghana (34.22%), Niger (29.44%), Madagascar (28.98%), and Tanzania (28%). Given the large number of Member States that did not report the required set of data on this indicator, the recommendation is for Member States

to build capacity not only in reducing postharvest losses, but also in reliably estimating and reporting losses at the different segments of the postharvest phase.

- 3.25 On the commitment to allocate within national budgets, budget lines that amount to 100% of the total requirement from 2015 to 2025, to support social protection initiatives, and to address any eventual disasters and emergencies with food and nutrition security implications, only three Member States namely, Angola (100%), Kenya (100%) and Morocco (100%) are on track out of the 41 Member States that provided data. Twenty-three Member States are not-on-track but are showing progress towards achieving the target in 2025. These include, Botswana (52.34%), Burundi (87.28%), DR Congo (49.92%), Egypt (96.23%), Eswatini (89.92%), Ethiopia (95.25%), Gabon (82.53%), Gambia (53.47%), Guinea (60.22%), Malawi (88.92%), Mali (87.09%), Mauritania (97.09%), Namibia (98.82%), Rwanda (77.07%), Seychelles (54.29%), Sierra Leone (97.55%), South Africa (97.58%), Sudan (58.35%), Tanzania (61.15%), Tunisia (66.23%), Uganda (84.87%), Zambia (58.64%) and Zimbabwe (52.68%). Thirteen Member States namely, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo are not-on-track towards achieving this commitment. The implication is that they have weak safety systems to take care of the most vulnerable segments of the population in cases of disasters/emergencies.
- 3.26 Hunger and malnutrition are major causes of poverty and underdevelopment in Africa by causing poor health, low levels of energy, and mental impairment, all leading to low productivity and low educational attainment. Despite this, the continental target for bringing down the proportion of the population that is undernourished to 5% or less, by the year 2025 has not yet been fully met. Of the 22 Member States that reported progress on this indicator, only 13 Member States are on-track, these include Burundi (76%), Cameroon (100%), Egypt (100%), Ethiopia (100%), Gambia (99%), Ghana (59%), Mali (91%), Morocco (100%), Mozambique (67%), Senegal (64%), Tunisia (100%), Zambia (64%) and Zimbabwe (100%). Additionally, the continental target for bringing down the prevalence of stunting (% of children under 5 years old) to 10% or less, has not yet been achieved. Of the 23 Member States that reported progress against reducing stunting, only four (4) Member States namely, Djibouti (52%) Seychelles (100%), Tunisia (100%), and Zimbabwe (100%) are on-track. Nineteen Member States are not on-track namely: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, DR Congo, Egypt, Eswatini, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Nigeria.
- 3.27 Food safety impacts food security and nutrition, in addition to public health and trade. AU Member States committed to track indicators on food safety since the 2019 BR cycle. Out of 51 Member States that reported data on their food safety systems, 46 are on-track in meeting the milestone for 2020. Indeed, Egypt, Kenya, Mali, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Rwanda, Seychelles, Tunisia, and Tanzania were the high performers by adopting more than 90% of the required elements of food safety systems. However, given the lower performance of Member States in indicators that

measure the impacts of food safety on public health and trade, with only 12 Member States ((Angola (38.76%), Burundi (34.07%), DR Congo (42.42%), Eswatini (51.05%), The Gambia (57.22%), Mauritania (25.12)%, Mozambique (16.89%), Nigeria (15.43%), Sierra Leone (31.85%), Togo (38.08%), Zambia (37.00%), and Zimbabwe (39.10%)) met the overall target for the Africa Food Safety Health Index, and only one Member states (Mali with – 87.77%) met the Food Safety Trade Index. It is important for Member States to implement the policies, laws and programmes (food safety systems) that are in place and reduce the adverse impact of unsafe food to make their agriculture and food sector more competitive, but also to collect data on impacts of food safety on health and trade.

Commitment 4: Halving Poverty through Agriculture by 2025

- 3.28 *Halving Poverty through Agriculture by 2025.* Reducing poverty through agricultural development is still one of the main goals of AU Member States. In 2021, two (8) Member States (Ghana (6.0) and Morocco (6.4)) out of fifty-one (51) who reported in this theme were on-track, compared to seven (7) out of forty-three (43), and twenty-seven (27) out of thirty-nine (39) that reported in 2019 and 2017, respectively. Only one (1) Member State managed to be on-track in all three rounds: Ghana.
- 3.29 *Agricultural growth rate.* One of the enduring commitments of the African Union Member States since Maputo and reiterated in the Malabo Declaration is the achievement of a minimum of 6% growth rate of the agriculture value added per annum to significantly reduce poverty. Of the fifty-one (51) Member States that reported on the growth rate of the agriculture value added indicator, twenty-one (21) are on-track for achieving at least 6% annual growth rate scoring 10 out of 10; these are Angola, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan and Uganda.. This is a significant increase from the 2nd BR reporting period (2019) where only three Member States (Angola, Gabon and Liberia) were on-track. This performance also compares favourably with the inaugural BR reporting period (2017) in which eighteen (18) Member States had achieved a growth rate of at least 6%, and therefore were on-track.
- 3.30 *Percentage of youth that is engaged in new job opportunities in agriculture value chains.* Africa currently accounts for about 19% of the global youth population and this is expected to increase by 42% by 2030. Of the thirty-four Member States that reported, seventeen (17) were on track for attaining the 2020 milestone of at least 5% youth engaged in new job opportunities in agriculture value chains. These are Burkina Faso, DR Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Tanzania, Morocco, Benin, Nigeria, Uganda, Chad, Burundi, Zambia, Cameroon and Côte d'Ivoire,
- 3.31 . The four Member States that were not-on-track in 2019, but now meet the 2020 milestone are DR Congo, Kenya, Nigeria and Uganda.

- 3.32 *Proportion of rural women that are empowered in agriculture.* Women's participation in agriculture is limited by various obstacles such as access to land, finance, and markets. Member States therefore committed to increasing the proportion of rural women that are empowered in agriculture to 20% by 2025 (decision making, access to productive resources, control of use of income, leadership in the community, and time allocation for leisure). Out of the fifty-one (51) Member States that reported in 2021, ten (10) were on-track against a 2020 milestone of a score of 7 out of 10. These Member States included Ghana (10), Rwanda (10), Egypt (10), Gambia (10), Ethiopia (10), Tunisia (10), Togo (10), Gabon (10), Eswatini (7.5) and Morocco (7.1)
- 3.33 . Although this performance was an improvement over the 2019 reporting year where only eight (8) Member States were on-track, there is still a regression in performance compared to the 2017 reporting year where 16 were on-track.

Commitment 5: Boosting Intra-African Trade in Agriculture Commodities and Services

- 3.34 The CAADP target for n boosting intra-African trade is to triple intra-African trade in agricultural commodities and services by the year 2025. To achieve this target, Member States committed to two performance areas: (1) to significantly increase the value of trade in agricultural commodities and services in Africa, and (2) to create an enabling environment for intra-African trade in agricultural commodities and services.
- 3.35 For the 2021 BR period, the overall continental score was 2.44 against a target of 5.0 implying that the continental was not on-track in achieving the target for this commitment area. It is however noteworthy that the continent is almost at the half-way mark for this target. Therefore, this is an encouraging prospect to continue improving the enabling environment for trade among Member States in order to meet the target.
- 3.36 Out of 51 Member States that reported on this indicator, only four (4) were on track (Botswana, Nigeria, Senegal, and Sierra Leone). At the performance category level the continent performed better in PC 5.2 on creating policies and institutional conditions for trade (3.98) than on actual trade (0.98). Only three(3) Member States were on track in PC 5.1 on *tripling intra-Africa trade in agricultural commodities and services*: Nigeria (5.55), Senegal (10), and Sierra Leone (9.76). On PC 5.2 on *creating an enabling environment for trade*, eighteen (18) Member States were on-track: Angola (5.96), Botswana (5.44), Burkina Faso (5.43), Egypt (5.63), Eswatini (5.92), Equatorial Guinea (5.50), Ethiopia (5.39), The Gambia (5.25), Ghana (5.14), Kenya (5.58), Namibia (6.01), Nigeria (7.50), Rwanda (5.48), Senegal (5.40), South Africa (5.15), Tunisia (5.32), Uganda (5.39), and Zambia (7.12). Based on these results, it is apparent that while many Member States are making significant progress in improving the overall trade environment by building infrastructure, reducing cost of trade, facilitating, among others, travel through visa free/visa on arrival arrangements, there is need to put more effort to ensure that more intra-Africa trade takes place.
- 3.37 At the regional level, none of the regions were on-track in achieving this indicator. However, the results showed mixed performance across the regions. The West Africa region achieved the highest score (3.27), followed by the Northern

Africa region (2.42), the Southern Africa region (2.12), the Eastern Africa region (2.12), and the Central African region (1.45). Therefore, it is only Western Africa region that was past the half-way mark in achieving the target in this commitment area. It is noteworthy that, compared to the 2019 BR, Western Africa, Southern Africa, Eastern and Central Africa regions regressed from the previous report, having scored respectively 4.09, 2.91, 2.51 and 2.19 in 2019. On the other hand, the Northern Africa region recorded a progress, up from an initial score of 1.61 in 2019.

3.38 Therefore, there is a need to intensify efforts to enhance and facilitate more trade in agricultural commodities and services among the Member States, especially in the context of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Commitment 6: Enhancing Resilience to Climate Variability

3.39 This commitment is critical in the context of the theme for the third Biennial Review report, which is *Accelerating CAADP implementation for a resilient African food system*. The Commitment to enhance resilience to climate variability is meant to help improve the resilience capacity of households to climate and weather-related risks, and to create permanent investment in resilience building.

3.40 Overall, 15 Member States (out of 51 Member States that reported on the Commitment), representing 29% of the Member States that submitted reports, are on-track to achieve this Commitment. The 15 Member States that are currently on-track are: Burundi (8.44), Cabo Verde (9.47), Cameroon (8.43), Egypt (8.60), Ethiopia (8.90), The Gambia (9.64), Ghana (9.69), Lesotho (9.62), Malawi (8.09), Mali (10), Morocco (10), Namibia (8.33), Rwanda (9.70), Seychelles (8.33), and Zimbabwe (8.76).

3.41 This Commitment is tracked through three specific indicators, two of which are highlighted in this report. The highlighted indicators are: share of agricultural land under sustainable land management practices, and existence of government budget-lines to respond to spending needs on resilience building initiatives. The third indicator on percentage of farm, pastoral, and fisher households that have improved their resilience capacity to climate and weather-related shocks are not reported due to lack of data.

3.42 A total of 16 Member States (Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Egypt, Eritrea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Lesotho, Mali, Morocco, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Uganda, and Zambia) are on-track on the indicator on share of agricultural land under sustainable land and water management including climate smart agriculture practices.

3.43 The performance of Member States on the indicator of the existence of government budget-lines to respond to spending needs on resilience building initiatives is informative in the context of the impact of the coronavirus disease pandemic on governments' investment on resilience building initiatives. This is even more instructive when compared with previous BR reports in which only Morocco was on-track in the second BR report, and Mauritius was the only Member State on-track in the inaugural BR report on the Commitment to enhance resilience to climate variability.

3.44 Therefore, it is recommended that AU Member States should improve and sustain the investment in resilience building initiatives with special attention on measures to increase the share of land under sustainable land and water management practices, with a view to enhancing improved resilient livelihoods and food system in the continent.

Commitment 7: Enhancing Mutual Accountability for Actions and Results

- 3.45 This commitment is tracked through three specific indicators (Index of capacity to generate and use agriculture statistical data and information; existence of inclusive institutionalized mechanisms and platforms for mutual accountability and peer review; and Country Biennial Report submission). Overall, of the fifty-one (51) Member States that reported on this commitment, Eleven (11) Member States (Mali, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Morocco, Mauritania, Tanzania, Tunisia, Senegal, Ghana, Botswana and South Africa) are on track. Compared to the previous biennial Review where twelve (14) out of forty-nine (49) Member States were on-track, the 2021 Biennial Review results imply a reduction of seven (7) percent points in continental performance on this commitment.
- 3.46 The first indicator aims at the establishment of mechanisms *and systems to measure, track and report performance* of Member States with respect to progress on key commitments agreed upon. Out of the fifty-one (51) Member States which submitted a report, seventeen (17) (Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania and Tunisia) each obtained the minimum score of 5 to be on-track. Compared to the previous (2019) biennial review period in which twenty-two (22) Member States were on-track, this represents a decrease of about 11.6 percent points.
- 3.47 The second indicator focuses on the *existence of inclusive institutionalized mechanisms and platforms for mutual accountability and peer review*. Fifteen (15) Member States (Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe,) achieved the target of 100% in this indicator. This represents a retrogression by three Member States when compared to the 2017 BR where 18 Member States were on track, but it is an improvement from the 2019 BR where only thirteen (13) Member States were on track on this indicator.
- 3.48 With 51 Member States reporting against this indicator, there is a significant improvement in the rate of reporting considering that only 32 Member States reported against this indicator in the 2017 BR process while only 49 Member States reported in the 2019 BR process. However, many Member States must work harder to establish these platforms as only 15 (29%) achieved the target of 100%.
- 3.49 The third indicator seeks to track the *Biennial Review report submissions*. A total of fifty-one (51) Member States reported on the indicator to show progress in submitting a regular country Biennial Report for the AU Assembly, up from 49 in 2019, and 32 in 2017. Out of the 51 Member States that reported on this indicator none is on track for this indicator, but 28 Member States (Burundi, Kenya, Ghana, Mali, Tanzania, Uganda, Sierra Leone Malawi Ethiopia

Mauritania Chad Zimbabwe Nigeria Tunisia Eswatini Côte d'Ivoire Togo Botswana Rwanda Madagascar Benin Gambia Morocco, South Sudan, Liberia, Guinea, Central African Rep., and Namibia) are closest to achieving the target for this indicator having scored close to 100%. Improving data systems can quickly lead to improvements in continental performance on this indicator.

3.B. Developments in Performance of Member States between the Three Rounds of the Biennial Review Process

Developments in Overall Performance by Member States

3.50 Overall, only (1) country (Rwanda) has stayed on-track in all 3 BR reporting cycles. However, although only one (1) Member State is on-track in 2021, additional twenty-four (24) of the Member States have improved their scores compared to the 2019 scores. These are: Botswana (+48%), Cameroon (+9%), Djibouti (+42%), DR Congo (+34%), Equatorial Guinea (+15%), Eswatini (+37%), Ethiopia (+14%), Gabon (+25%), Gambia (+12%), Kenya (+15%), Lesotho (+22%), Liberia (+29%), Malawi (+11%), Mauritania (+1%), Mozambique (+2%), Namibia (+21%), Nigeria (+5%), Seychelles (+9%), South Africa (+41%), Tanzania (+21%), Tunisia (+1%), Uganda (+4%), Zambia (+9%) and Zimbabwe (+13%).

Developments in Member States Performance per Commitment

Commitment 1: Recommitment to the Principles and Values of the CAADP Process

3.51 In 2021, two Member States (Rwanda and Tanzania) stayed consistently on-track in all three BR reporting cycles. Only Zimbabwe moved from not being on track in the previous BR cycle to being on-track in 2021.. However, in 2021, it is worth noting that Member States such as Zimbabwe, Guinea-Bissau, Namibia, Eritrea, Equatorial Guinea, Botswana and Gambia made significant progress compared to 2019.

Commitment 2: Enhancing Investment Financing in Agriculture

3.52 Compared to 2019 where no Member State was on-track, of the fifty-one (51) Member States that reported on this commitment, four (4) Member States (Egypt, Eswatini, Seychelles and Zambia) are on-track. Three (3) Member States (Egypt, Seychelles and Eswatini) that were on-track in 2017 all rebounded and stayed on-track in 2021. It is worth mentioning that the following Member States have recorded significant positive changes in their respective scores for this commitment: Liberia, Botswana, Liberia, Gabon, Rwanda, and Tunisia. However, more than 50% of Member

States (26) have experienced a decrease in their performance on this commitment. Overall, throughout the three BR reporting periods, the performance of Member States in this commitment has been rather dismal. Given the importance of increased public and private investments in transforming African agriculture, there is urgency for Member States to address the problem of inadequate access to finance for the agricultural sector.

Commitment 3: Ending Hunger by 2025

3.53 **Only** one (1) Member State, namely Kenya (6.40), has met the benchmark for this commitment (6.32). Even Uganda which was on-track in 2019 could not maintain its position in 2021. However, Member States such as Angola (4.46), The Gambia (4.90), Ethiopia (4.62), Rwanda (5.43), Uganda (4.99), and Zimbabwe (4.97) have made noticeable positive progress.

Commitment 4: Halving Poverty through Agriculture by 2025

3.54 In 2021, nine (9) Member States out of the fifty-one (51) compared to nine (9) out of forty-nine (49) and twenty-seven (27) Member States out of forty-seven (47) that were on-track in 2019 and 2017, respectively. Only three (3) Member States managed to be on-track in all three reporting cycles: Ghana, Mali and Rwanda. However, of the nine (9) Member States that were on-track in the previous BR, four (Benin, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire and Sierra-Leone) failed to maintain their scores above the benchmark in 2021. Five Member States (Burkina Faso, Egypt, Morocco, Nigeria and Tanzania) moved from not being on-track in 2019 to being on-track in 2021.

Commitment 5: Boosting Intra-African Trade in Agriculture Commodities and Services

3.55 In 2021, probably due to the effect of COVID-19 on trade, only five (5) Member States (Botswana, Djibouti, Nigeria, Senegal, and Sierra Leone) were on-track compared to twenty-nine (29) in 2019. Only Nigeria and Senegal stayed consistently on-track throughout all three BR reporting cycles.

Commitment 6: Enhancing Resilience to Climate Variability

3.56 Throughout the three BR reporting periods (2017, 2019 and 2021), only four (4) Member States (Burundi, Cabo Verde, Morocco and Rwanda) managed to stay on-track. In addition to the four Member States listed above, among the eleven (11) Member States that were on-track in the previous BR (2019), four (4) Member States: namely, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali and Seychelles remained on-track in 2021. Thirty-two (32) Member States improved their score on this performance theme between 2019 and 2021. In the wake of COVID-19 pandemic, it is imperative for Member State to enhance resilience of livelihoods and production systems to climate variability and other related risks.

Commitment 7: Enhancing Mutual Accountability for Actions and Results

3.57 In 2021, eight (8) Member States (Mali, Rwanda, Morocco, Mauritania, Tanzania, Senegal, Ghana and South Africa) are consistently on-track throughout the three BR reporting cycles. However six(6) Member States (Burkina Faso, Malawi, Zambia, Burundi, Gambia and Guinea) Member States with substantial progress compared to the previous BR report include Ethiopia, Botswana, Libya and Comoros.

REGIONAL AND CONTINENTAL PERFORMANCE

4A. Central Africa

- 4.1 There are eight Member States in this region, namely: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and Sao Tome and Principe. Under the joint coordination of the Economic Commission for Central Africa States (ECCAS) and Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), all Member States, except Sao Tome and Principe (STP), submitted their biennial reports, representing a 87,5% submission rate, despite the COVID-19 context with various constraints in the countries. It is noteworthy that the case of STP is of concern since the country did not participate in the previous BR cycle. The average score for the region is 3.33, compared with a 2020 benchmark of 7.28. Even though it indicates that the region is not on-track to meet the CAADP/Malabo Commitments even if it makes a light progress in comparison to the score of 2019 (3.22), the Central Africa Region is not on-track for all indicators.
- 4.2 Even if the Central Africa Region is not on track for any of the seven CAADP commitments areas, it registered a light progress on most of the indicators. The most significant increasing areas are the size of irrigated from its value of the year 2000 (258,2% for Cameroon, 116.0% for Chad), the quality of multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder coordination (243,2% for Central African Republic), the evidence-based policies, supportive institutions and corresponding human resources (120.2% for Congo), agricultural value added per arable land (109.1% for DR Congo), the quality of multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder coordination (102.5% for Equatorial Guinea) and supplied quality agriculture inputs to the total inputs requirements for agriculture commodities (114.3% for Gabon). Four countries (Cameroon, DRC, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon) registered a significant increase of their scores (between 9 and 34%). The score decreased between 0.3 and 41% for three countries (Chad, Central African Republic and Congo).
- 4.3 The region's performance on intra-African trade in agriculture commodities and services is still a great challenge with a score of 1.45. This global result is balanced by intra-African trade policies and institutional conditions with an individual score of 2.91 compared to minimum score for 2021 of 5.

- 4.4 The ending hunger remains with a score of 1.73, which is also a big challenge for the region. The actions engaged to reduce post-harvest loss seems not to produce expected results. Furthermore, agricultural productivity and food security and nutrition are very slow in the region with a score 1.29 and 1.90, respectively.
- 4.5 The region's performance on eradicating poverty through agriculture also remains low due to marginal women participation in agri-business, with a score of 1.25 and low inclusive PPPs for commodity value chains, with a score of 1.75.
- 4.6 Regarding all parameters of the indicator related to investment finance in agriculture, the performance of the region is still very low, in particular access to finance and public expenditures to agriculture, with scores of 1.17 and 3.44, respectively, compared to the 2020 minimum score of 10. The domestic private sector investment in agriculture and foreign private sector investment in agriculture are performing poorly, with a score of 1.86 and 1.25, respectively compared to the minimum score of 5.
- 4.7 Therefore, as a collective, the region must pay attention to all areas of the CAADP/Malabo Commitments. It should increase investment finance in agriculture, improve intra-African trade in agriculture commodities and services, engage in strong actions to tackle hunger and eradicate poverty through sustainable agriculture. Since some indicators are not well reported, the region should improve the data collection system in each country.

4B. Eastern Africa

- 4.8 This region is composed of 13 Member States, namely: Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. The region is coordinated jointly by the East African Community (EAC), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). All Member States except Somalia submitted their reports.
- 4.9 Overall, the region achieved a score of 4.56, well below the 2020 benchmark of 7.28. Only one country, Rwanda with a score of 7.43, is on track to meet the Malabo Commitments.
- 4.10 Similar to the Second Biennial Review cycle, the Eastern Africa region is not-on-track to meet any of the seven Malabo Commitment areas. The region needs to pay critical attention to all commitment areas if it is to meet the Malabo Declaration targets by 2025.
- 4.11 The region needs to pay particular attention to the commitment on enhancing investment finance in agriculture in which it has not even achieved the halfway mark when assessed against the 2020 benchmark. Unlike the Second Biennial Review cycle, the region was also not-on-track in any one of the performance categories of the seven commitment areas. When assessed against the 2020 benchmarks, the region performed particularly poorly in: promoting access to and use of financial services by smallholder farmers; promoting utilization of cost-effective &

quality agricultural inputs including improved crop seeds as well as livestock and fishery inputs, irrigation and mechanization to boost agricultural productivity; promoting initiatives to improve nutritional status of children and women and food security; sustaining agriculture sector growth by ensuring higher contribution to GDP and to poverty reduction; and promoting initiatives that facilitate preferential entry and participation for women in gainful and attractive agri-business opportunities. Also, the region performed poorly in promoting intra-African trade in agriculture commodities and services. Notwithstanding the overall poor performance, it is worth noting that the region has made good progress in embracing the CAADP process, including establishing mutual accountability mechanisms and enhancing resilience to climate variability and other shocks.

4C. Northern Africa

- 4.12 This region had six Member States, namely: Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, and Tunisia that were coordinated by the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA), as a Regional Economic Community (REC), for this third BR process. All these Member States within the region reported progress. These Member States and their respective scores for this reporting period are Algeria (1.47); Egypt (6.52); Libya (1.14); Mauritania (5.40); Morocco (6.89) and Tunisia (6.28). It is encouraging to know that Morocco and Tunisia made significant progress towards achieving the Malabo commitment.
- 4.13 During this 3rd BR cycle, a great communication effort was deployed to sensitize the Member States. Also, despite the COVID-19 context, all Member States in the region were able to submit their reports. However, Member States are encouraged to improve the effectiveness of their national systems so that they can provide comprehensive and timely data for future BR cycles.
- 4.14 The overall progress report shows that the region is not on-track with a score of 4.62 considering the 2020 benchmark of 7.28. However, the regional score was increased from 2.65 in the 2019 BR cycle to 4.62; making it the sharpest increase in performance by any other region.
- 4.15 Northern Africa is not on-track in any of the Malabo Commitment areas and only on-track in 3 out of the 23 Performance Categories (domestic private sector investment in agriculture, inclusive Public Private Partnership for commodity value chains, and country capacity for evidence based planning implementation and monitoring and evaluation).
- 4.16 The abysmal performance of the region in the commitments to ending hunger, eradicating poverty through agriculture, boosting intra-African trade in agricultural products and services and building resilience to climate variability, reinforces the need to plan and target agricultural transformation for a resilient food system.
- 4.17 Sahrawi was supported directly by AUC and was not able to submit their data and report by the deadline.

4D. Southern Africa

- 4.18 This region has twelve (12) Member States namely: Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Eswatini, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Under the joint coordination of SADC and COMESA, all of these Member States, except Mauritius submitted their reports, representing 92% submission rate. The overall average score for the region is 4.11, which indicates that the region is not on-track in meeting the CAADP/Malabo commitments when assessed against the 7.28 benchmark for 2020. This also represents a 3.5% decline in performance when compared to the 2019 BR for the bloc. Among the eleven (11) Member States, none is on-track which represents a 66.7% decrease from the number of Member States that were on-track in the inaugural BR but represents no change from the 2019 BR.
- 4.19 Southern Africa, as a region, is not on-track in any of the seven Malabo commitments in the 2021 BR. Whereas it was on-track on four commitments in the inaugural BR, it was also not on-track on any of the commitments in the 2019 BR. The region has however taken considerable effort in the commitments on Mutual Accountability for Actions and Results, Resilience to Climate Variability, Commitment to CAADP Process, and intra-African Trade in Agriculture Commodities and services where Member States have jointly achieved around half of the required milestones for achieving those themes.
- 4.20 The Member States with relatively good agricultural data management systems produced better reports for the Biennial Review process. Secondly, aligning and implementing policies and programs based on CAADP principles contributed to better performance of the Member States (meeting the biennial targets set in the Malabo/CAADP process and agriculture sector performance) as depicted by the fact that five (5) Member States (Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mozambique, Malawi, Botswana) are on-track with respect to implementing the CAADP Process indicator. Thirdly, reduction of food price volatility has contributed to good performance on intra-regional trade in the region (nine Member States are on-track; Botswana, Madagascar, South Africa, Zambia, Mozambique, Angola, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia). Furthermore, adherence to mutual accountability has also contributed to strong performance (three Member States are on-track; Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe). Finally, Lesotho and Zimbabwe achieved the required milestone on existence of government budget-lines to respond to spending needs on resilience building initiatives, while five (5) Member States (Lesotho, Zambia, Namibia, Malawi and Madagascar) are on-track towards achieving the target for the share of agriculture land under sustainable land management practices.
- 4.21 Considering the low performance in Eradicating Poverty through Agriculture, investment finance in agriculture and ending hunger, the region needs to consider the following: firstly, it should increase public expenditure to agriculture; then increase farmers' access to agriculture inputs and technologies. The region should also enhance investment in

resilience building, invest in post-harvest storage technology to limit post-harvest loss, strengthen agricultural data collection and management systems to ensure that all Malabo Declarations goals and targets are reported on in future; work to attract more and high quality public and private investments in the agriculture sector that improve and sustain the performance of the agriculture sector for ending hunger and poverty reduction; foster domestication of the Malabo Declaration and targets into their NAIPs. It is also critical that the region continues to open up to intra-regional trade, utilizes structured markets and adds value to its products in order to increase incomes from trade in the region and reduce poverty.

4E. Western Africa

- 4.22 The region has 15 Member States namely: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo, and is under the coordination of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The submission rate increased from 93% (for the inaugural BR) to 100% for the second period and 100% for the current BR. The average score for the region is 4.75, which indicates that the region is not on-track to meet the CAADP/Malabo Commitments when assessed against the 7.28 benchmark for 2021.
- 4.23 Although the region is not on-track and its performance dropped by 3% compared to the last BR, marked progress has been achieved, looking at the middle of the target years (2017-2025). Of the 15 Member States, while none are on-track due to the benchmark set for the reporting year, five (5) have made marked progress by scoring between 5.13 and 6.66 and these Member States are Mali, Ghana, Gambia, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, and Senegal. .
- 4.24 In terms of progress, West Africa scored 8.2 out of 10 in Commitment one (1), 3.1 out of 10 in Commitment two (2), 2.9 out of 10 in Commitment three (3), 3.3 out of 10 in commitment four (4), 3.3 out of 10 in commitment five (5), 5.9 out of 10 in Commitment six (6) and 6.9 out of 10 in commitment seven (7). Commitments two (Investment finance in Agriculture and three (Ending hunger) are the two commitments that show very low performances.
- 4.25 In spite of the challenges, during this third review, a few ECOWAS Member States were on-track on commitment 4, 5, 6 and 7 respectively.
- 4.26 Four (4) of the 15 ECOWAS Member States (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali and Nigeria) are on-track in eradicating poverty through Agriculture. Following the second Biennial Review process, ECOWAS and Member States highlighted this as one of the key areas to improve on and several mechanisms were put in place at regional and national level to enhance this. Several policies and strategies were developed and cascaded to the Member States for implementation, largely input strategy for ECOWAS.

- 4.27 Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone are on-track in tripling intra-African trade of products and services, with Sierra Leone maintaining that consistency from the second BR. The region's good performance in intra-African trade in agricultural commodities and services can be attributed to various trade facilitation mechanisms, including the enforcement of free movement of persons and goods regulations within the ECOWAS region.
- 4.28 Cabo Verde, Gambia, Ghana and Mali were on-track on commitment 6, which is resilience to climate variability, while Ghana, Mali and Senegal were on-track on commitment 7, being mutual accountability while most Member States were on track on the performance category of commitment 7.
- 4.29 In spite of the many areas for improvement, the region needs to pay special attention to the following performance categories: (i) Domestic Private Sector investment in Agriculture; (ii) Foreign Private Sector Investment in Agriculture; (iii) Access to finance, and (iv) Ending hunger. Unfortunately, access to finance is repeatedly coming up in two reporting periods.
- 4.30 Therefore, the following recommendations are made: (i) Increase public agriculture expenditure as share of total public expenditure; (ii) Provide enabling environment that facilitates ease of business with a view to increasing the ratio of domestic private sector investment to public investment in agriculture; (iii) Ensure increase in proportion of men and women engaged in agriculture with access to financial services in order to encourage youth and women participation in agricultural value chains; and (iv) Promote strategies that enhance reduction rate of post-harvest losses in order to boost food security and reduce hunger.

4F. Continental Performance

- 4.31 Overall, the continent remains not-on-track in achieving the Malabo Declaration Commitments, obtaining an overall average score of 4.32. With the relatively higher benchmark of 7.28 required to be on-track in this reporting period, compared to 6.66 in the previous 2019 reporting period, the rate of progress in the continent appears to have further slowed down. The gap between the overall performance of the continent compared to the benchmark for the reporting period seems to be widening: the difference in the score of 4.03 and the benchmark of 6.66 (2.63) in 2019 is somewhat smaller than that of this reporting period of a score of 4.32 and a benchmark of 7.28 (2.89). It needs to be noted that the benchmark for each successive reporting period will increase, reaching the maximum value of 10 in 2025, since the continent is expected to continuously improve performance towards achieving the targets set in the Malabo Declaration.
- 4.32 The slower rate of progress in this reporting period is reflected in having only one Member State (Rwanda) on-track, as opposed to four in the 2019 period (Ghana, Mali, Morocco, and Rwanda).

- 4.33 The continent had a not-on-track status in the 2019 reporting period for all the seven commitment areas, and this did not change in this reporting period. However, for the following commitment areas, there was an overall improvement: Re-committing to CAADP Process (Commitment 1), from 7.29 to 7.28; Ending Hunger (Commitment 3) from 2.20 to 2.71; Halving Poverty through Agriculture (Commitment 4) from 1.81 to 2.69; Resilience to Climate Change (Commitment 6) from 4.59 to 5.71; Mutual Accountability for Actions and Results (Commitment 7) from 5.98 to 6.26.
- 4.34 The overall score for the continent for Boosting Intra-African Trade in Agriculture Commodities (Commitment 5) dropped from 2.87 in 2019 to 2.44 in this reporting period. As such, only five Member States (Senegal (7.70), Nigeria (6.52), Sierra Leone (6.13), and Botswana (5.06) Senegal (7.70), Djibouti (6.69), Nigeria (6.52)) of the 51 in this reporting period were assessed to be on-track, compared to 28 of the 49 reporting Member States in the previous period.
- 4.35 Four Member States (Seychelles (8.87), Egypt (8.5667), Eswatini (8.54), and Zambia (8.07)) were assessed to be on-track for Investment Finance in Agriculture (Commitment 2). In this reporting period, no Member States actually did spend at least 10% of the total national expenditure on agriculture, as compared to four in the previous reporting period (Burkina Faso, Burundi, Mali, and Mauritania).

HIGHLIGHTS ON “ACCELERATING CAADP IMPLEMENTATION FOR A RESILIENT AFRICAN FOOD SYSTEM”

5A. “Accelerating CAADP Implementation for a Resilient African Food System”

- 5.1 In line with the theme of the 2021 BR report, the BR indicators were classified according to the five UN Food Systems Summit’s Action Tracks. Change in the performance indicators between the previous BR and this BR is analysed to give an indication of how Member States are performing in transforming their food systems. Of the 47 BR performance indicators and as shown in *Figure 1*, eleven fall under Action Track 1 (Access to safe & nutritious food for all), six under Action Track 2 (Shift to sustainable consumption patterns), seventeen under Action Track 3 (Boost nature-positive production), thirteen under Action Track 4 (Advance equitable livelihoods), and fourteen under Action Track 5 (Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks, and stress).
- 5.2 Comparing the performance (score) in the indicators against their benchmarks between the previous BR report and the current, whose results are summarized in *Figure 2*, show that:
- i) with respect to the indicators under Action Track 1, 10 Member States (Cabo Verde, Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Rwanda, Seychelles, Eswatini, Tanzania, Tunisia and Zimbabwe) were on-track in 2019, compared to only 5 (Eswatini, Gambia, Mali, Tunisia and Zimbabwe) in 2021;

- ii) with respect to the indicators under Action Track 2, 15 Member States (Burundi, Cabo Verde, Central African Rep., Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Madagascar, Mali, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Eswatini, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda) were on-track in 2019, compared to only 1 (Egypt) in 2021;
 - iii) with respect to the indicators under both Action Tracks 3 and 4, no country was on-track in either of the Action Tracks and review periods ;
 - iv) with respect to the indicators under Action Track 5, 5 Member States (Ghana, Mali, Morocco, Rwanda and Tunisia) in 2019, compared to 1 (Rwanda) in 2021.
- 5.3 These results suggest the performance of Africa in transforming their food systems have declined between the two review periods, which are consistent with the overall deterioration in performance in achieving the Malabo Declaration goals and targets.
- 5.4 Because the CAADP Malabo Declaration aims to position agriculture as the main driver of inclusive growth and economic development to ensure wealth creation, food and nutrition security, poverty alleviation and prosperity, and resilience and sustainability, African leaders have already set the foundation for taking a food systems approach to achieving their national development objectives.

Figure 1: Number of BR performance indicators by the UN Food System Summit's Action Tracks

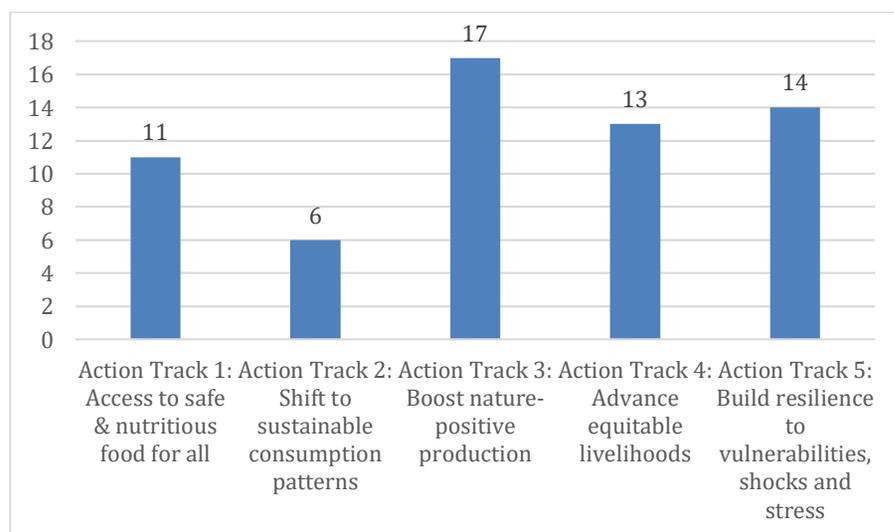
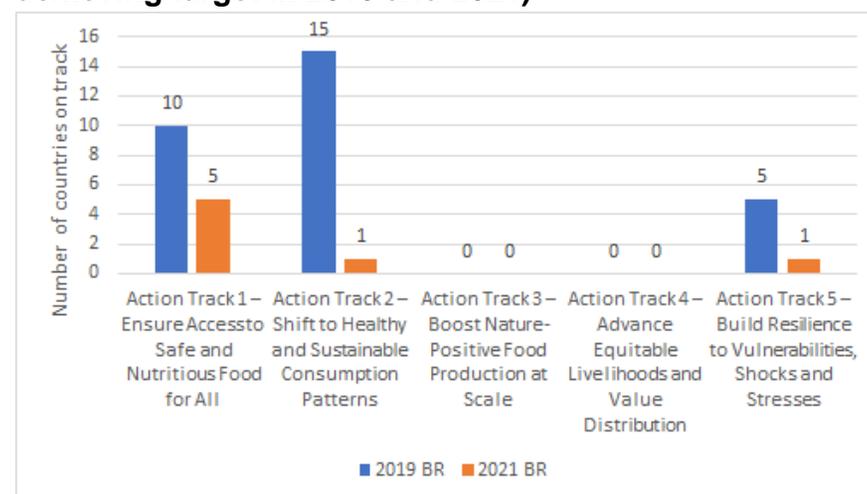


Figure 2: CAADP implementation by the UN Food System Summit's Action Tracks (number of Member States achieving target in 2019 and 2021)



5.5 As such, the momentum created by the UN Food System Summit is therefore an opportunity to substantially improve on and accelerate the pace of implementation of the CAADP/Malabo Agenda. The BR and AATS may be supplemented with additional indicators (e.g., processing and distribution as key segment in the food system) to better inform a more comprehensive planning, implementation, and tracking of transforming Africa's food systems.

5B. COVID-19 and African Food System

5.6 To assess the resilience of the African food system, the 2021 BR reporting system included a survey on the impact of COVID-19 and governments' responses. The results of the survey are summarized in this section. Overall, data was collected from a total of 51 experts from 33 Member States. Two responses are provided without indicating (providing information about) the country they belong to. The 51 experts were mainly from the Ministry of Agriculture in their respective Member States and hold key and senior positions including department director, advisor, agricultural economist, CAADP Focal Point, etc.

Impact of COVID-19 on African food system

5.7 As shown in *Figures 3-10*, the negative impact of COVID-19 has been felt across the continent. Indeed, COVID-19 resulted in decrease of access to input, food production, food transportation and distribution, food processing, food marketing & trade, and consumption. On the other hand, the pandemic resulted in an increase in food prices while no significant effect was reported for food waste.

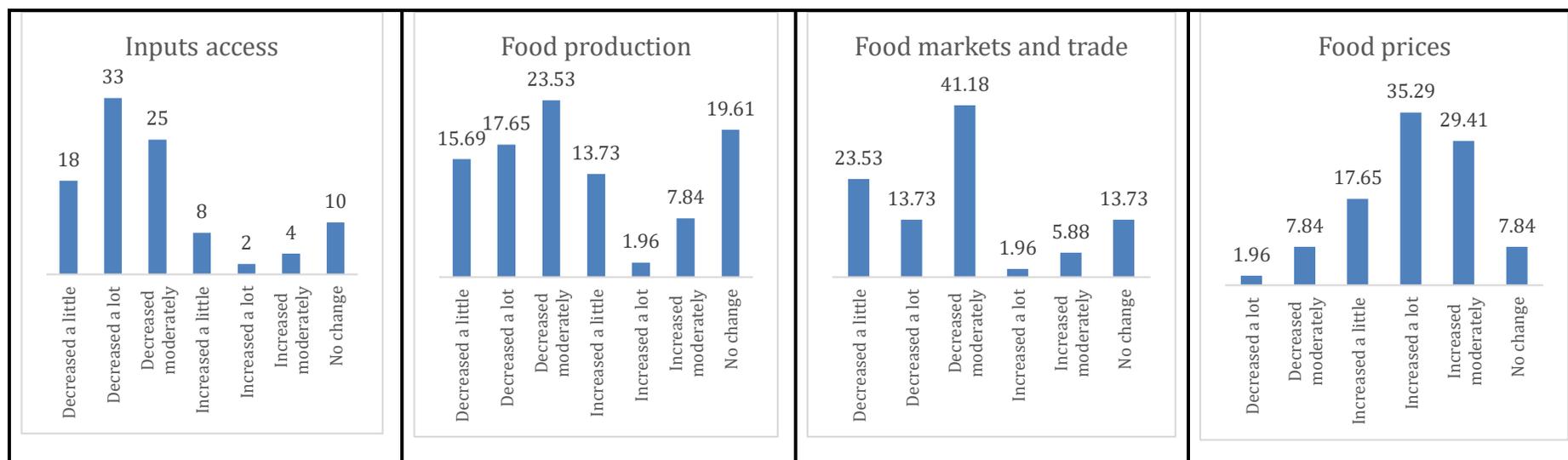
Governments' responses to COVID-19

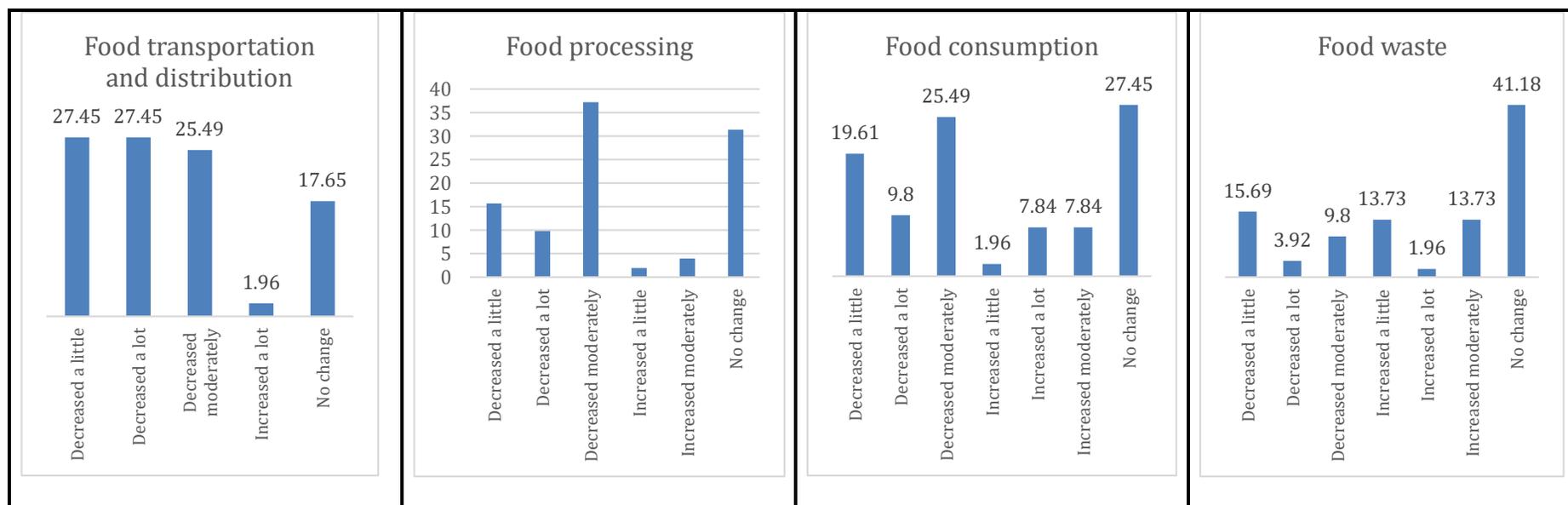
Distribution of seeds

5.8 The result suggests that Member States did provide seeds to their respective farmers as opposed to introducing new seed policies in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Indeed, governments supplied seed to farmers in most of the Member States (73.4%) to mitigate the effect of COVID-19. As far as regions are concerned, close to 60% of Eastern Africa Member States did not engage in providing seeds to the farmers compared to the other regions where the majority of Member States (75% or higher) did supply seeds. In two-thirds of the surveyed Member States, governments did not introduce new seed policies and the distribution is roughly similar among the geographic regions. The majority (87%) of the Member States that introduced new seed policies have also supplied seeds to the farmers.

5.9 Most respondents perceived that governments' responses have been effective overall in addressing the negative impact of COVID-19 on the agricultural sector. Overall, only 18% of the respondents saw government actions as ineffective. Geographically, unlike other regions, all respondents from Western Africa had a higher positive perception of government actions. This shows that the perception of government effectiveness has not been uniform across the continent

Figures 3-10: The negative impact of COVID-19 as felt across the continent





Distribution of fertilizer

5.10 In about two-thirds of the Member States that reported, governments distributed fertilizer to farmers to mitigate the effect of the pandemic. However, for the majority (75%) of respondents from Eastern Africa, governments did not supply fertilizer to farmers in the region. Overall, about 90% of Member States, governments supplied both seeds and fertilizer to their farmers. Except for some Member States (Burkina Faso, Gambia, Niger, Nigeria, and Togo) in West Africa, most Member States did not introduce new fertilizer policies to combat the effect of COVID-19. Most respondents perceived that the government action in relation to fertilizer has been either good (58%) or very good (18%).

Food distribution

5.11 In most cases, across the continent, governments have distributed foods to consumers in the wake of the pandemic. At least 50% of respondents confirm that governments have introduced new food policies to mitigate the effect of COVID-19. The result shows geographical heterogeneity across the continent with more than half of the Member States in Western and Southern Africa having introduced new policies while the opposite was observed in

Central and Eastern regions. Overall, governments actions were labelled as “weak” by 40% of respondents in Central and Eastern Africa region against 20% in Southern and Western Africa.

Trade (import and export) policies

5.12 Two-third of respondents confirm that governments enacted trade measures following the onset of the pandemic. Most of the new trade support emanated from Member States in Southern and Western Africa. In addition to the trade measures, respondents mentioned the introduction of new trade regulations in several Member States. More than half of respondents believe that governments’ actions in implementing the import and export interventions have been “good”. Consistent to the findings discussed in the earlier sections, the proportion of the respondents who perceived government actions as weak is relatively higher in Central and Eastern Africa Member States.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6A. Conclusions and Main Highlights of the 2021 Biennial Review Report

- 6.1 The Malabo Declaration was adopted in 2014. AU Member States were required to have developed compliant National Agricultural Investments Plans (NAIPs) by 2018, as key instruments for implementing programmes to deliver on the seven Malabo Commitments. Unfortunately, thus far, not all Member States have fully and consistently embraced this process. This has contributed significantly to the continent not being on-track to meet the Commitments. There is a need for urgent action on this.
- 6.2 The Biennial Review (BR) continues to inspire wide interest and dialogue on agricultural transformation in Africa as desired by the Malabo Declaration. Both the BR process and resultant Africa Agriculture Transformation Scorecard (AATS), as well as the Malabo BR Dashboard are key instruments for facilitating the peer review mechanism enshrined in the AU principles and the original NEPAD Agenda.
- 6.3 Over three BR cycles, it has been observed that Member States with relatively advanced national data systems that are well integrated with other reporting mechanisms at national, regional, and global levels generally capture, curate and process higher quality data to produce well-informed BR reports.
- 6.4 The results of the third Biennial Review Report indicate that the continent is not-on-track to meet the goals and targets of the Malabo Declaration by 2025, but positive progress is being made. In this third BR report, only one Member State is on-track, compared to 4 Member States in 2019, to 20 Member States in the inaugural report in 2017. Whereas overall progress has been made by Member States, the rate of progress is slower than required.

- 6.5 Morocco, Ghana and Mali are the only Member States that moved from being on-track in the second BR to being not-on-track in the current BR report.
- 6.6 Several Member States were unable to report on some indicators because they did not have the data in their national agricultural systems. For example, in this third BR, only 20 and 31 Member States were able to report on reduction of post-harvest losses and the proportion of women empowered in agriculture, respectively, yet these issues are key components in the Malabo Declaration.
- 6.7 It is important to note that although climate change and climate variability pose a significant threat to agricultural transformation in Africa, overall, the continent is not on-track on indicators related to resilience to climate change, Therefore serious attention should be given to this issue to ensure that appropriate coping mechanisms are in place to respond to these shocks.
- 6.8 It should also be noted that for this third BR, Africa is not-on-track in any commitment but slightly improved from 4.03 in 2nd BR to 4.32 in 3rd BR.

6B. Recommendations

Improving the BR Process and Country Data Capacities

- 6.9 A strong communication and dissemination campaign should be held by all member states, regional economic communities and the AUC about the BR results. The use of the CAADP BR Communication Toolkit and the BR Dashboard should be encouraged to allow different stakeholders to view, observe and reflect on the findings of this third BR cycle in relation to the achievement of the Malabo Commitments.
- 6.10 There is a need to develop and implement a plan to support Member States on the preparation and wide dissemination of Policy Briefs, as well as technical notes to support decision-making.
- 6.11 In addition, it is again recommended that AU Member States, working in collaboration with all stakeholders, should ensure that national dialogue processes are convened to reflect on and discuss the results of this third BR report with a view to prioritizing and developing policy and programmatic responses to speed up the achievement of the Malabo Declaration. This has been done in the past and has proven its worth.
- 6.12 Furthermore, it is again recommended that the AU conduct a review on how the BR Report is being utilized by Member States since the inaugural BR, to drive agricultural transformation. This is especially in light of the fact that findings have shown an increasing gap between the continental performance score and the benchmark since the 2017 through to the 2021 continental performance. These analytical reports should be presented and discussed at the AU fora, including the CAADP Partnership Platform, the Permanent Secretaries Retreat on CAADP, and the Peer-to-Peer Malabo Learning Forum.

- 6.13 It cannot be over-emphasized that CAADP in general, and the BR process in particular, requires stronger political leadership and commitment and the requisite capacity at all levels in order to drive government and stakeholder buy-in for financing and implementation of key recommendations.
- 6.14 AU Member States are urged to design, fund and implement carefully selected priority programs and projects to fast-track the achievement of the seven Malabo Commitments. In this regard, Member States should intensify efforts to develop and implement Malabo-compliant high-quality NAIPs. Building a track record of good implementation underpinned by efficient public expenditure systems will also help crowd-in additional investments from the government and various partners.
- 6.15 The results of the BR process, including the identified priorities, should inform future partnerships and programming between AU institutions and Member States on the one hand, and Partners on the other, to ensure alignment and commitment to the BR process specifically, and CAADP in general.
- 6.16 Hitherto, the CAADP Mutual Accountability system driven through the BR process has been based on reporting and engagement largely by AU Member States and AU institutions. This report recommends the strengthening of the Mutual Accountability systems to include accountability for actions and results by a broader range of players, including the private sector, farmer organizations, civil society organizations, and development partners.
- 6.17 Regional Economic Communities (RECs) play a key role in supporting the production of quality country BR reports from their Member States because they are responsible for checking the completeness of the individual reports before sending them to the AU. As such, it is important that the capacity of RECs are strengthened with both human and financial resources to continue undertaking this critical role.
- 6.18 The continent must accelerate progress towards building a climate-resilient African food system.
- 6.19 Member States are urged to create or enhance BR commitment clusters composed of State and Non-States actors to improve the quality of discussions and approval of the BR data.
- 6.20 The emergence of COVID-19 pandemic has aroused the need to give adequate attention to strengthening the data system on risk preparedness, social protection and emergency management in Africa. Hence, Member States should consider the emergence of COVID-19 pandemic as a wake-up call on strengthening data systems on risk preparedness, social protection and emergency management.
- 6.21 Similarly, the lessons of COVID-19 pandemic should inform future responses to occurrence agriculture-related disasters including climatic and price shocks. Therefore, governments in Africa should sustain the strategic institutions, partnerships and funding mechanisms that have been fostered for responding to future shocks with a view to building a resilient African food system.

Improving the BR Process and Country Data Capacities

- 6.22 Undertake an external evaluation/audit of the overall BR process to review the efficacy of the self-reporting system and to suggest measures to strengthen the quality and robustness of the process at all levels: the Member States, RECs, AU institutions and development partners.
- 6.23 Conduct a critical analysis with the view to encourage self-reflection on the third BR process and come up with a set of lessons learnt.
- 6.24 Because it is critical to further institutionalize and mainstream some critical BR related operations, Member States are encouraged to integrate the BR data collection process into existing national and regional systems for data collection. These improvements could include innovations in data collection methodology using new technology at national level, in standardized formats that make them compatible for connection to the AU e-BR system.
- 6.25 Synergize the processes of the BR, NAIP and JSR within the Member States.
- 6.26 AUC should elaborate TORs for the BR data gathering meetings, national validations meetings, up to regional validation meetings and process, based on the lessons learned to guide Member States and RECS in the next CAADP processes.
- 6.27 AU Member States and technical partners need to invest in strengthening national data systems and capacities to enable them to generate adequate and quality data on all the CAADP indicators to sustain production of high-quality BR reports. This includes, but not limited to instituting and training inter-institutional and multi-sectoral teams to support the BR process.
- 6.28 Partners should allocate sufficient resources to support the Technical Working Groups (TWGs) developing the BR reports. In particular, the AU and RECs, supported by the technical partners, should establish a core team that will specifically deal with the BR to improve the efficiency of the BR process.
- 6.29 AUC and DPs should strengthen National and Regional Institutional Capacities on BR Data Generation and Management and as well as production of data in the post BR period.
- 6.30 AU and Member States need to develop and strengthen implementable mechanisms for peer learning. Well-structured peer-to-peer learning and exchange should be an integral part of the CAADP process.

Proposed Biennial Review 2021 Awards

- 6.31 For this BR cycle, Rwanda is standing out, once again, as the best overall performing country in the continent with regard to implementing the seven commitments of the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods.
- 6.32 The following awards are proposed to recognize exemplary country performance:
 - i) The **Malabo Biennial Review Gold Award** to the Best Overall Score (7.43): to the Republic of Rwanda;
 - ii) The **Malabo Biennial Review Silver Award** to the Second Best Overall Score (6.89): to the Kingdom of Morocco;

- iii) The **Malabo Biennial Review Bronze Award** to The Third Best Overall Score (6.66): to the Republic of Mali;
- iv) The **Malabo Biennial Review Award of the Most Improved in Scores** from the previous review (42%): to the Republic of Djibouti;
- v) The **Malabo Biennial Review Award of the Best Performance in the Theme of the Year** “Accelerating CAADP Implementation for a Resilient African Food System”:
- vi) **Special Mention** for best **Overall Regional Performance to: Western Africa**
West Africa (4.75), Northern Africa (4.62), Eastern Africa (4.56). Southern Africa (4.11), Central Africa (3.33)
- vii) **Special Mention** for best performing by **Commitment Areas** are as follows for **Member States that are on track**:

Commitment Name	Commitment	Benchmark	Member States on-track
Recommitment to the Principles and Values of the CAADP Process:	Commitment 1	10.00	Rwanda (10.0), Tanzania (10.0) and Zimbabwe (10.0)
Enhancing Investment Financing in Agriculture:	Commitment 2	7.5	Seychelles (8.87), Egypt (8.56), Eswatini (8.54), and Zambia (8.07)
Ending Hunger by 2025:	Commitment 3	6.32	Kenya (6.40)
Halving Poverty through Agriculture by 2025:	Commitment 4	5.81	Ghana (8.24), Morocco (7.52), Rwanda (6.95), Tanzania (6.31), Egypt (6.20), Mali (6.11), Nigeria (5.96), Burkina Faso, (5.90), and Tunisia (5.88).
Boosting Intra-African Trade in Agriculture Commodities and Services:	Commitment 5	5.00	Senegal (7.70), Nigeria (6.52), Sierra Leone (6.13), and Botswana (5.06)
Enhancing Resilience to Climate Variability:	Commitment 6	8.00	Morocco (10.00), Mali (10.00), Rwanda (9.70), Ghana (9.69), Gambia (9.64), Lesotho (9.62), Cabo Verde (9.47), Ethiopia (8.90), Zimbabwe (8.76), Egypt (8.60), Burundi (8.44), Cameroon (8.43). Namibia (8.33), Seychelles (8.33), and Malawi (8.09).

Enhancing Mutual Accountability for Actions and Results:	Commitment 7	8.33	Mali (9.95), Ethiopia (9.93), Rwanda (9.87), Morocco (9.80), Mauritania (9.40), Tanzania (9.39), Tunisia (9.35), Senegal (9.25), Ghana (9.07), Botswana (8.66), and South Africa (8.42).
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PERFORMANCE AND SCORECARDS

7A. Individual Member States Performance Score Cards

Country overall progress for implementing the Malabo Declaration for Agricultural Transformation in Africa represented in the Agriculture Transformation Scorecard (AATS)

[Score card here](#)

Member State Score Cards

Member State	Recommendations
1. Algeria	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The government of Algeria needs to increase the country's commitment to the CAADP process as well as improving the country's biennial report submission. The dataset submitted this year does not allow a thorough country profile analysis. The growth rate of the size of irrigated areas is slow compared to the target of doubling it by 2025 with the year 2000 baseline of 350,000 hectares. More efforts are recommended to come back on track. The score of public agriculture expenditure as a share of agriculture expenditure value added is low. The government of Algeria should increase the allocation of the public budget into the agricultural sector.
2. Angola	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Increase budgetary allocations to inputs and extension services Establish inclusive institutionalized mechanisms for mutual accountability and peer review. Increase government budget allocation towards resilience building initiatives.
3. Benin	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Benin should put in place measures to increase the proportion of land under sustainable land management practices. Benin should work hard to reduce the percentage of the population that are moderate and severe food insecure by focusing more on food security enhancement programmes. Benin should focus more on efforts that will provide more farmers with improved access to agriculture advisory services

4. Botswana	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase public agriculture expenditure as a share of total public expenditure and to modern agricultural technology 2. Provide training and affordable loans to the youth in agribusiness. 3. Focus attention on social protection policies to reduce vulnerability and enhance resilience for those food insecure
5. Burkina Faso	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Burkina Faso should work harder to increase farmers' access to agriculture advisory services as well as increase the size of irrigated areas in the country. 2. Burkina Faso should put in place measures that will bring down the percentage of poor people in the population as well as the prevalence of wasting among children under the age of 5 years. 3. Burkina Faso should implement nutrition programmes that will increase the proportion of children 6-23 months of age that meet the minimum acceptable diet.
6. Burundi	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The government of Burundi should implement policies and actions to increase intra-Africa trade as well as to reduce the gap between wholesale and farm-gate price 2. Burundi should implement strategies to enhance access to finance for men and women engaged in agriculture. 3. The country should implement measures to increase growth of agriculture value added per agricultural worker.
7. Cabo Verde	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cabo Verde should put in place measures that will bring down the proportion of the population that is undernourished from its current high rate. 2. Cabo Verde should work towards increasing the size of irrigated areas by aggressively pursuing irrigation expansion policies. 3. Cabo Verde should put in place policies that will improve farmers' ownership and access to secure land as well as increase spending on resilient building initiatives.
8. Cameroon	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Government of Cameroon should put in place strong and coherent actions improving policies to reduce prevalence of underweight among children under 5 years old. 2. The Government of Cameroon should improve facilities for trade in the Regional Economic Community. 3. The Government of Cameroon should improve disbursement of Official Development Assistance (ODA) for supporting investment in the agricultural sector.
9. Central African Republic	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Central African Republic should increase the spending in agricultural research as a share of agriculture GDP and public agriculture as a share of the total public expenditure to meet the Malabo Declaration requirements; 2. The Central African Republic should put in policies improving policies to reduce prevalence of underweight among children under 5 years old; 3. The Central African Republic should improve farmers' access to agricultural advisory services in order to increase productivity in the agricultural and agri-business sectors.

10. Chad	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is need for Chad to mobilize domestic resources to boost public agriculture expenditure and ensure its effective use and efficiency; 2. Chad ought to invest in research and development to realize the full potential of agricultural innovation to enhance agricultural production and productivity; 3. There is need to facilitate access to financial services including credit for women and youth and and their access to agriculture advisory services to stimulate investments in agriculture, agri-business and agro-industries in productive way.
11. Comoros	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Government of Comoros should allocate funds for agriculture in national budgets with focus to raise public agriculture expenditure as a share of agriculture value added as well as expenditure as a share of total public expenditures; 2. Comoros should put in place mechanisms and systems to strengthen Peer Review and Mutual Accountability as well Biennial Agriculture Review Process; 3. The country should complete the process to develop/update national Plans for implementing Malabo declaration using CAADP implementation approach under inclusive and participatory process at the earliest.
12. Congo	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Government of Congo should put in place and effectively implement measures to enhance youth engaged in new job opportunities in agriculture value chains to sustain agriculture transformation and rural development; 2. The country should facilitate adequate reforms to increase public expenditures as a share of agriculture value added and trade facilitation in the Region; 3. Congo should strive to increase its proportion of youth engaged in new job opportunities in the agriculture value chain to boost agricultural development with induced effects on other sectors.
13. Côte d'Ivoire	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Côte d'Ivoire should try to increase agriculture research spending so that the share in agriculture GDP will increase from its current 0.2% level. 2. Cote d'Ivoire should put in place measures to improve the yield of the country's priority agricultural commodities. 3. Cote d'Ivoire should put in place policies and programmes that will rapidly bring down the level of poverty in the country.
14. Democratic Republic of Congo	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Democratic Republic of Congo should increase the share of total agricultural research spending which is still very low (0.4%) and the public expenditure as share of agriculture value added. 2. The Democratic Republic of Congo should increase the proportion of children who meet the Minimum Acceptable Diet. 3. The Democratic Republic of Congo should increase the trade facility index to improve exchanges between the Member States in the region

15. Djibouti	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The government of Djibouti should implement measures to enhance productivity particularly to achieve growth in agriculture value added per unit of agricultural land as well as increase the size of irrigated land 2. Djibouti should take measures for poverty eradication through agriculture particularly to reduce poverty headcount ratio, at national poverty line, and increased engagement of the youth in agricultural sector development to contribute to reduce level of unemployment and overall poverty 3. The country should also pay attention to intra-African Trade policies and institutional conditions to reduce food price volatility.
16. Egypt	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The share of total public expenditure allocated for agriculture expenditure is relatively small (1.4%). This will affect investments in productivity enhancing technologies and institutional development needed to furnish a resilient food system. There is need to increase the public allocation to agriculture to boost agricultural growth and transformation 2. The country needs to increase public expenditure on agriculture by allocating a significant proportion of the earnings from agricultural value added. 3. The growth rate of the proportion of women that meets the minimum dietary diversity score and the proportion of the total population that are food insecure are very low at 7.5% and 13.9% respectively. This has huge implications on women and maternal health as well as on the overall health and productivity of the population. There is a need for the government to promote policy and reforms to address food and nutritional insecurity.
17. Equatorial Guinea	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The country should improve farm household ownership or access to secure land, access to agricultural advisory and financial services in order to boost agricultural productivity and stimulate transformation. 2. The Government of Equatorial Guinea should increase and sustain its budgetary allocation to strengthen the resilience of farm households to climate and weather related shocks. 3. The Government of Equatorial Guinea should put in place measures for CAADP process completion and institutionalize mechanism for mutual accountability and peer review
18. Eritrea	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Government of Eritrea should implement strategies to increase productivity with focus on increasing fertilizers and other measures to increase yield of priority crops 2. The Government should allocate enough funds for agriculture in national budgets with focus to raise public agriculture expenditure as a share of agriculture value added as well as budget-lines to respond to spending needs on resilience building initiatives 3. The country should put in place or strengthen policies, legislation, monitoring systems and capacity building programs to enhance the national food safety system.
19. Eswatini	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve youth access to new job opportunities in agriculture value chains 2. Increase spending on agricultural research as measured by the share of agriculture GDP. 3. Adopt high yielding and drought tolerant modern crop varieties to increase both land and labour productivity.

20. Ethiopia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Government for Ethiopia should increase spending on agricultural research to meet the CAADP target of at least 1% of the agricultural GDP. 2. The Government of Ethiopia also endeavor to increase new job opportunities for the youth in agriculture value chains 3. The Government of Ethiopia should continue with efforts to increase agriculture land area under sustainable management
21. Gabon	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is need for Gabon to create systems for facilitation of private investment in agriculture including an enabling environment of policy and institutional conditions for public-private partnerships; 2. Gabon ought to invest in research and development to realize the full potential of agricultural innovation to enhance agricultural production and productivity; 3. There is a need for Gabon to mobilize domestic resources to boost public agriculture expenditure and ensure its effective use and efficiency.
22. Gambia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1. The government of Gambia should improve expenditure on agriculture and agriculture research in order to better contribute to improved food security and youth unemployment reduction through agriculture. 2. 2. Gambia should reduce disincentives and bottlenecks in intra-African trade in order to receive more benefits from trade 3. Gambia should develop more innovative programmes that can attract youth into agriculture, and create opportunities for new employment in the agricultural value chains.
23. Ghana	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The number of people under social protection and the expenditure had improved steadily over the years. However, Ghana should accelerate the pace of the current growth in order to reach more people 2. The government of Ghana should improve expenditure on agriculture in general and in the areas of supporting private sector led improved varieties dissemination and access to inputs in particular 3. Ghana should create more programmes that assist the financial system to provide credit to men and women in the agriculture sector
24. Guinea	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Guinea should focus on efforts that will provide more farmers with improved access to agriculture advisory services 2. Guinea should put in place measures that will increase the size of irrigated areas in the country. 3. Guinea should try to urgently increase fertilizer consumption from its current level of 9.7 kg/ha to the Malabo recommended rate of 50 kg/ha.
25. Guinea-Bissau	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Guinea Bissau should improve on the level of agriculture expenditure as a share of total public expenditure in order to meet the CAADP target of 10% of the national budget.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Guinea Bissau should deploy appropriate mechanisms, including the joint sector review platforms, for promoting mutual accountability and peer review as well as quality of multi-sectorial and multi-stakeholder coordination in order to increase capacity to generate and use agriculture statistical data and information. 3. Guinea Bissau should ensure full disbursement (100 percent) of official development assistance (ODA) to agriculture, against ODA commitments.
26. Kenya	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Government of Kenya should continue and intensify efforts to reduce head count poverty ratio among its citizens 2. The Government of Kenya should increase the share of government agriculture expenditure in the total government expenditure to meet the CAADP target of at least 10% 3. The Government of Kenya country should address food safety issues to ensure safe food for its citizens and also enhance trade in agricultural products
27. Lesotho	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote agriculture value addition by adopting commodity value chain approaches that improve efficiency 2. Invest in agricultural data generation, use and knowledge management 3. Increase budget allocation in line with Malabo Declaration of 10% allocation to Agriculture
28. Liberia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Liberia should rapidly increase resilience capacity and access to social protection so that households improved on food and nutrition security. 2. Liberia should strongly improve funding of the agriculture sector in view of prevailing and serious food insecurity. 3. Liberia should ensure full disbursement of official development assistance (ODA) to agriculture, against ODA commitments.
29. Libya	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is observed that the country's report on the eBR system was weak and poor. There were no reports on most of the key Malabo Commitments. The country is encouraged to strengthen their data collection and reporting system 2. The inclusive institutionalized mechanism for mutual accountability and peer review is weak (18%). There is a need to build and/or strengthen the system to facilitate reporting for mutual accountability 3. Multi-sectoral coordination body fully established at national level to reach 100% for the quality of multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder body by 2018.
30. Madagascar	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expand the agro-processing industry in order to increase the value of agricultural exports. 2. Achieve the 10% budget allocation and fund and fund data generation, management, analysis and utilization in the agriculture sector. 3. Strive to achieve the international food safety standards as developed by the Codex Alimentarius Commission
31. Malawi	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote policies that increase access to finance for farmers including women and youth. 2. Reduce the dependence on rain fed agriculture through by investing more in irrigation.

	3. Promote the use of modern farming methods technologies for improved yields per unit
32. Mali	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mali should invest more on interventions and policies to reduce the poverty rate in the country. 2. Mali should increase the share of supplied quality agriculture inputs to the total inputs requirements for agriculture commodities. 3. Mali should increase of the size of irrigated areas as a proportion of the agricultural land in order to be resilient in climate smart agriculture and food system.
33. Mauritania	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mauritania should design and successfully implement policies and programs to enhance farmers' resilience to climate and non-climate related shocks. 2. The country is still lagging behind on malnutrition, especially among children; it is therefore important to implement strategies to significantly curb down various forms of malnutrition. These may include cash transfer programs to poor and vulnerable families to access food and school feeding programs to improve nutrition of school children. 3. Mauritania is still hampered by persistent poverty. The government should create conditions that increase the productivity of assets available to the poor. This includes supporting small scale farmers by increasing their access to land, modern agricultural inputs, markets and relevant agricultural services. These programs should be gender and youth specific.
34. Mauritius	No submission in the eBR by the deadline date and time
35. Morocco	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The government of Morocco should address the constraints that hinder the application of Intra-African trade policies and improve institutional conditions with the goal of increasing the intra-African trade in agriculture commodities and services score. The government should also invest in collecting data related to values and volumes of imports and exports of agricultural services. 2. The government of Morocco should pay attention to the food safety health index which is half of the 2020 milestone. It is appropriate to suggest additional efforts in this section. 3. The government of Morocco should increase the total national quality agriculture inputs requirement for essential crops.
36. Mozambique	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase public allocations/loans/subsidies to the agricultural sector towards the 10% target to increase fertilizer use 2. Expand social protection programs to protect the poor and the vulnerable 3. Achieve the international food safety standards as developed by the Codex Alimentarius Commission
37. Namibia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide training and affordable loans to the youth in agribusiness. 2. Policy interventions needed to enhance inclusive land ownership and access to land for farming households 3. Complete the adoption of the CAADP process.

38. Niger	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Government of Niger should pay attention to increasing the total agricultural research spending as a share of agriculture GDP. 2. Niger should increase public agriculture expenditure as a share of agriculture value added as a way of boosting agricultural growth. 3. Niger should increase yield for the country's priority agricultural commodities, including increase of the size of irrigated areas in order to promote a resilient food system.
39. Nigeria	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nigeria should improve the funding of the agriculture sector in view of the high level of food insecurity 2. Nigeria should invest more in extension as a means of improving production and yield growth. Efforts should also be made to increase the channels through which extension services are provided 3. Nigeria should improve the functioning of input markets in order to increase the supply and usage of improved varieties of the country's priority agricultural commodities.
40. Rwanda	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Government of Rwanda should continue and intensify efforts to address malnutrition (both stunting and malnutrition) especially among young children under the age of 5 years 2. The Government of Rwanda should continue and intensify efforts to address the challenge of poor dietary diversity among its women population 3. Given the good overall performance toward achieving CAADP goals and targets, we encourage the Government of Rwanda support the efforts by the African Union to promote a capacity programme on mutual to share lessons and good practices among Member States in the continent
41. Sahrawi Republic	No submission in the eBR by the deadline date and time
42. São Tomé and Príncipe	No submission in the eBR by the deadline date and time
43. Senegal	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Government of Senegal should reduce underweight and stunting among children under 5, and be guided by the targets of Malabo Declaration and the Sustainable Development Goals. 2. The Government of Senegal should ensure farm households have ownership or access to secured land as well as increase of the size of irrigated areas in order to enhance a resilient food system. 3. The Government of Senegal should develop and implement strategies to improve and enhance the increase of agricultural value added per arable land of the country's priority agricultural commodities.
44. Seychelles	1. The Government of Seychelles should increase new employment opportunities for the youth in the agriculture value chains

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The Government of Ethiopia should increase spending on social protection for the vulnerable social groups to ensure that all budgetary needs are met 3. The Government of Seychelles should also increase the number of agricultural households with ownership/secure right to land
45. Sierra Leone	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sierra Leone should deploy appropriate mechanisms, including the joint sector review platforms, for promoting mutual accountability and peer review as well as quality of multi-sectorial and multi-stakeholder coordination in order to increase capacity to generate and use agriculture statistical data and information. 2. Sierra Leone should increase the proportion of farmers having access to agriculture advisory services and that practice climate smart agriculture, especially on the country's priority agricultural commodities. 3. Sierra Leone should invest more on interventions and policies to reduce the poverty rate in the country.
46. Somalia	No submission in the eBR by the deadline date and time
47. South Africa	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase government budget allocation to resilience building, infant health, youth and women empowerment initiatives 2. Establish inclusive institutionalized mechanisms for mutual accountability and peer review 3. Complete the adoption of the CAADP process.
48. South Sudan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Government of South Sudan should increase the share of government agriculture expenditure in the total government expenditure to meet the CAADP target of at least 10% 2. The Government of South Sudan should increase spending on resilience building initiatives 3. The Government of South Sudan should put in place inclusive mechanisms for mutual accountability and peer review and domesticate the Malabo Declaration Commitments
49. Sudan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Government of Sudan should increase access to quality agricultural advisory services to all farmers and put in place policies and strategies to reduce post-harvest losses. 2. The Government of Sudan should address the constraints in agricultural trade to improve the level of the trade facilitation index to enhance trade in agricultural goods and services with other African Member States. 3. The Government of Sudan should promote initiatives to ensure that at least 30% of agricultural land is placed under sustainable land and water management practices.
50. Tanzania	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Government of Tanzania should intensify its targeted programs to reduce poverty and continuously reduce stunting among children under 5 as per SDG goals. 2. The Government of Tanzania should implement interventions to increase yields of the country's priority commodities and ensure that at least 30% of agricultural land is placed under sustainable land and water management practices.

	3. The Government of Tanzania should implement strategies to enhance access to finance for men and women engaged in agriculture as well as reducing the poverty rate among the vulnerable groups
51. Togo	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Government of Togo should implement strategies that enhance expansion of agriculture land under sustainable land management practices. 2. The Government of Togo should implement strategies to enhance food safety as well as food and nutrition security statuses of the population. 3. The Government of Togo should increase public agriculture expenditure as a share of agriculture value added so as to reach the target of ten percent of the national budgets.
52. Tunisia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Government of Tunisia should put in place measures to increase the number of youth employed in new job opportunities in agricultural value chains 2. The Government of Tunisia should implement strategies to promote agriculture land under sustainable land management practices. 3. The Government of Tunisia should address the challenge of the low rate of growth in yield for priority agricultural commodities by considering the underlying productivity challenges
53. Uganda	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Government of Uganda should implement targeted programs to reduce stunting and underweight among children under 5 as per SDG goals. 2. The country should put in place strategies and targeted policies to enhance fertilizer consumption in accordance with the Abuja Declaration and increase agricultural research expenditure to increase agricultural productivity. 3. The Government of Uganda should increase government agriculture expenditure to reflect the sector's large contribution to the country's economy.
54. Zambia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase funding towards data generation, management, analysis and utilization in the agriculture sector. 2. Develop/expand community nutrition education and protein and energy supplements for women and children 3. Increase the public allocations to agricultural research and forge research partnerships with the private sector
55. Zimbabwe	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote agriculture value addition by adopting commodity value chain approaches aimed at improving investment and efficiency 2. Promote/invest in policies that increase access to finance for farmers including women and youth. 3. Promote/invest in policies that are aimed at improving post harvesting handling and conservation.

7B. Regional Performance Score Cards – Regional Analysis

<p>Central Africa</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There are eight Member States in this region, namely: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and Sao Tome and Principe. Under the joint coordination of the Economic Commission for Central Africa States (ECCAS) and Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), and the support of experts from the African Union Commission (AUC) for reviewing preliminary reports, all the Member States, except Sao Tome and Principe, submitted their biennial reports, representing an 87,5% submission rate. The average score for the region is 3.33, compared to a 2021 benchmark of 7.28. This indicates that the region is not on track to meet the CAADP/Malabo Commitments even if it makes a light progress in comparison to the score of 2019 (3.22). However, the Central Africa Region is not on track for all indicators. 2. The region's performance on intra-African trade in agriculture commodities and services is still a great challenge with a score of 1.45. This global result is balanced by intra-African trade policies and institutional conditions with an individual score of 2.91/5. 3. The ending of hunger remains a great challenge for the region with a score of 1.78. The actions engaged to reduce post-harvest loss seems not to produce the expected results. Furthermore, agricultural productivity and food security and nutrition are very slow in the region with a score 1.51 and 1.90, respectively. 4. The region's performance on eradicating poverty through agriculture is still low due to marginal women participation in agri-business with a score of 1.25 and low inclusive PPPs for commodity value chains with a score of 1.75. This is definitely an area where the region should do more. 5. All parameters of the indicator related to investment finance in agriculture are still very low, in particular access to finance and public expenditures to agriculture with scores of 1.17 and 3.44, respectively, compared to the 2021 minimum score of 10. The domestic private sector investment in agriculture and foreign private sector investment in agriculture are also still very low with a score of 1.86 and 2.50, respectively compared to the minimum score of 5. 6. Therefore, the region must pay attention to all areas of the CAADP/Malabo Commitments. It should increase investment finance in agriculture, improve intra-African trade in agriculture commodities and services, engage in strong actions to tackle hunger and eradicate poverty through sustainable agriculture. Since some indicators are not well reported, the region should also improve the data collection system in each country.
<p>Eastern Africa</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eastern Africa region achieved an overall score of 4.56 against a benchmark of 7.28 and therefore was not on track to achieving the CAADP goals and targets by 2025. At the commitment level, the region was not on track in any of the seven CAADP commitment areas. The observed performance reflected the general performance of the member states in the region. Out of the 13 Member States in the Eastern Africa region only Rwanda was on track in achieving the CAADP goals and targets.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. It is however noteworthy that in some of the commitment areas the region showed good progress towards achieving the targets. For example, in theme 1 on commitment to the CAADP Process, the region had a score of 7.89 out of 10. The target could be easily met if all Member States in the region recommitted themselves to implementing remaining aspects of the domesticating CAADP process, formed required partnership and alliance with all stakeholders and completed policy and institutional reviews. Similarly, for commitment area 7 the performance has shown impressive progress and could be achieved especially by strengthening the capacity of member states for evidence-based planning, implementation, and M&E. The region has also made good progress in enhancing resilience to climate variability by achieving a score of 6.22 against a benchmark of 8.00. However, Member States need to increase investments in resilience building. 3. The region should pay more attention in commitment 2 on investment finance in agriculture because it has not achieved even the half-way mark toward achieving the target. The Member States need to increase public spending for agriculture and create a conducive environment for increased investment by private sectors including foreign direct investment. The region needs to pay critical attention to the area of access to finance by the agricultural households whose performance is particularly poor. The region also needs to pay attention to the area of intra-Africa trade in agricultural commodities and services that are currently low; there is need to lower barriers to trade (both tariff and non-tariff) and ensure that there is freer trade among member states as envisaged under the banner of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). 4. Overall, the region needs to pay attention to all commitment areas for it to meet the CAADP targets by 2025.
Northern Africa	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This region has six Member States, namely: Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, and Tunisia. The Arab Maghreb Union (UMA), as a regional economic community (REC), coordinated its member states and Egypt for this BR process. All the Member States within the region reported progress data. These Member States and their respective scores for this reporting period are Algeria (1.47); Egypt (6.52); Libya (1.14), Mauritania (5.40), Morocco (6.89) and Tunisia (6.28). It is encouraging to know that Morocco and Tunisia made significant progress towards achieving the Malabo commitment 2. During this 3rd BR cycle, a great communication effort was deployed to sensitize the Member States. Also, despite the COVID-19 context, the Member States in the region have submitted their reports. However, we encourage the member states to improve the engagement in their Member States so that they can provide the comprehensive and timely data for future BR cycles. 3. The overall progress report shows that the region is not on track with a score of 4.62 considering the 2021 benchmark of 7.28. The regional score was increased from 2.65 in the 2019 BR cycle to 4.62 4. The region is not on track in any of the Malabo Commitment areas and only on track in 3 out of the 23 Performance Categories (domestic private sector investment in agriculture, inclusive Public Private Partnership for commodity value chains, and country capacity for evidence based planning implementation and monitoring and evaluation).

	<p>5. The abysmal performance of the region in the commitments to ending hunger, eradicating poverty through agriculture, boosting intra-African trade in agricultural products and services and building resilience to climate variability, reinforces the need to plan and target agricultural transformation for a resilient food system.</p>
<p>Southern Africa</p>	<p>1. This region has twelve (12) Member States namely: Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Except Mauritius, all these Member States submitted their reports representing 92% submission rate. The overall average score for the region is 4.11, which indicates that the region is not on-track in meeting the CAADP/Malabo commitments when assessed against the 7.28 benchmark for the 2021 BR. This represents a 3.5% decline in performance when compared to the 2019 BR. Among the twelve (12) Member States, none is on-track, which represents a 66.7% decrease from the number of Member States that were on-track in the inaugural BR but represents no change from the 2019 BR.</p> <p>2. Southern Africa is not on-track in any of the seven Malabo commitments in the 2021 BR, whereas it was on-track on four commitments in the inaugural BR, but was also not on track on any of the commitments in the 2019 BR. The region has however taken considerable effort in the commitments on Mutual Accountability for Actions and Results, Resilience to Climate Variability, Commitment to CAADP Process, and intra-African Trade in Agriculture Commodities and services where they have achieved around half of the required milestones for achieving those themes.</p> <p>3. The Member States with relatively good agricultural data management systems produced better reports for the Biennial Review process.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Again, aligning and implementing policies and programs based on CAADP principles contribute to better performance of the Member States (meeting the biennial targets set in the Malabo/CAADP process and agriculture sector performance) as depicted by the fact that five (2) Member States (Tanzania and Zimbabwe) are on-track when it comes to implementing the CAADP Process; b. Also, trade openness has contributed to good performance on intra-regional trade in the region (only one Member State is on-track: Botswana (5.06)); c. Further, adherence to mutual accountability has contributed to good progress, of which three (3) Member States (Tanzania (9.39), Botswana (8.66), and South Africa (8.42)) contributed to strong performance and are on track. <p>4. Considering the low performance in Eradicating Poverty through Agriculture, investment finance in agriculture and ending hunger, the region needs to consider the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Firstly, it should increase public expenditure to agriculture; then increase farmers' access to agriculture inputs and technologies;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. The region should also enhance investment in resilience building, invest in post-harvest storage technology to limit post-harvest loss, strengthen agricultural data collection and management systems to ensure that all Malabo Declarations goals and targets are reported on in future; c. Work to attract more and high quality public and private investments in the agriculture sector that improve and sustain the performance of the agriculture sector for ending hunger and poverty reduction; d. Foster domestication of the Malabo Declaration and targets into their NAIPs. It is also critical that the region continues to open up to intra-regional trade, utilizes structured markets and adds value to its products in order to increase incomes from trade in the region and reduce poverty.
Western Africa	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The region is under the coordination of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The fifteen (15) Member States that make up the region are: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo. The submission rate has been steady from the first reporting period, which is 2017 (93%) to 100% in 2019 and the same 100% in the current report. The average score for the region is 4.80, which indicates that the region is not on-track in meeting the CAADP/Malabo commitments when assessed against the 7.28 benchmark for 2021. The region is not on-track and dropped in terms of performance by 8% compared to the last report. Even though the region is not on-track and dropped in terms of performance, it is important to highlight that instead of only one country from last reporting period that was on-track, seeing that this is mid reporting towards 2025, five Member States are making steady progress towards the target of 10 points by registering performance of 5 points and above, but less than 7.28 points. These five (5) Member States are: Burkina Faso (5.20), Gambia (5.56), Ghana (6.61), Mali (6.66), and Nigeria (5.59). 2. West Africa Region scored 4.75/10 and is not-on-track in implementing the Malabo Declaration on agriculture transformation in Africa. Specifically, West Africa is not-on-track on four (4) commitments namely investment finance in agriculture; ending hunger; eradicating hunger through agriculture; and intra-Africa trade in agriculture commodities and services. The region is making marked progress in the other three (3) commitments with scores half way the total benchmark of 10 since 2021 is half-way reporting, with 8.17 out of 10 points on commitment to CAADP process, 5.92 out of 10 points for commitment on resilience to climate variability; and 6.98 out of 10 points on commitment to mutual accountability for actions and results. 3. In order to improve its performance on investment finance in agriculture; ending hunger; eradicating hunger through agriculture; and intra-Africa trade in agriculture commodities and services, the region needs to pay special attention to the following performance categories: (i) Domestic Private Sector investment in Agriculture; (ii) Foreign Private Sector Investment in Agriculture; (iii) Access to finance, and (iv) Ending hunger. Unfortunately, access to finance is repeatedly coming up in two reporting periods. 4. Therefore, the following recommendations are made: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Increase public agriculture expenditure as share of total public expenditure;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. Provide enabling environment that facilitates ease of business with a view to increasing the ratio of domestic private sector investment to public investment in agriculture; iii. Ensure increase in proportion of men and women engaged in agriculture with access to financial services in order to encourage youth and women participation in agricultural value chains; and iv. Promote strategies that enhance reduction rate of post-harvest losses in order to boost food security and reduce hunger.
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7C. Continental Performance Score Cards – Continental Analysis

Continental analysis	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Overall, the continent remains not-on-track in achieving the Malabo Declaration Commitments, obtaining an overall average score of 4.329. With the relatively higher benchmark of 7.28 required to be on-track in this reporting period, compared to 6.66 in the previous 2019 reporting period, the rate of progress in the continent appears to have further slowed down. The gap between the overall performance of the continent compared to the benchmark for the reporting period seems to be widening: the difference in the score of 4.03 and the benchmark of 6.66 (2.63) in 2019 is somewhat smaller than that of this reporting period of a score of 4.329 and a benchmark of 7.28 (2.89). It needs to be noted that the benchmark for each successive reporting period will increase, reaching the maximum value of 10 in 2025, since the continent is expected to continuously improve performance towards achieving the targets set in the Malabo Declaration. 2 The slower rate of progress in this reporting period is reflected in having only one Member State (Rwanda) on-track, as opposed to four in the 2019 period (Ghana, Mali, Morocco, and Rwanda). 3 The continent had a not-on-track status in the 2019 reporting period for all the seven commitment areas, and this did not change in this reporting period. However, for the following commitment areas, there was an overall improvement: Re-committing to CAADP Process (Commitment 1), from 7.29 to 7.2846; Ending Hunger (Commitment 3) from 2.20 to 2.715; Halving Poverty through Agriculture (Commitment 4) from 1.81 to 2.6971; Resilience to Climate Change (Commitment 6) from 4.59 to 5.7169; Mutual Accountability for Actions and Results (Commitment 7) from 5.98 to 6.2633. 4 The overall score for the continent for Boosting Intra-African Trade in Agriculture Commodities (Commitment 5) dropped from 2.87 in 2019 to 2.4453 in this reporting period. As such, only five Member States (Senegal (7.70), Nigeria (6.52), Sierra Leone (6.13), and Botswana (5.06) Senegal (7.70), Djibouti (6.69), Nigeria (6.52) Botswana, Djibouti, Nigeria, Senegal, and Sierra Leone) of the 51 in this reporting period were assessed to be on-track, compared to 28 of the 49 reporting Member States in the previous period.
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5	Four Member States (Seychelles (8.87), Egypt (8.56), Eswatini (8.54), and Zambia (8.07)) were assessed to be on-track for Investment Finance in Agriculture (Commitment 2). In this reporting period, four (4) Member States actually did spend at least 10% of the total national expenditure on agriculture (Burundi, DR Congo, Ethiopia, and Mali), as compared to four in the previous reporting period (Burkina Faso, Burundi, Mali, and Mauritania).
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PROGRESS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF KEY AFRICAN UNION DECISIONS

8A. Report on Fertilizer Consumption in Africa (Decision: EX.CL/1041(XXXII))

1. Background

Africa's farmers face a variety of constraints including low productivity, limited access to new agricultural technologies and weak markets. One of the major biophysical factors of low agricultural productivity in Africa is depletion of soil fertility. One estimate puts the annual depletion rate of soil fertility at the equivalent of \$4billion in fertilizer. To increase agricultural productivity, expand agricultural growth rates and end hunger, improving soil fertility and soil health in Africa is non-negotiable.

It was within this context that African Union Ministers of Agriculture convened in Abuja on 12 June 2006 for the Africa Fertilizer Summit that led to the **Abuja Declaration on Fertilizer for an African Green Revolution [DOC. ASSEMBLY/AU/6 (VII)]**. The twelve resolutions of this Declaration aimed at policy and market development to boost the production, availability and use of fertilizers. The first resolution called for African governments to achieve at least a six-fold increase in fertilizer use and boost the then **annual average fertilizer use of 8kg of nutrients/ha to an average of at least 50kg of nutrients/ha by 2015**. In order to achieve this increase in fertilizer use, eleven additional resolutions were made, with interventions to be undertaken to address among others, farmers' access to fertilizer, fertilizer costs, national and regional fertilizer production, fertilizer financing and extension services. Specifically, resolution 11 called on the African Development Bank, with the support of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, **to establish by 2007, an Africa Fertilizer Financing Mechanism** that will meet the financing requirements of the various actions agreed upon by the Summit. The 12th resolution called for the African Union Commission and the NEPAD Agency, in collaboration with other partners, to monitor and report on progress biannually.

2. Progress on implementation of the Abuja Declaration

2.1 Establishment and operationalization of the Africa Fertilizer Financing Mechanism (AFFM)

The Board of Governors of the African Development Bank approved the AFFM as a special fund in April 2008. The Fund became effective in 2015 when contributions of the Governments of Nigeria, Tanzania and Chad, as well as the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), reached the financial threshold requirement of \$10 million for operationalization to

begin. The AFFM subsequently became fully functional in 2018, after the appointment of a Coordinator in November 2017, the recruitment of AFFM staff in 2018 and approval of appropriate strategic and operational guidelines and documentation by the AFFM Governing Council and the Board of Directors of the African Development Bank (which hosts the AFFM).

As at December 2020, AFFM had recorded total pledges of \$21,663,686, with \$15,229,027 (about 70%) redeemed so far. Table 1 shows the breakdown of pledges and amounts received by AFFM as at December 2020. Of the amount received, AFFM has allocated \$ 13.3 million, into projects and operating costs and remains with a balance of \$1.8 million available for future commitments. AFFM is embarking on a resource's mobilization campaign to finance its 7-year strategic plan (2022 – 2028) costed at \$300 million.

2.2 Fertilizer consumption

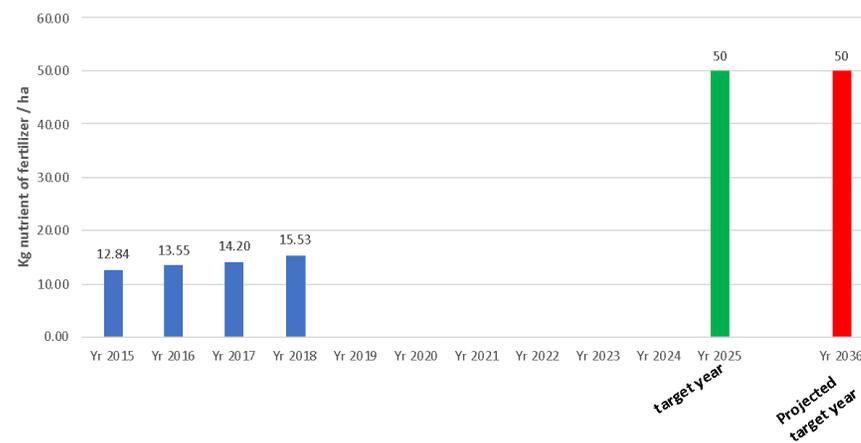
The BR process tracks progress of African Member States towards the target of 50kg of nutrient/ha by 2025 (revised from the original target year of 2015 in the Abuja Declaration). The specific indicator is “*fertilizer consumption (kilogram per hectare of arable land)*”, with 2015 as the base year and 2025 as the target year. Data from 31 African Member States shows that the average fertilizer consumption was about **15.5kg of nutrients/ha as of 2018, up from about 12.8kg/ha in 2015**. The average growth rate of fertilizer consumption between 2015 and 2018 was about 6.5% per annum. At this rate, it will take about 21 years to reach the target of at least 50kg of nutrients / ha, instead of the BR target of 10 years from 2015 (see Figure 1)⁴.

⁴ According to IFA (Africa fertilizer.org) fertilizer demand in SSA declined by about 7% in 2019; and presumably again in 2020 due to COVID-19, while 2021 experienced a high increase in fertilizer prices worldwide making fertilizer application lower once again in Africa).

Table 1: Status of commitments into AFFM (December 2020)			
Contributor	Pledged (\$)	Received (\$)	% of Pledge Received
AfDB	7,664,844	7,664,844	100%
Nigeria	10,000,000	6,362,336	63%
Tanzania	2,000,000	203,005	10%
AGRA	998,842	998,842	100%
Chad	1,000,000	0	0%
Total	21,663,686	15,229,027	70.30

Source: AFFM Annual Report 2020

Figure 1: Average Fertilizer Consumption in Africa (2015 - 2018)



3. Conclusions and recommendations

- i) Fertilizer consumption is increasing in Africa but at a much slower rate than expected. Most Member States are therefore not on track to meeting the Abuja target of 50kg of nutrients/Ha even after extending the target year to 2025 through the BR process.
- ii) Since the Abuja Fertilizer Summit in 2006, the fertilizer landscape in Africa has changed rapidly. In addition, the agri-food systems have evolved and now face multiple risks and have become more unsustainable. It would be important to review the Abuja Declaration and expand the conversation on fertilizers to include sustainable soil fertility management and proven stewardship programs such as 4R Solutions.
- iii) There is a need for an aggressive resource mobilization campaign through the AFFM to finance the required improved fertilizer consumption and soil health in Africa.

8B. Access to Seed and Biotechnology (Decision: Doc. ASSEMBLY/AU/6 (VIII))

1. Background

The Eighth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 29-30 January 2007 endorsed the African Seed and Biotechnology Programme (ASBP) as a strategic framework for the development of the seed sector in Africa (Doc. ASSEMBLY/AU/6 (VIII)). The overall programme goal is to contribute to increased food security and nutrition and to poverty alleviation in Africa, through the establishment of effective and efficient seed systems and enhanced application of biotechnologies and methodologies within the seed sector. The objectives of the ASBP include the following: (i) Enhanced national capacity for improved seed production, multiplication and distribution to better supply farmers with high quality seed that enables them to respond to changing environmental conditions and market demands; (ii) Improved seed quality assurance procedures in place to ensure sustained production and distribution of high quality seed to farmers; (iii) Strengthened linkages between the formal and informal seed sectors to better understand and respond to farmer needs, including small-scale and women farmers; (iv) Effective seed policies and regulations in place to enable and promote increased seed trade among African nations; (v) Enhanced capacity for the conservation and sustainable use and development of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, to ensure adapted crop varieties are available to meet future farmer needs; (vi) Increased capacity to utilize tools of biotechnology to enhance plant breeding and high quality seed production; (vii) Increased capacity to implement biosafety measures in relation to seed production and distribution and plant genetic improvement, to protect human health and the environment; (viii) Establishment of model codes of conduct for seed used in emergency situations.

2. Progress of African Member States on achieving the targets

Variety Release

No. of varieties released between 2016 and 2020 for top 4 crops: Burkina Faso (18), DRC (20), Ethiopia (37), Ghana (34), Kenya (81), Madagascar (13), Malawi (38), Mali (49), Mozambique (8), Nigeria (32), Rwanda (10), South Africa (362), Tanzania (50), Uganda (38), Zambia (44), and Zimbabwe (44)

Industry Competitiveness

No. of active seed companies producing and selling seed of the top 4 crops: Burkina Faso (21), DRC (11), Ethiopia (21), Ghana (1), Kenya (22), Madagascar (13), Malawi (22), Mali (41), Mozambique (15), Nigeria (106), Rwanda (15), South Africa (46), Tanzania (30), Uganda (24), Zambia (10) and Zimbabwe (16)

Volume of seed sold for top 4 crops (in MT): Burkina Faso (12,349), DRC (2,812), Ethiopia (71,014), Ghana (11,180), Kenya (48,298), Madagascar (1,620), Malawi (13,637), Mali (4,921), Mozambique (6,078), Nigeria (58,722), Rwanda (5,316), South Africa (57,841), Tanzania (8,389), Uganda (30,998), Zambia (34,653), and Zimbabwe (49,278)

Seed Policy, Regulation and Institutional Support

Length of variety release process (Months): Burkina Faso (42), DRC (26), Ethiopia (46), Ghana (9.2), Kenya (34), Madagascar (43), Malawi (2.5), Mali (24), Mozambique (24), Nigeria (43), South Africa (15), Tanzania (31), Uganda (20), Zambia (24) and Zimbabwe (18)

Total number of inspectors: Burkina Faso (94), DRC (105), Ethiopia (32), Ghana (45), Kenya (50), Madagascar (60), Malawi (39), Mali (60), Mozambique (25), Nigeria (50), Rwanda (8), South Africa (180), Tanzania (48), Uganda (14), Zambia (118) and Zimbabwe (61)

3. Recommendations to enhance the resilience of Africa's seed system

Seed systems are critical to improving food and nutrition security, resilience, and livelihoods of smallholder farmers. An effective seed system ought to be able to deliver sufficient quantities of quality seed at affordable prices to farmers. Such a system requires to be resilient with the ability to withstand, recover from, and adapt to both natural and man-made shocks. Yet, the seed systems of many African Member States are inadequate in meeting farmers' needs. Therefore, there is need for:

Well-functioning seed systems, aligned with the above four qualities, are a necessary but not sufficient criteria for resilience. The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on Africa's seed systems illustrates the need to measure and monitor the level of resilience of national seed systems. To date no comprehensive tool has been designed to measure seed system resilience. However, some of the tenets of a resilient seed system include:

- *Robust public and private breeding programmes* which produce adapted varieties that are climate-smart, consumer-responsive and nutrition-enhancing. The basic seed produced from these programmes should be affordable and easily accessible to seed producers.
- *Fully functional and efficient variety release and registration system* that facilitates the accessibility of newly released plant varieties.

- *Up-to-date seed policy instruments* which provide the legal and regulatory environment for the conduct of all seed related activities and services along the value chain.
- *Vibrant private sector participation* through seed companies and seed growers who adhere to seed quality control guidelines, coupled with the presence of a strong national seed trade association to advocate for policy reforms.
- *Effective seed delivery systems* in the form of rural agro-dealer networks and a functional system of agricultural extension officers are critical to ensuring the reliable and timely delivery of quality inputs of certified seed that reaches farmers.

8C. Implementation of the Framework for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Africa (F-SAMA)” (Decision EX.CL/1041(XXXII))

1. Background: The use of sustainable agricultural mechanization in agriculture in the African continent in general and in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), in particular, is at a low level compared to other continents. It is estimated that about 65% of farm power is still provided by human muscles and the rest by draught animals (25%) and engine power, which contributes only about 10%. The current trend shows that the youth are migrating from rural areas to urban areas to seek greener opportunities, thus leaving the elderly, mostly women, and children to tend the farms. It is for these reasons that one of the resolutions under Commitment number 3 of the 2014 Malabo Declaration identifies agricultural mechanization as a key factor in achieving the target of doubling agricultural productivity levels by 2025. Specifically, the resolution calls for creating and enhancing appropriate policies, institutions and support systems to facilitate “suitable, reliable and affordable mechanization and energy supplies”. Thus, agricultural mechanization in Africa is seen as an indispensable pillar for attaining the commitment to Ending Hunger by 2025 as stated in the Malabo Declaration, and by 2030 as stated in Goal 2 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In support of this, at the 25th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, in June 2015 in South Africa, the then Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma launched a campaign to “confine the hand-held hoe to the museum”. The Chairperson symbolically handed over a power tiller to each African Head of State and Government, to signal the expectation of rapid agricultural mechanization in Africa.

2. Targets and objectives: While there are no specific targets on agricultural mechanization in the Malabo Declaration, the objective is to contribute to the doubling of agricultural productivity levels by 2025, accelerate growth and end hunger by 2025.

3. Achievements/progress on the promotion of agricultural mechanization:

Following the launch of the F-SAMA during the FAO’s Committee on Agriculture (COAG) meeting in 2018, FAO, AUC and AU Member States have strived to operationalize the Framework by implementing various activities. This has included supporting Member States to develop national agricultural mechanization strategies as well as implementing programs targeting the promotion of mechanization along the value chain with a focus on smallholder farmers.

- (i) An online platform “Africa-Mechanize Platform” (www.africamechanize.org) has been developed and launched to become the core platform for exchanges on all aspects of development and promotion of sustainable mechanization in Africa. The platform is hosted by the African Conservation and Tillage Network (ACT) and has 4 main components which are (a) Knowledge Hub (b) Capacity building, Partnerships & Networking (c) Magazine & Journal, and (d) Technical Assistance;
- (ii) Creating awareness on the F-SAMA, strengthening network and linkage through 6 webinars (English and French) involving 46 speakers, over 1,000 participants from 74 Member States most of them from Africa. Materials from the Webinars were widely distributed through the Africa-Mechanize Knowledge Management & Networking Platform;
- (iii) A special Africa event was organized jointly by FAO, ACT and the European Conservation Agriculture Federation (ECAAF) on 23 June 2021, during the 8th World Congress on Conservation Agriculture (8WCCA). The event focusing on enhancing the visibility of F-SAMA and promoting element 7 of the F-SAMA, especially focusing on conservation agriculture (CA). Five case studies on successful conservation agriculture and mechanization practices in Africa were presented;
- (iv) Six Member States (Ghana, Benin, Sierra Leone, Mali, Liberia and Zambia) have been supported by FAO to formulate or revise national sustainable agricultural mechanization drawing from F-SAMA. In addition, Uganda and Kenya have also formulated their national agricultural mechanization strategies;
- (v) Two regional workshops aimed at sharing experience on the investments and partnerships on sustainable agricultural mechanization have been conducted by FAO and its collaborators including the ACT. The first workshop was held in Grand-Lahou, Ivory Coast from 3-6 December 2019 and was attended by 37 participants from Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon and Ivory Coast. The second workshop was held in Kampala, Uganda from 9 to 12 December 2019 and was attended by 53 participants from Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.
- (vi) Capacity development on mechanization hire service provision for small scale farmers has been initiated. This included the development of a Mechanization Service Provider (MSP) training guide & didactic materials. In addition, the team conducted physical & virtual training responding to the needs of 18 Investors & 61 mechanization service providers (MSPs) from Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia were conducted in 2020. A technical report on the operationalization of F-SAMA was produced with a focus on ‘Capacity Building of Agricultural Mechanization Service Providers along the Agri-Food Value Chain (December 2020); and
- (vii) The African Union unveiled a statue dubbed “Retiring the Hoe to the Museum”, in the Burkina Faso town of Bobo Dioulasso to highlight and keep a high-level focus on the continental agenda of promoting agricultural mechanization among women to improve food production. This was the main event at the celebration of the International Rural Women Day on October 15, 2019, which focused on rural women in agriculture.

4. Missing data/information and recommendations on how to fill in the gaps

- (i) A major challenge is the lack of up-to-date data from Member States on what is being implemented towards operationalization of the F-SAMA and the status of agricultural mechanization at the country level. Steps have been taken to involve Directors of Agricultural Mechanization in the Africa Mechanize platform but more needs to be done;
- (ii) The BR process does not currently track progress of the agricultural mechanization at the country level. Specific indicators on agricultural mechanization should be developed and tracked accordingly; and
- (iii) Although Member States are developing national agricultural mechanization strategies, resources are needed to implement those strategies. Member States, development partners and the private sector need to enhance investments towards the implementation of those strategies.

5. Conclusion

Ending hunger in Africa by 2025 will only be realized by ensuring that sustainable agricultural mechanization is integrated into the agricultural development policies and strategies of AU member States. Investments in agricultural mechanization along the food value chain are urgently needed to enable actors to increase their productivity and communities' prosperity while renewing the attractiveness of the agricultural sector to rural youth with the introduction of new jobs and technologies. The time is now ripe for all stakeholders to develop a new paradigm for mechanization in Africa drawing on F-SAMA.

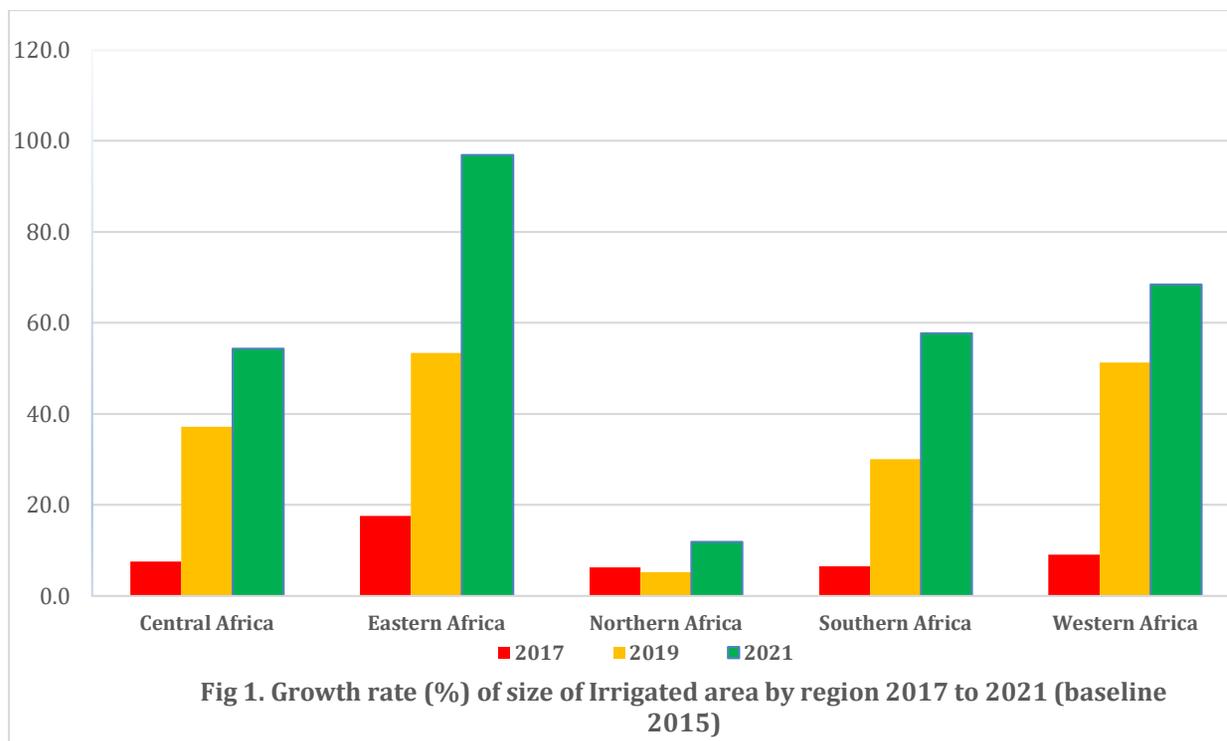
8D. Implementation of the Framework for Irrigation Development and Agricultural Water Management (IDAWM) in Africa (Decision: {EX.CL/1187(XXXVI)} 6-7 February 2020, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and STC3/ARDWE/MIN/131)

The Decision #130 & #131: African Union Commission and development partners to support RECs and MS in the domestication, integration and implementation of the IDAWM framework and AU-SAFGRAD to report on its implementation progress accordingly.

The Objectives: The Decision seeks to promote access to and use of irrigation and other agricultural water management solutions as tools for sustainable agricultural intensification. This will increase productivity and promote resilient livelihoods against the backdrop of increasing weather related shocks and high dependence on rain fed agriculture. Access to irrigation technology is a formidable tool for achieving the ending hunger goal of the 2014 *Malabo* Commitments and Agenda 2063. The Malabo target is to increase by 100% the size of irrigated arable crop area by 2025.

Access to Irrigation technology in the Biennial Review Report (BRR): Access to irrigation technology is one of the indicators under the access to agricultural input and technology category in the commitment to ending hunger. Doubling productivity and building resilient food system in the continent is inherently dependent on increased use of irrigation and other agricultural water management solutions considering the unpredictability of rainfall; in duration and intensity. The BRR tracks Member State' (MS) performance in access to irrigation technology as the growth rate of the size of irrigated area from the year 2015 baseline value. The irrigated area is defined as all areas that are functionally irrigated and/or equipped for irrigation. Emerging evidence reveals that due to the technical and methodological challenges associated with the measurement and estimation of total area irrigated most of what is reported by MS are grossly underestimations. Large-scale public irrigation schemes are most time reported and neglecting the fast growing farmer-led (small scale) Irrigation due to their fragmented sizes, seasonality in use (seasonal invisibility) and dispersed nature.

Tracking the indicator in the BRR: Access to Irrigation technology is tracked and reported in the BRRs as the percentage change in the total area irrigated biennially, from the 2015 baseline value. Figure 1 shows the percentage growth rate in area irrigated by region. In the last 3 BRR cycles, there have been general increase in the percentage growth rate in the size of land irrigated across the 5 regions of Africa. Eastern Africa region has witnessed the most remarkable growth of about 97% from the 2015 value. The period between 2019 and 2020 accounted for over 40% of the total growth in area irrigated. Western, Southern and Central Africa also recorded growth in irrigated area by 68%, 58% and 54% respectively. Compared to other regions, Northern Africa witnessed only marginal growth (12%) in areas irrigated from 2015 to 2021. This is not unrelated to the limited irrigation potential in the Northern Africa region which corroborate the report of IDAWM Framework. It is encouraging to note that in the 2021 BRR, of the 48 Member States that reported on size of irrigation area, 8 of them were on track in meeting the target. The Member States on track are Angola, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Namibia, Rwanda, Sierra-Leone and Uganda.



Recommendations: The goal of ending hunger through increasing agricultural productivity demands increased investments in productivity enhancing production technologies. Access to irrigation technologies ensures increased productivity and build resilient food system. There is a dire need to increase access of farmers and producers to irrigation technology across all regions. Encouraging investment in small holders' irrigation schemes that are adaptable to the peculiarities of small holders' production systems is the most potent means of stimulating sustained irrigation growth rate in the Continent. Availability of cheap, small scale solar powered pumps, in place of the fossil fuels powered pumps, and investment friendly financial technologies have proved a great boost in encouraging adoption and use of irrigation technologies. It is also imperative that the BRR utilizes indicators that present the most effective and scientifically proven approach to the desired outcome. The BRR should take into consideration the need to align and encourage the use of

irrigation technology and other agricultural water management solutions with sustainable land management practices as these are complementary and not stand alone agricultural development parameters.

8E. Livestock Sector Progress Report on EX.CL/Dec.792(XXIV) Decision on the Report of the Ninth Conference of Ministers Responsible for Animal Resources Doc. EX.CL/807(XXIV)

Introduction

The most seminal decision for the livestock sector, since the adoption of the Malabo Declaration in 2014, is EX.CL/Dec.792 (XXIV), which mandated the African Union Commission (AUC) to formulate a Livestock Development Strategy. In 2015 the twenty year (2015 – 2035) Livestock Development Strategy for Africa (LiDeSA), which sets a transformative agenda for the livestock sector was formulated. A number of initiatives are on-going to implement LiDeSA. AU-IBAR is funded by the European Union (EU) and the AUC to promote domestication of the LiDeSA and to implement its continental aspects.

Progress in Achieving Key Targets in the Livestock Development Strategy for Africa

Five indicators key to tracking progress of LiDeSA implementation are presented:

Indicator 1: Growth rate of the Livestock Component of Agriculture Value Added

(a). Change in the Proportion of livestock value added as a proportion of total agriculture value added: This has been marginal over the years (2015 – 2020) for the Member States reporting. Indicating that livestock dependent Member States have structurally stagnated, while traditionally non-livestock dependent Member States have not made adequate investment to stimulate development of the sector even in Member States with potential. It could also highlight the inability of Member States and regions to identify and invest in areas of advantage in priority livestock value chains.

(b). Growth rate of livestock value added: The LiDeSA sets the target growth rate of agriculture value added for the livestock component at 4.2% per annum, lower than the Malabo Declaration target for the growth rate for agriculture value added of 6% per annum. This target was surpassed by most Member States despite a number recording contracting livestock value added (9 out of 35 in 2016; 7 out of 37 in 2017 and 4 out of 37 in 2019). On the whole the continent showed an upward trajectory in the growth rate of livestock value added (2016 – 23%, 2017 – 31%, 2018 – 42%, 2019 – 55% and

2020 – 63%) underscoring the increasing ability of livestock to contribute to inclusive growth and poverty reduction. An upward revision of the target livestock value added growth rate may trigger an accelerated contribution of livestock to the Malabo Declaration.

Indicator 2: Public Investment in Livestock

(a) Livestock Expenditure as a Percent of Total Government Expenditure: LiDeSA targets that at least 30% of the public agriculture expenditure (targeted at 10% of total expenditure) should be invested in the livestock sector. Between 2015 and 2020 the average spending on the livestock sector as a share of total government expenditure was 1.01%. Only 2 Member States spent over 5% of their total budget on livestock: Namibia (5.69%) and Ghana (8.57%). This implies low prioritization of livestock in budgeting and calls for increased expenditure in the sector to meet LiDeSA targets.

(b) Livestock Expenditure as a Percent of Government Expenditure on Agriculture: In the period 2015-2020, on average the continent spent about 13.65% of agriculture expenditure in the livestock sector, increasing from 13.82% in 2015 to 16.15% in 2020. Only Eritrea, Egypt and Mauritania spent 30% and above of their agriculture spending on livestock. While the increase in spending is notable there is a need to elevate this to 30% of agriculture spending.

(c) Livestock Expenditure as a Percent of Livestock Valued Added (GDP): In the BR reporting, the target for the intensity of spending (spending relative to the sector's GDP contribution) is set at 19%, i.e., what was achieved by the 10 best performing Member States. On average, across Africa, livestock spending represented only 8.12% of the livestock GDP with an impressive growth from 4.82% in 2015 to 12.69% in 2020. Only five Member States had livestock spending that was 15% and more of the livestock GDP: Djibouti, Ghana, Seychelles, Sierra Leone and South Sudan. The growth in spending relative to GDP contribution of livestock should be sustained and strengthened to reach the BRR target.

Indicator 3: Food Security and Nutrition Indicator: Growth Rate of the Per Capita Consumption of Livestock Sourced Proteins

The BRR data indicates that only four Member States are on track to bringing down the prevalence of stunting to 10% or less. Despite growing promotion of plant based diets globally and denigration of animal source foods (ASFs) the 2017, 2019 and 2021 BRR data highlights the importance of ASFs for improved nutrition as evidenced by significant correlation coefficients of -0.44, -0.44 and -0.45, respectively, between stunting rates and the consumption of livestock-sourced proteins. FAOStat data for 45 Member States for 2014-2018 showed African consumption of livestock-sourced proteins is 12.2 grams per day per capita compared to the global average of 26.8 grams. Consumption declined by 3.7% in that period,

even as global consumption increased by 2.8%. Nineteen African Member States consume more than the continental average, with only five with consumption levels above the global average. In 23 Member States there was negative growth in consumption of livestock-sourced proteins. Member States should develop policies to promote enhanced consumption of ASFs to ensure the poorest and vulnerable access to improved diets.

Indicator 4: Animal Health Indicator - Current Level of Advancement against the Forty-Seven Critical Competencies of the OIE Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS)

The animal disease burden in Africa, with some diseases transmissible from animals to humans, is responsible for over US\$4 billion in costs and losses equivalent to 25% of the total value of livestock production on the continent. Given the complexity of factors influencing the animal health and sanitary and phyto-sanitary (SPS) conditions in a country, veterinary governance and animal health status can be assessed by determining the capacities of the Veterinary Services as measured by the OIE Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) evaluation which covers forty-five competency areas. PVS findings for 25 Member States for 2015 to 2019 indicate that eight (32%) Algeria, Botswana, Ethiopia, Namibia, South Africa, Sudan, and Swaziland had a satisfactory level of performance in 50% (23 out of 45) competency areas. In total ten Member States (40%) recorded a satisfactory performance in at least 25% competency areas. This shows that animal health systems are weak in several Member States, hence the need for MSs to continue to use the PVS tool to inform policy to strengthen animal health delivery systems for improved SPS and public/ animal health status.

Indicator 5: Growth Rate of the Value of Intra-African Trade in Livestock and Livestock Products

The LiDeSA and the recently endorsed African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA) both emphasize the need for increased Intra and inter-African trade as critical to economic growth and transformation. The data in the BRR in relation to livestock is still deficient, with most Member States not reporting. For the 13 Member States (25%) that reported, a majority oscillated between negative growth rates (decline) and very small/marginal expansion, with no clear patterns evident. Africa expends an estimated four billion USD annually importing livestock commodities: a large unexploited gap for intra and interregional trade.

8F. Fisheries and Aquaculture in the CAADP Process (Decision: Doc. EX. CL /627(XVIII))

1. Background

The African continent has vast fish resources that generate a variety of benefits including nutritional and food security, livelihoods, employment, local and regional trade, exports and foreign currency as well as conservation and biodiversity values of global significance. In that perspective, it is critical to note an incremental increase in levels of production, employment, and trade in the fisheries and aquaculture sector between 2015 and 2018. Despite Africa's vast aquatic resources (in marine and freshwater ecosystems and aquaculture production systems), the continent continues to be challenged by issues that are impeding long term resource use and environmental sustainability and are minimizing the contribution to food security, poverty alleviation and national economic growth and development. With an increased understanding of the importance of fisheries and aquaculture within the agricultural sector, the African Union worked to improve performance in the sector by establishing a strong policy framework.

2. AU Policy Framework for Fisheries and Aquaculture and alignment with CAADP

The recommendations on fisheries and Aquaculture development from the first Conference of African Ministers for Fisheries and Aquaculture (CAMFA 1) in 2010 in Banjul, The Gambia, were endorsed at the 18th Ordinary Session of the AU Heads of State and Government in 2011 (Doc. EX. CL /627(XVIII)) (AU, 2011). The Policy Framework and Reform Strategy (PFRS) for Fisheries and Aquaculture was developed and endorsed by the second Ministerial Conference (CAMFA 2). It was, subsequently, adopted by the Summit of African Heads of State and Government in 2014 through Executive Council Decisions No. EX.CL/Dec.831(XXV), as a blueprint for the sustainable positive reform of Africa Fisheries and Aquaculture sector for increased benefits to member states.

The PFRS is consistent with the Malabo Declaration commitments, goals and targets and outlines ten Policy goals, of which three are cross cutting (resilience, gender and youth and financial services to SMEs). There exists a strong alignment between all of the goals of the PFRS and the CAADP Commitments, except for Malabo Commitment 7 on Strengthening mutual accountability to actions and results. Further efforts are required to ensure that fisheries and aquaculture actions and results are systematically incorporated into the BR process to accurately reflect the contribution of the sector to Africa's achieving Commitment 7.

3. Status of efforts to mainstream Fisheries and Aquaculture into CAADP

The CAADP process has attracted wide ownership from the AU-MS indicating that the first decade of CAADP implementation created the enabling environment for industrial-led agricultural transformation. Fish and aquatic products have, however, limited visibility in the CAADP process and there is a need to revisit the CAADP investment plans at National and Regional level. Hence the rationale of mainstreaming fisheries and aquaculture in the RAIPs and NAIPs.

Between 2015 and 2018, the NEPAD Agency with AU-IBAR, supported RECs and MSs to mainstream fisheries and aquaculture into the comprehensive and integrated planning of the agriculture investment plans. This was undertaken through the following activities:

- Training of a network of fisheries and aquaculture experts from all regions of the continent, in the CAADP frameworks and processes, enabling them to provide technical support in the NAIP/RAIP development process and to contribute to the CAADP technical network and review teams.
- Review by the specialist fisheries and aquaculture expert network of the inclusion of fisheries and aquaculture in the CAADP Biennial Review process and subsequent recommendation of targeted indicators for the sector for CAADP monitoring and evaluation to inform and strengthen future BR processes⁵. A proposed list of indicators to be informed for the next BR.

The Review by the specialist fisheries and aquaculture network outlined key considerations for integrating fisheries and aquaculture into CAADP processes and strengthening NAIP/RAIP development, financing, and implementation:

- Fisheries and aquaculture are recognized as an essential commodity sector for the African continent (Abuja Declaration 2006), but are inadequately recognized as such in the CAADP Results Framework and other strategic frameworks for the continent;
- The estimated total value added of the Fisheries and Aquaculture sector in Africa, including fish processing, amounts to US\$ 24.0 billion, which accounts for 1.26% of total GDP of the continent and 6.06% of Agriculture continental GDP (de Graaf, 2014);
- Fish remains the most highly traded commodity contributing to intra-and inter-regional fish trade in Africa. Much of this trade is informal and needs to be captured within the framework of intra-Africa regional trade;
- Fisheries and aquaculture are one of the most genderised sectors with extensive and active participation of women and youth, particularly in the fish production and trade value chain

⁵ AUDA-NEPAD (2020). Unlocking the Potential Contribution of Fisheries and Aquaculture to Agricultural Transformation in Africa: Towards Integrating Fisheries and Aquaculture into CAADP for Implementation of the Malabo Commitments. Midrand, Johannesburg: NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency

- Agricultural growth poles known as “agropoles”, if adopted as integrated centers of excellence, could boost the transformation of agriculture, livestock, fisheries, and aquaculture sectors.
- The analysis of existing literature indicates that overall, fisheries and aquaculture are only partially mainstreamed in the majority of national and regional⁶ policies including RAIPs and NAIPs.

4. Proposed Set of Fisheries and Aquaculture Indicators for inclusion into the BR

The review by the fisheries and aquaculture specialists’ network further recommended a set of targeted fisheries and aquaculture indicators for inclusion into the BR reporting process. These are outlined according to 5 key thematic areas:

- i. Sustainable fisheries & aquaculture production & productivity;
- ii. Increased intra-African regional fish trade and better functioning of national and regional markets;
- iii. Expanded local fisheries and aquaculture industry and value chain development inclusive of women and youth;
- iv. Increased resilience of livelihoods and improved adaptation and risks management in the fisheries and aquaculture sector;
- v. Improved natural resource management for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture.

8G. Progress on the Implementation of the AU SPS Policy Framework (Decision EX.CL/1187 (XXXVI))

1. Background

The 33rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union held in Addis Ababa, on 9 - 10 February 2020 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia endorsed the African Union Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Policy Framework (Doc. EX.CL/1187 (XXXVI)). The aim of the AU SPS Policy Framework is to strengthen African Union Member States’ SPS capacities to increase access of Africa’s agricultural commodities to markets particularly the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The SPS Policy Framework therefore supports implementation of the AfCFTA. Agreement Annex number 7. The objectives of the Policy Framework are to (i) Establish harmonized science-based SPS systems (ii) Increase efficiencies and reduce trading costs by working towards a harmonized continental SPS system (iii) Build technical capacity and (iv) Increase political support and investment in SPS systems.

⁶ Murekezi, P., Martone, E. & Menezes, A. Assessment of the integration of fisheries and aquaculture in policy development – Framework and application in Africa. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper No. 663. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/ca9322en>

Implementation of the AU decision on SPS aligns with the commitment on Tripling Intra-Africa Trade of Agricultural Commodities. In 2019, only three AU member states (Lesotho, Niger, and Senegal) out of 23 who submitted data for this indicator were on track to tripling intra-regional trade of agricultural commodities and services within Africa by 2025. On the other hand, Member States were on track in creating an enabling environment for Intra-regional Trade in Agricultural Commodities and Services. AU member states have to meet SPS standards to ensure food safety, plant and animal life or health, as well as market access. In 2019, the Commission and Pan African Quality Infrastructure (PAQI) undertook SPS stock-taking to determine the status of SPS capabilities in Africa. Relatedly, the Africa Food Safety Index (AFSI) introduced to the BR reporting in 2019 commits member states to track whether they have the necessary components of a functional food safety system and are on the path to reduce foodborne disease by 50% and reduce trade rejections due to food safety hazards by 50% by 2025.

2. Findings

Four indicators were used to assess the status of SPS (food safety, plant health and animal health) capabilities in Member States. These were:

- i. Capacity to fulfil transparency obligation
- ii. Capacity to conduct risk assessment in the areas of food safety, plant and animal health
- iii. Capacity to operate functional food safety systems
- iv. Capacity to align national SPS measures to international standards on SPS

2.1 Capacity of Notification Authorities

Forty Member States reported on their Notification Authorities, established SPS frameworks and coordination mechanisms to facilitate transparency. Five Member States (Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, and South Africa) reported having Notification Authorities with full capacity to fulfil their SPS transparency obligations, 12 out of 40 member states had reasonably developed capacity, 13 had limited or partially developed capacity and 10 member states had no or limitedly developed capacities to fulfil their SPS transparency obligation. Under the AfCFTA Agreement (Annex VII) and WTO SPS transparency obligations, Member States are required to provide prior notification of their proposed SPS measures. This ensures that other Member States are given a lead time to comply with the proposed measures, hence making trade more predictable. Strengthening the capacities of Member States to operate well developed transparency systems will be critical in creating predictability in the AfCFTA trading environment.

2.2 Capacity on Food Safety

Thirty-nine (39) Member States reported on their food safety capacities. Eleven Member States (Chad, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, and Zambia) had well developed food safety capabilities. Seventeen Member States had reasonably developed, 7 had limited or partially developed, and 4 not or limitedly developed food safety capacities. Major constraints reported by Member States were the limited capacities to conduct food safety risk assessment and the lack of capacity in the domestic informal food markets to comply with food safety standards. The Africa Food Safety Index (AFSI) shows that AU MS have developed most components of a food safety system. To be on target towards achieving the food safety target by 2025 as stipulated in the AFSI, MSs are expected to achieve at least a score of 5 (i.e. 50%) in 2021.

2.3 Capacity on Plant Health

Africa is home to thousands of plant species which are central to the economies of Member States. The occurrence of plant pests has been exacerbated by changing climate resulting in high rate of loss of plant species and biodiversity. Capacities that enhance coordinated efforts towards plant protection activities at the national, regional and continental levels are vital to addressing plant health threats in Africa. Out of the 41 Member States that reported on indicators for their plant health capacities 13 of them (Burkina Faso, Dem. Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, Zambia) had well developed plant health capabilities. Twenty-two Member States had reasonably developed, 5 had partially developed, and 1 had no or limitedly developed food safety capacities.

2.4 Capacity on Animal Health

Animal diseases and risks pose serious constraints to trade in animals and animal products in Africa. To access markets, Member States need to establish and operate effective and efficient veterinary services capable of preventing, detecting, responding and controlling animal diseases. On animal health capacities, 11 out of 42 Member States (Eswatini, Ethiopia, Guinea, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, and Zambia) had reported having well developed animal health capacities. Twenty-three Member States had reasonably developed, 6 had partially developed, and 2 had no or limitedly developed food safety capacities.

2.5 Overall SPS Capacities

The target for overall SPS capacities is reflected in having well developed notification authorities, food safety, plant health and animal health capacities. Eight Member States (Eswatini, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, Seychelles, and South Africa) met this overall SPS capacity target. Maintaining the integrity of the AfCFTA will require all State Parties to attain the minimum threshold of SPS capacities required for the safe trade in food, plants, animals or animal products.

3. Recommendations

- i. Develop an Animal Health Index, Plant Health Index and a composite SPS Index to support monitoring and reporting of SPS targets.
- ii. There is need to conduct comprehensive assessment of SPS capacities in all member states using internationally accepted performance evaluation tools.
- iii. Implement programmes targeted at enhancing and harmonizing SPS capacities in Africa.
- iv. More data needs to be made available on the composite indicators for AFSI, namely; Food Safety Health Indicator and Food Safety Trade Indicator.

8H. Tracking Progress on the Implementation on Land Policy Decisions Promoting Land Tenure Security (Decision Assembly/AU/Decl.1(XIII) Rev.1)

Background

Land is an essential asset as it can be used to produce crops, rear livestock, earn rental incomes, as well as a form of collateral to access other resources such as finance. Land is a key factor of production and research indicates that land tenure security is necessary for investment in new technologies and sustainable practices. For Africa to increase agricultural output, more land may likely be needed to be put under production in addition to increasing agricultural productivity on existing farmlands. The ability to access, own and use land sustainably is therefore crucial in ensuring a food secure Africa. Taking cognizance of the need for secured land rights in Africa, the African Union Heads of States and Governments endorsed the African Union Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges in 2009. The Declaration recognizes the importance of protecting and securing land tenure rights and equitable access to land for all land users particularly those vulnerable in society, including women, youth, pastoralists minority and indigenous people and other vulnerable groups.

Under the Malabo Declaration framework, the indicator on land is found under commitment (performance theme) 3 on Ending Hunger. The performance target was to ensure that 100% of farmers and agribusinesses interested in agricultural production had rights of access to the required land by 2018. The performance indicator was the proportion of adult agricultural population with ownership or secure land rights over agricultural land. Adult agricultural population in this context is defined as all adult individuals living in agricultural households. This indicator includes land held individually or jointly recognizing patterns of sole or joint ownership vary across contexts and have different implications in terms of law and property rights.

Tracking Progress on attaining the land targets under the Malabo Declaration

By 2016, it was expected that thirty-/three per cent (33%) or a score of 3.3 of households in AU Member States would have secured rights to their agricultural lands, and by 2018 they would have achieved the hundred per cent (100%) or a score of 10.

Fifteen (15) countries had achieved the 2016 target of 3.3 on achieving land tenure security as depicted in the 2017 BR Report. Countries that achieved the target are: Cabo Verde (4.11), DR Congo (9.8), Egypt (10), Gambia (7.5), Kenya (3.8), Lesotho (9.68), Mauritania (6.67), Mauritius (10), Morocco (5.48), Namibia (8), Rwanda (8.91), São Tomé and Príncipe (10),

Sierra Leone (8.54), Togo (7.8) and Uganda (4.5). Egypt, Mauritius as well as Sao Tome and Principe had achieved the score of 10 which is the 2025 target.

The target set for 2018 was 10 and results on this performance indicated were reported in the 2019 BR Report. Mali reported the highest progress on ensuring land rights with a score of 9.52 followed by Côte d'Ivoire that achieved a score of 9.46. Data on Ghana indicates slow progress towards achieving this goal as they reported that only 0.75 of farm households had some sort of security of land tenure in 2019. Both Mali and Ghana did not provide information on the land tenure security indicator in 2017. Ostensibly, the Rwanda score indicated a downward shift from 8.91 in 2017 to 8.3 in 2019 on their commitment on land tenure security. Similarly, Morocco's score shifted from 5.48 to 3.14. The reason for this is not clear. It is interesting to note that in 2019 only Tunisia, Seychelles and Mauritius were on track to achieving the indicator.

The target for 2020 was 10. Egypt scored 10 and was the only country to have attained the target. Some countries reported an improvement in the scores from the 2017 results. Countries who reported an improved score include Gambia (from 5.25 to 8.5), Nigeria (7.75 to 9) and Sudan (2.95 to 7.3).

Observations

It can be deduced from the information provided that 50% of the agricultural households in at least 32.65 % or 16 of the AU Member States that reported on the land tenure security indicator in 2019 did not have security of tenure over the land they held or were using. This shows that tenure insecurity is still relatively high and more effort must be made to ensure that rights to land are protected to avoid arbitrary displacement of farming households from their lands. Information provided raises concern in that out of the forty-seven (47) AU Member States that provided data for the 2017 BR Report, about sixteen (16) of them did not provide any data on land, though most of them provided information on other indicators. In 2019, about seventeen (17) AU Member States out of forty-nine (49) that provided information on other CAADP indicators did not provide any data on land. This may be a reflection that some AU Member States may not have this data readily available or that their current land information systems still do not provide the accurate information that may be needed for them to report on this indicator. Moreover, the results do not indicate the type of tenure system being reported on or the type of documentation that is used to register land that can provide evidence of security of tenure. The information provided does not indicate land ownership based on gender, which is essential to understanding the gaps in land ownership among

men, women and youth which may subsequently affect their agricultural productivity or performance. Moreover, it is not clear if the land being reported on is jointly owned or land held communally by a group of people or community.

Although several AU Member States have reported on the progress towards achieving several of the BR targets, some did not report on the target on land. Out of the forty-seven (47) countries that provided information on the BR indicators in 2017, only thirty-one (31) reported on the indicator focusing on securing rights to land. In 2019, only thirty-two (32) Member States out of forty-nine (49) that reported on the BR indicators provided information on the land target. More engagement will have to be made with RECs and AU Member States to understand the challenges they may be facing in reporting on this indicator. In addition, more capacity building could also be needed to enable Member States to undertake the required reporting processes.

Conclusion and Recommendations

There is need for concerted efforts to ensure that the issue of land is well incorporated not only within the National Agricultural and Food Security Investment Plans, but also within the broader agricultural sectors and national development planning processes of AU Member States. More engagement will have to be made with RECs and AU Member States to understand the challenges they may be facing in reporting on this indicator. More capacity building could also be needed to enable Member States to undertake the required reporting processes. In order to improve land tenure security among agricultural land holders, the following recommendations have been made:

- a. Build knowledge and capacity levels among the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and AU Member States so that they can support and undertake the integration of issues related to land governance with the Agricultural Sectorial Plans or NAFSIPs;
- b. Ministries working on agriculture and land need to work more closely in reporting as well as seeking mechanisms for improving tenure security for agricultural land holders;
- c. AUC to sensitize governments and other stakeholders on the value of integrating land within the agricultural sector planning, budgeting and programming;
- d. Facilitate lesson learning and sharing of best practices in integrating land within the agricultural sector; and,
- e. Pay attention to gender in reporting to ensure efforts to improve security of tenure as well as ensure gender equality and social inclusion.

8I. Status of Implementation of Decision on the Ecological Organic Agriculture in Africa (Decision: Ex. CL/Dec. 631 (XVIII))

Introduction: The African Union Heads of States and Government adopted a decision on Organic Farming (EX.CL/Dec.621 (XVIII)) in 2011. The leaders requested the African Union Commission and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (now known as African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD)) to initiate and provide guidance for an African Union (AU)-Led coalition of international partners on the establishment of an African Organic Farming Platform based on available best practices. In addition, the decision mandated AUDA-NEPAD to provide guidance in support of sustainable organic farming systems and improve seed quality. This decision was taken to promote and develop the organic sector in Africa recognizing the trade and sustainable development opportunities offered by organic agriculture for developing country farmers, particularly smallholders. Following the adoption of this decision, the Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOA-I) in Africa was established in 2012. Its overall goal is to facilitate the mainstreaming of EOA into National agricultural production systems by 2025 in order to improve agricultural productivity, food security, access to markets and sustainable development in Africa. The outcomes are underpinned by the potential of organic agriculture to contribute to poverty alleviation and food security among others, including: increasing yields in low-input; conserving biodiversity and nature resources; increasing net income and/or reducing costs of externally purchased inputs; producing safe and varied food; and being sustainable in the long term.

Hectares of Land Under EOA: According to Willer et al (2021) certified land under organic agriculture in Africa increased from 1.1 million hectares in 2011 when the AUC Decision on Organic Farming was adopted to over 2.1 million hectares in 2020. This figure however represents 0.2% of Africa's total agricultural area, showing the huge potential. Tunisia has the largest organic area of about 278,467 ha followed by Ethiopia (221,890 ha), Uganda (183,598ha), Sierra Leone (157,531ha), Kenya (154,488 ha) and Egypt (116,000 ha). With respect to organic share of the total agricultural land, Sao Tome and Principe had the highest figure of 25 percent, followed by Sierra Leone (4%), Egypt (3.0%) and Tunisia (2.9%).

Bio-fertilizers for EOA Production: A report issued by Mordor Intelligence (2021) revealed that Africa's bio-fertilizer market was valued at 45.076 million US dollars in 2017 and is expected to grow at a rate of 5.9 percent per annum from 2022 to 2026. Generally, the bio-fertilizer sector is underdeveloped. According to Raimi and co-workers (2021) Member States such as South Africa, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe in Southern Africa use appreciable levels of bio-fertilizers. For Eastern Africa, Kenya has a better production and use of bio-fertilizers than in Tanzania, Uganda and Rwanda. On the other hand,

the use of bio-fertilizers in Central and Western Africa is generally underdeveloped. For Northern Africa, Egypt and Morocco use higher levels of bio-fertilizers compared to other Member States in that region of Africa.

EOA Policy, Standards and Government Support: To assess the extent of implementation of this decision at the African Union Member States level, the African Union commissioned a study in 2019 on the policy, legal and institutional development of EOA in Africa. This study revealed that only four Member States have an advanced EOA sector, 11 Member States have an active EOA sector, whilst 12 other Member States were classified as having an infant EOA sector. In addition, 10 Member States were described as having a nascent EOA awareness. The remaining 18 Member States are waiting for inspiration to adopt EOA in their Member States (See details in Table 1). From this study, a table for the 55 African Member States was developed as shown in Table 1.

Table1: Summary of EOA status of the 55 Member States of North, West, Central, East and Southern Africa

Typology for EOA	Organic Policy	Product standard	Government support	Farmers organised	Export & domestic markets	Member States
1.Advanced EOA	Yes	Yes	Strong	NOAM/FA	Yes, both	Madagascar; Morocco; Tunisia; Uganda
2.Active EOA	Coming	Yes	Promise	NOAM / FA	Yes, both	Burkina Faso; Egypt; Ghana; Kenya; Mali; Mauritius; São Tomé & Príncipe; Senegal; Seychelles; Sudan; Togo.

3. Infant EOA	No	Yes or No	Little	Yes	Yes, Export; Domestic developing	Algeria; Benin Cameroon; Ethiopia; Liberia; Namibia Nigeria; Rwanda; South Africa; Tanzania; Zambia Zimbabwe.
4. Nascent EOA Awareness	No	No	None	Weak	Some export; Little domestic	Cape Verde; DR Congo Gambia; Guinea Rep; Ivory Coast; Malawi; Mauritania Mozambique; Niger; Sierra Leone.
5. Awaiting Inspiration	No	No	None	None	None	Angola; Botswana; Burundi; Central African Rep; Comoros; Chad; Congo Republic; Djibouti; Equatorial Guinea; Eritrea; Eswatini; Gabon; Guinea-Bissau; Lesotho; Libya; Somalia; South Sudan; Western Africa.

NOAM is the National Organic Agricultural Movement;

FA is Farmer Association

Key Recommendations: The five key recommendations required by Member States and RECs to advance the organic sector and tap into the trade and sustainable development opportunities are listed as follows: -

- EOA policy development** in support of successful ecological organic agriculture to promote production, consumption and export of organic agriculture products: A careful review of existing reports and integrated assessment of a country's general agriculture policies, programmes and plans, to policy coherence, enhance competitiveness and the conditions of growth of the organic sector, and define roles for different actors.
- Standards, certification and regulation:** National and regional standards should be developed /adopted with schemes to facilitate cost-effective access by farmers to certification services while ensuring participatory guarantee systems are promoted for local production and consumption and internationally recognized African certification scheme developed to boost organic trade in Africa and beyond.
- Markets and market development:** Promote public consumption of organic products linked to health and develop market development strategies to tap into various markets ranging from domestic to export markets while leveraging on potential and opportunities of AfCFTA to boost intra- and extra-Africa trade in organic produce and products.
- Stimulate OA production:** Provision of subsidized EOA inputs such as bio-fertilizers, improved seeds, bio-pesticides and organic livestock and poultry feed to organic farmers and supporting integrated provision of private and public extension and market services, seed breeding and seed testing oriented to organic production based on farmers' managed systems (FMSS) and formal seed systems at continental, regional and national levels.

5. **Leverage on emerging initiatives:** Integrate emerging programmes, and initiatives in Africa such EOA-I and Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture (KCOA) in Africa supporting organic research, knowledge management and scale up of sustainable application.

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**Fourth Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee
(STC) on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment
(ARDWE)**

13th – 17th December 2021

**ADDIS ABABA,
ETHIOPIA**

EX.CL/1306(XL) ANNEX 2

**REPORT ON STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS AND REVISED
PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AFRICAN UNION
FOOD SAFETY AGENCY (AFSA)**

I. SUMMARY

1. Africa is disproportionately impacted by unsafe food from food security and nutrition/human health, trade and economic perspectives. The continent bears a-third of the global mortality due to foodborne illness with just 16% of the world population. The continent loses billions of dollars due to lost productivity and medical expenses due to unsafe foods. Food safety issues are also limiting access to market and making the agro-food sector less competitive. There is a need to improve food safety to curb these challenges. There is an urgency to do so as the continent has begun trading under the Africa Continental Free Trade Area.

2. The challenges of ensuring improved food safety conditions were fully recognised at the Lisbon Summit between the AU and EU Heads of State and Government held on 9th December 2007, which set a priority to improve the competitiveness and diversification of African agriculture and industries notably by strengthening African capacities in the areas of rules, standards and quality control. African Heads of State and Government have resolved that the African Union Commission should establish a Food Safety Authority within its structure and a Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF).

3. Based on expert consultations, a proposal for the establishment of an African Union Food Safety Agency (AFSA) was presented to the 3rd Ordinary Session of the AU Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (ARDWE) in October 2019 that decided to undertake further consultations on the roles and functions of the agency and requested the Chairperson of the Commission to request the AU Assembly to consider lifting the moratorium on the establishment of new agencies in order to facilitate the consideration for the establishment of an African Union Food Safety Agency. Implementing that decision, series of stakeholder consultations and validation meetings were conducted in 2020 and 2021. On the basis of a decision by the 4th STC on endorsement of the revised proposal, the Department will present to the Chairperson of AUC to request policy organs to waive the moratorium on new agencies.

4. Therefore, this reports captures the inputs received from the stakeholder consultations who reviewed the proposal and, accordingly, presents revision of the proposal for the establishment of an African union Food Safety Agency for further review and endorsement by the 4th Session of the STC on ARDWE.

II. BACKGROUND

5. Food insecurity in Africa continues to threaten the lives of millions of people. Food-borne diseases impose an additional burden on healthcare systems, and reduce

economic productivity. According to the World Health Organization's (WHO)⁷ estimate in 2015, 91 million people in Africa fall ill each year due to food-borne diseases and 137,000 die of the same cause, representing one third of the global death toll for foodborne diseases. Economic impact studies by the World Bank (WB)⁸ in 2019 estimated that unsafe foods cost sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia, about \$110 billion in lost productivity and medical expenses alone. Furthermore, the implementation of the WTO SPS Agreement poses major challenges to African countries, in ensuring that food-safety conditions are met in the national supply chain for both domestic and export markets. Non-compliance with food safety measures undermines local and regional exchanges and also international trade in food products, by reducing access to markets, reducing buyer and investor confidence and lowering prices. Ensuring improved food safety conditions in African countries presents significant structural challenges, including overcoming poorly developed infrastructure and services and inadequate knowledge and skills in food workers as well as significant lack of data. These insufficiencies are compounded by outdated, weak and dysfunctional regulatory systems, often a legacy of a previous era.

6. Such challenges were fully recognised earlier at the Lisbon Summit between the AU and EU Heads of State and Government held on 9th December 2007, which set a priority to improve the competitiveness and diversification of African agriculture and industries notably by strengthening African capacities in the areas of rules, standards and quality control. African Heads of State and Government have resolved that the African Union Commission should establish a Food Safety Authority within its structure and a Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF), to complement existing pan-African structures on animal health and plant health. This call was reiterated by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission during the first International Food Safety Conference held in February 2019 at the AU Conference Center in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

7. The AU Commission Chairperson's announcement was informed by expert consultations and studies. In 2012/13, the African Union Commission (AUC) through the Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) organised two continental consultation workshops of food safety experts. The workshop participants were drawn from the AUC, AU Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), UN Agencies (FAO, WHO and UNIDO) and the European Union. The workshops were held in Kigali, Rwanda on 29th and 30th October 2012 and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 5th to 7th November 2013. The workshops produced a detailed analysis of food safety challenges, identified where a regional approach can add value, and made recommendations for the mission, structure and functions of an African Union Food

⁷ **FERG report:** WHO estimates of the global burden of foodborne diseases (2015). https://www.who.int/foodsafety/publications/foodborne_disease/fergreport/e

⁸ **The Safe Food Imperative:** Accelerating Progress in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (2019). <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/30568/9781464813450.pdf?sequence=6&isAllowed=>

Safety Management Coordination Mechanism (AU-FSMCM), incorporating an Africa-wide Rapid Food and Feed Alert Mechanism (ARFFAM), leading up to the establishment of a functional African Food Safety Authority at a future date. In 2019, AUC DREA conducted a study to update the recommendations of the 2012/13 workshops taking into considerations new developments on the continent namely the 2014 CAADP Malabo Declaration that calls for tripling intra-Africa trade in agricultural goods and services by 2025 and; the entry into force of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement that calls for proactive steps needed to improve the competitiveness of African agriculture and agri-food industry to meet the regulatory requirements of export markets.

8. AUC DREA conducted two exchange visits to the EU commission at DGSANTE and the European Food Safety Agency to understand and learn from the EU experience on the functions of a food safety agency in the context of an intergovernmental organization.

9. The recommendations of the expert consultations, studies and the exchange visits formed the basis of the proposal for the establishment of the AUFSA that had been submitted to the 3rd STC ARDWE in October 2019. The STC requested the Commission to undertake further consultations on the functions of the Agency in order to avoid duplications with existing regional and continental structures; and requested the Chairperson of the Commission to request the AU Assembly to consider lifting the moratorium on the establishment of new agencies in order to facilitate the consideration for the establishment of an African Union Food Safety Agency. As requested by the STC, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development of AUC has undertaken stakeholder consultations which were inclusive and meaningful. Based on a decision of the 4th STC on endorsement of this proposal, the Department will present to the Chairperson of AUC to request policy organs to waive the moratorium on new agencies.

10. In line with the decisions of the STC, stakeholders' consultation was held in November 2020 bringing together experts from AU MS, RECs, Civil Society Organizations, private sector, and development partners. The outcome of this consultation was presented to stakeholders during further consultations held on 7 to 10 June 2021 during which stakeholders were consulted in the five AU regions. These consultations were complemented by an online survey/consultation. The reports of the consultations were then reviewed by the Food Safety Technical Advisory Group set up by the AUC consisting of experts representing relevant institutions from within Africa and abroad. This report to the 4th Session of the STC ARDWE captures the inputs from these consultations and consequently revised proposal for the establishment of the African Union Food Safety Agency.

III. THE PROPOSED AFRICAN UNION FOOD SAFETY AGENCY AS ENDORSED BY STAKEHOLDERS

11. Stakeholders proposed the following for an effective and efficient African Union Food Safety Agency

Value proposition:

12. RECs and Member States are implementing regional and national programmes to build SPS capacity, in particular related to food safety. However, these programs are not well coordinated and lack the leadership necessary to catalyze the substantive continent-wide reforms needed to address food safety challenges. The adoption of a coordinated continental-wide approach to food safety management within the AU Commission as proposed by the establishment of AU-FSA can therefore be expected to catalyse and accelerate the paradigm shift required to bring about a consistent and effective food safety management system in Member States by:

- a) Marshalling political will at continental level for legislative modernization and governance reform, especially to address regulatory fragmentation and overlap
- b) Enhancing the performance of food control systems in Africa through Evidence-based decision making: AU-FSA offering a “Data hub” for risk related information and a Centre of Expertise for food safety risk assessment in Africa
- c) Elevating consumer and industry awareness of food safety to generate demand for both legislative and governance reform and greater private sector priority investment.
- d) Complementing and strengthening the food safety coordination function of RECs by offering scientific and technical capacity to MS and RECs and striving towards a more coherent food safety policy/approach at the continental level

Mission

13. AFSA will be on a mission to support agricultural transformation, safeguard consumer health and facilitate trade by catalyzing, coordinating and improving food safety along the food continuum

Mandate/Scope

14. The mandate of AFSA will be coordinate food safety initiatives at the continental level to enhance complementarity, synergy and judicious use of resources; policy formulation, policy advocacy and promoting harmonization of food safety policies and practices; serve as a center for continental approaches in capacity building and provision of technical support for addressing the agriculture, public health, and trade impacts of food safety. Put in other words, the AU scope of work will mainly focus on coordination, communication, advisory, and capacity building towards harmonised concepts, principles and procedures to allow African Union Member States and food business operators to more effectively meet their respective food safety management obligations in view to:

- protect public health by reducing the risk of foodborne illness, taking into account relevant animal and plant health issues, and the environment;

- protect consumers from unsanitary, unwholesome, mislabelled or adulterated food;
- increase market access and competitiveness in food trade, including raising production levels;
- promote and facilitate inter-African food trade and exchange between the Member States;
- contribute to economic development by maintaining consumer confidence in the food system, and;
- provide risk assessments and scientific advice to MS and RECs.

Roles and Functions

15. The functions of AFSA are proposed to be:
 - a. Advocate, guide and support the modernization of national food policy, legislative and institutional frameworks
 - b. Strengthen capacities for scientific advice and risk analysis (namely, risk assessment, risk management, risk communication) in AU MS and RECs.
 - c. Establish for the continent an operational African Rapid Alert system for Food and Feed
 - d. Provide technical, and logistical support to laboratories providing testing services for official controls of food safety
 - e. Collaborate with relevant institutions to facilitate provision of certification services on food safety for food products for intra-African and global trade
 - f. Support and sustain the participation of AU MS in standard setting process and coordinate the African voice
 - g. Coordinate the development and harmonization of requisite professional skills, knowledge and expertise for effective food control
 - h. Advocate for investment and collaborate with relevant institutions to enhance the competitiveness of African food commodities and products;

Structure/Staff

16. The following positions are propose for a holistic and effective delivery (Figure 1 below):

- a) Director/Coordinator: P5
- b) Senior M&E officer P3
- c) Finance and Administrative officer P3
- d) Administrative Assistant GS 5
- e) Principal Officer Food Safety Regulations and Policies P4
- f) Senior Policy Officer Regulation and Harmonization P3
- g) Senior Policy Officer Food Safety infrastructure and inspections P3
- h) Principal Officer Food Safety Risk Assessment and Information systems P4
- i) Senior Scientific Officer Risk assessment P3

- j) Senior Officer Risk Communication and Information Systems P3
- k) Principal Officer Food Safety Management P4
- l) Senior Policy Officer Food Safety Biological Hazards P3
- m) Senior Policy Officer Food Safety Chemical Hazards P3
- n) A pool of two Food Safety Policy Officers, P2

Budget

17. The budget for operationalization of AFSA for 1 year will be USD 1.8 million with USD 1.2 million for operations and USD 0.6 million for programmes.

IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

18. In conclusion, stakeholders made invaluable inputs to make sure the roles and functions and the structure of the proposed AFSA respond to the needs of the continent and endorse the revised proposal as presented here with a recommendation to present it to the upcoming STC ARDWE meeting for further consideration and possible approval.

19. The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has ensured inclusive and meaningful stakeholder consultations were undertaken and the inputs are fully captured in the revised proposal. The Department is presenting this proposal for review and favorable consideration by the esteemed STC on ARDWE.

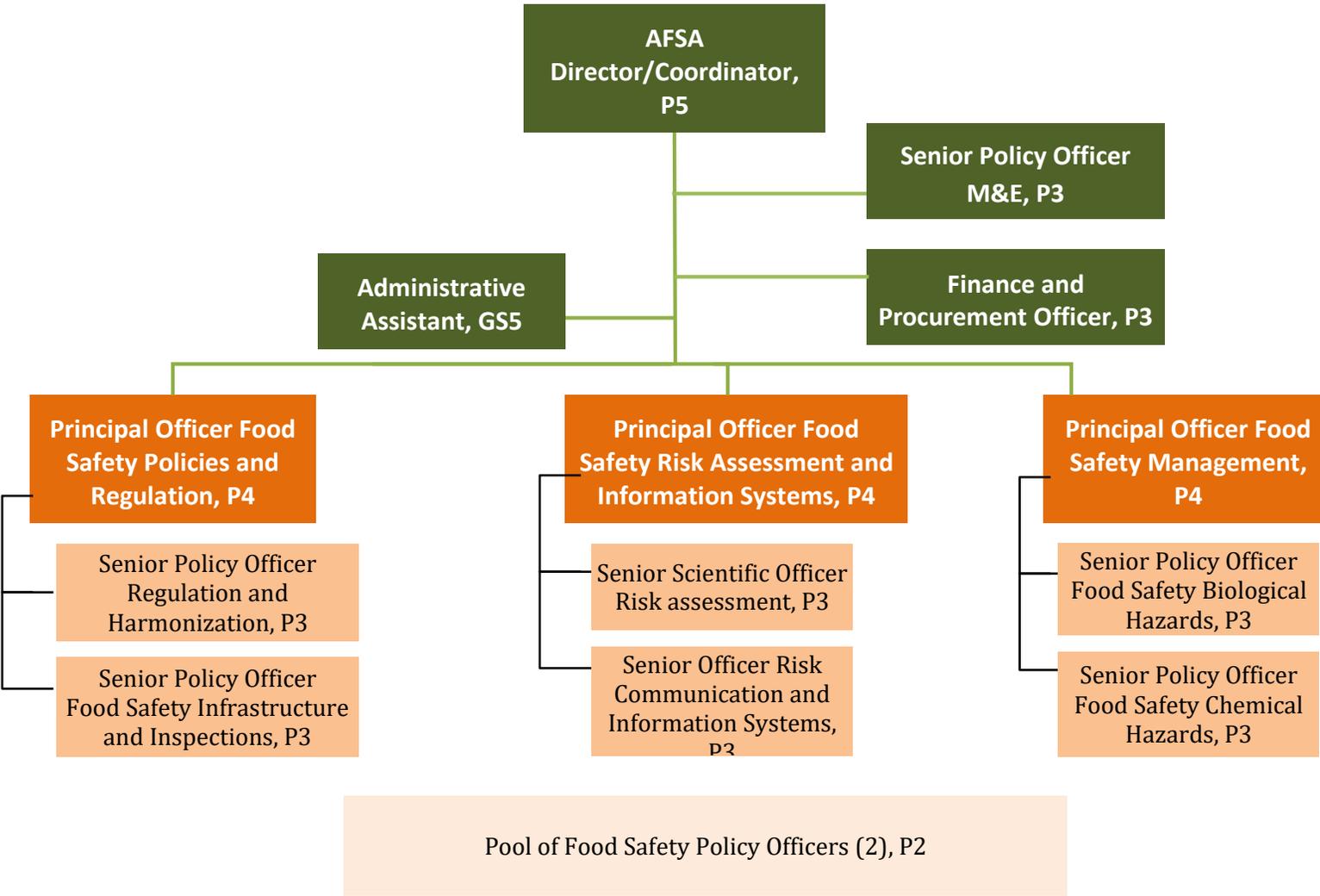


Figure 1. AFSA staffing proposed for holistic and effective delivery

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

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ARB61915

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Fortieth Ordinary Session
January/February 2022
Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA**

EX.CL/1310(XL) ANNEX 3

DRAFT DECISIONS

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Fourth Specialized Technical Committee meeting on Agriculture Rural Development Water and Environment held on 13-16 December 2021
2. **COMMENDS** the Ministers responsible for Agriculture Rural Development, Water and Environment for the successful holding of the 4th STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment
3. **ENDORSES** the reports and recommendations contained under the sub sectoral themes of Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment;
4. **RECALLING** the Assembly Decision **Assembly/AU/ /Decl.1(XXIII)** adopting the Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods in Africa and which also calls on the AU Commission and NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), in collaboration with partners to conduct, on a biennial basis, beginning from year 2017, Agricultural Review Process, and report on progress to the Assembly at its January 2018 Ordinary Session;
5. **ENDORSES** the 3rd Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Biennial Review Report for submission to the 35th Ordinary Session of the Heads of State and Government in February 2022.
6. **ENDORSES** the CAADP biennial review toolkit and the CAADP biennial review dashboard as CAADP communication and advocacy tools (the) for use to communicate the biennial review findings.
7. **REQUESTS** the Commission to submit a proposal to the Permanent Representatives Committee to establish a Sub-Committee on Agriculture, Food security, Nutrition and Rural development to oversee the implementation of the programs in agriculture, food security, nutrition and rural development;
8. **CALLS UPON** AU Member States to use the CAADP Biennial Review mechanism to report on progress in the implementation of the pathways for food systems transformation in the Africa Common Position to the UN Food System and national dialogues report and called upon the Commission to update the reporting templates to reflect such.
9. **RECALLS** Decision **Assembly/AU/Dec.134 (VIII)**, adopted at the Eighth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union in January 2007, expressing the Assembly's grave concern on the vulnerability of Africa's socio-economic and productive systems to climate change and variability and to the continent's low mitigation and response capacities;
10. **UNDERScores** the importance of Africa-led development and delivery of science-based, timely and tailored weather and climate information services for informed policy and decision-making, better management of the risks of climate variability and change, adaptation to climate change and development planning;
11. **FURTHER RECALLS** Decision **EX.CL/Dec.744(XXII)**, adopted at the Twenty-Second Ordinary Session of the Executive Council, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

in January 2013, regarding the endorsement of the initial Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology (Weather and Climate Services);

12. **ADOPTS** the Revised Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology (Weather and Climate Services) (2021-2030) which provides strategic direction on the development and application of weather and climate services in Africa; and **CALLS UPON** Member States and RECs to take into account the continental Strategy when developing and/or reviewing their strategies and plans
13. **REQUESTS** the Commission to develop a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the implementation of the Revised Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology (Weather and Climate Services)
14. **RECALLS** the EX.CL/Dec.500(XV) Rev.1 on African Common Position on Climate Change that requests the Commission, in collaboration with partners, to elaborate a comprehensive African strategy on climate change
15. **STRESS THAT** Africa is the least contributor to global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, but is one of the regions that are most vulnerable to climate variability and change.
16. **APPRECIATE** the technical contribution by experts from members States, RECs Partners and the various stakeholders in the development and finalisation of the strategy
17. **ENDORSES** the African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022-2032)
18. **REQUESTS** the Commission, in consultation with Member States to identify a flagship or priority area that could be implemented in the lead up to the Twenty Seventh Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 27) scheduled to take place in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt in 2022;
19. **RECALLS** Decision **EX.CL/987(XXXII)**, adopted at the Thirty-Second Ordinary Session of the Executive Council, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 25-26 January 2018, regarding the adoption of the recommendations contained in the reports of the Specialised Technical Committees (STCs), including recommendations on disaster risk reduction;
20. **FURTHER RECALLS** Decision **EX.CL/Dec.943(XXX)**, adopted at the 28th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in January 2017, endorsing the Programme of Action (PoA) for the Implementation of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030; Decision **EX.CL/Dec. 1076(XXXVI)** adopted at the 36th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council on 06 - 07 February 2020 regarding Early Warning and Prevention; and **EX.CL/Dec.858 (XXVI)** of January 2015 on increasing the availability of, and access to operational multi-hazard sub-national, national, and regional Early Warning Systems, assessment, and information by 2030;
21. **ENDORSES** the Africa Framework for Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action and its Delivery Programme 2022-2030, and **REQUESTS** the Commission to work with RECs and relevant partners to mobilize resources for the implementation of the Programme;
22. **ENDORSES** the COVID-19 Disaster Recovery Framework;
23. **COGNIZANT** of Decision Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XI), adopted at the Eleventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt from 30

June – 1 July 2008, regarding the Sharm El Sheikh Commitments for Accelerating the Achievement of Water and Sanitation Goals in Africa

24. **REQUESTS** the AU Assembly to approve the convening of an AU Summit on Water and Sanitation on the margins of the 9th World Water Forum scheduled for March 2022 in Dakar, Senegal.
25. **ENDORSES** the Africa Sanitation Policy Guidelines (ASPG).
26. **ENDORSES** the following frameworks, guidelines and strategies under the sub sectoral themes of agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment:
 - i) The CAADP Business Plan 2022-2025
 - ii) The Food Safety Strategy for Africa
 - iii) The Plant Health Strategy for Africa
 - iv) The Strategy for Managing Invasive Species in Africa
 - v) The Continental Guidelines On the Use of Biotechnology in Food And Agriculture
 - vi) The Guidelines for The Harmonisation of Seed Regulatory Frameworks in Africa
 - vii) The African Agribusiness Youth Strategy
 - viii) The Investment Guidelines for Youth in Agri-Food Systems in Africa
 - ix) The AU Land Governance Strategy
 - x) The Guidelines for Securing Pastoralism and Preventing Conflict in Africa: Secure, Peaceful and Sustainable Pastoralism
27. **REQUESTS** the Commission to submit a proposal for the establishment of the AU Food Safety Agency to the relevant PRC Sub-Committees within the framework of the current AU reforms including structural, legal and financial implications
28. **URGES** Member States, and Development partners to increase investments in Agricultural Research and Development (R&D) and; strengthen coordination, support and promote cross country collaborative R&D to reduce duplications **and** enhance complementarities
29. **CALLED UPON** the African Union Commission, UNECA and AfDB to provide technical, human, financial and operational support to the interim African Land Policy Centre (ALPC) pending its formal establishment by the AU Policy Organs
30. **ENDORSED** the proposal to establish the ALPC as a Specialised Technical Office of the African Union
31. **URGED** the Commission to work with the Office of the AU Legal Counsel to prepare the Statutes of the Centre, a document that will define the mandate, structure, staffing, rules and procedures of the Centre
32. **ENDORSED** the temporary establishment of the ALPC at UNECA for a defined duration (minimum of two years and a maximum of five years and thereafter transfer it to the African Union Commission Headquarters while waiting for its establishment as an AU institution
33. **ENDORSES** the convening of the Africa Fertiliser and Soil Health Summit II in 2022-2023 and; development of the Soils Initiative for Africa and an African Fertiliser and Soil Health Action Plan.
34. **ADOPTS** the reports from the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) on the 17th, 8th Special Session, and first part of the 18th Session held in

October 2019, 30 November-1 December 2020 and September 2021 respectively and; the report of the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET)

35. **REQUESTS** the Commission
 - i. To collaborate with the Bureau of the 4th STC members to develop a plan of Action and roadmap for the implementation of the recommendations
 - ii. To develop a monitoring framework on the implementation of the decisions of all relevant sectors of the STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment
36. **URGES** Member States to ensure active participation of substantive Ministers in the High level segment of the STC to assure implementation of the outcomes
37. **CALLS UPON** partners to support the Member States, RECs and the Commission to implement the Decision and Recommendations contained in the reports
38. **REQUESTS** the Commission, Development partners, RECs to support and facilitate Member States in the implementation of the Decisions of the STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment

DRAFT
**ASSEMBLY DECISION ON FAST TRACKING CAADP-MALABO COMMITMENTS
FOR ACCELERATING AGRICULTURE TRANSFORMATION IN AFRICA
THROUGH BIENNIAL REVIEW MECHANISM AND AFRICA AGRICULTURAL
TRANSFORMATION SCORECARD (AATS).**

The Assembly,

1. **Recalls** the Assembly Decision **Assembly/AU/ /Decl.1(XXIII)** adopting the Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods in Africa and which also calls on the AU Commission and NPCA, in collaboration with partners to conduct, on a biennial basis, beginning from year 2017, Agricultural Review Process, and report on progress to the Assembly at its January 2018 Ordinary Session;
2. **Takes note** of the third Biennial Review Report on the Implementation of the June 2014 Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods, and the highlights of its findings on Accelerating CAADP Implementation for a Resilient African Food System
3. **Recognises** the efforts of the African Union Commission and the AUDA-NEPAD in mobilizing key stakeholders and development partners to build partnership with Member States and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to establish a mechanism for monitoring, evaluation and reporting, in a more aligned manner, on the progress made in implementing the commitments of the Malabo Declaration.
4. **Commends** the positive response of Member States in conducting self-assessments, inclusive validation process and providing information for the preparation of the 3rd biennial review report to the Assembly of the African Union on the progress made in implementing the commitments for agricultural transformation in Africa; while noting challenges faced by members states in collecting and compiling quality data to report progress on all goals and targets set in the Malabo Declaration.
5. **Concerned** about the fragility of African food systems as demonstrated during the COVID-19 pandemic and other shocks such as climate change, desert locust and fall army worm infestation that have resulted in an increase in hunger and malnutrition on the continent
6. **Commends** the African Union Commission and AUDA-NEPAD for leading the development of a continental common position presented to the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit
7. **Notes** with satisfaction the enormous efforts invested by Member States in implementing the Assembly Declaration [**Assembly/AU/ /Decl.1(XXIII)**] to accelerate achievements made in the Malabo Declaration; while recognizing that, for the insufficient performance shown by some member states in several

cases to reach the common set goals, considerable effort and attention are still needed to rally ourselves to CAADP implementation by domesticating the Malabo commitments and outcomes of the UN Food Systems Summit in our National and Regional Agriculture Investment Plans.

8. **We recommit** ourselves to take further actions in accelerating the implementation of the Africa Agriculture transformation agenda within the CAADP framework by increasing investment finance for agriculture, strengthening institutional capacity for implementation, improving coordination mechanisms to achieve concrete results and impacts leading to shared prosperity and improved livelihoods for African citizens
9. **Calls upon** all Member States of the African Union Commission, to mobilize adequate technical and financial resources in supporting agricultural data systems, monitoring and evaluation systems and strengthen mutual accountability structures to trigger evidence-based planning for agriculture transformation at all levels.
10. **Requests** the African Union Commission to work closely with Member States, technical and financial development partners, the private sector and civil society to mobilize the required support to strengthen mutual accountability, agricultural data systems and knowledge management, institutionalize the biennial review mechanisms and the Africa Agriculture Transformation Scorecard to ensure peer learning and scaling up of the agriculture transformation agenda embedded in the Malabo Declaration.

**DRAFT DECISION ON THE PREPARATION FOR THE 9TH WORLD WATER FORUM
AND THE PROPOSAL TO CONVENE
AN AU SUMMIT ON WATER AND SANITATION IN DAKAR, SENEGAL
IN MARCH 2022**

I. PREAMBLE (LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND)

1. **APPRECIATES** Africa is endowed with vast water resources including lakes, rivers, swamps and underground aquifers; water is important for social, economic and environmental development; **RECOGNIZES** water is key for the sustainable development of our countries and continent; and water supply and sanitation are pre-requisites for human capital development;
2. **RECALLS** the Sharm El-Sheikh Commitments for accelerating the achievement of Water and Sanitation Goals in Africa (Assembly/AU/ Decl.1 (XI)), adopted by the Assembly of the African Union at the Eleventh Ordinary Session held from 30 June – 1 July 2008 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt;

II. BODY

3. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on the 4th session of the Specialized Technical on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment held virtually from 13 – 17 December 2021 and in particular containing the Report of the Preparation for the 9th World Water Forum and convening of AU Summit on Water and Sanitation in Dakar, Senegal in 2022;
4. **URGES** Member States to support the Republic of Senegal on the planned 9th World Water Forum by actively participating in it;
5. **ALSO URGES** the AUC, UN Agencies, Development Partners, the Civil Society Group and the Private Sector to mobilize and support the participation of the AU Member States at the 9th World Water Forum in Dakar, Senegal in March 2022; and
6. **REQUESTS** the Assembly of the Union to consider and **APPROVES** the proposal to convene the African Union Summit on Water and Sanitation on the margins of the 9th World Water Forum in Dakar, Senegal in March 2022.

DECLARATION ON SCALING-UP FOOD FORTIFICATION AND BIOFORTIFICATION IN AFRICA

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, having met at our --- Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from _ to _ January 2020;

Recalling our previous decisions of the twenty-third Assembly of June 2014 under the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Africa Agriculture Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods, in which we made a bold commitment toward supporting interventions leading to ending Hunger in Africa by 2025 realized through, among others, eliminating child undernourishment;

Challenged by the high prevalence of stunting and micronutrient deficiencies on the continent, with its debilitating effects on health, productivity, educational and economic outcomes;

Concerned with the prevailing gaps and challenges in increasing access to nutritious diets in Africa, in terms of inadequate investment in nutrition in general, and fortified and biofortified foods in particular, along the agricultural value chains;

Appalled by overwhelming evidence indicating that a substantial number of African children, pregnant and lactating mothers and economically vulnerable populations, do not meet the recommended daily requirement of micronutrients through consumption of macro- and micronutrient-rich diets;

Cognizant of the recommendations and resolutions of global conferences for combating micronutrient deficiency through investing in sustainable food systems, food fortification and biofortification, with special reference to the second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2);

Encouraged by the realisation that opportunities abound for women smallholder farmers and youth, who constitute the majority of food producers, to invest in food system-based approaches, including breeding, processing, distribution and marketing of biofortified foods;

Further Encouraged by the substantial amount of research evidence that conventional biofortified crops and fortified foods could create impact in both controlling micronutrient deficiency and increasing economic opportunities for the vulnerable and the resource poor, especially in rural and urban communities;

Noting the cardinal role of food fortification and biofortification in enriching and galvanising public-private partnerships, as it offers a wide spectrum of returns;

Also noting that food system-based approaches, including conventional food fortification and biofortification projects, feed firmly into the new efforts for implementing social protection through productive safety nets;

Appreciating that a broad range of actors are now more united and resolute with regard to scaling up programmes and projects that have succeeded on the continent and have potential to improve food and nutrition security;

1. **DECLARE** our resolve to promote nutrition-sensitive agriculture by ensuring that agriculture investment plans aim at making diversified nutrient-rich foods sustainably available, accessible and affordable in local markets;
2. **PLEDGE** to support development and implementation of nation-wide food system-based approaches, including supportive policies and programs to promote industrial food fortification, biofortified food crops, based on innovative crop breeding technologies, or scale up the same in pursuit of the Ending Hunger in Africa by 2025 Goal and the second Sustainable Development Goal;
3. **FURTHER PLEDGE** to commit and enable the environment for scaling up nutrition-sensitive agricultural interventions, including industrial food fortification and research-based biofortification, and to this end **UNDERTAKE** to:
 - a) Support and promote innovative projects and businesses that invest in production, processing, packaging and distribution of nutrient-rich foods;
 - b) Encourage public procurement of produce from farmers producing biofortified foods with a view of incentivising them, as well as industrially fortified staple foods and condiments;
 - c) Encourage farmer input support programs to incorporate biofortified seeds and training activities in order to bear larger impact;
 - d) Promote the inclusion of biofortification and fortification, by way of knowledge management and promotion in relevant health programs, including ante-and post-natal counselling and infant and young child feeding programs; and
 - e) Strengthen systems for inter-sectoral collaboration among institutions and for co-operation with non-state actors (farmer organizations, civil society, academia, and private sector) for implementation of this agenda;
4. **ENCOURAGE** and support, within our resource limits, research into conventionally biofortified foods and industrially fortified foods in order to enhance knowledge dissemination and adaptation and to increase consumption of these foods;
5. **REQUEST** the AUC, FAO, WFP, HarvestPlus and other partners supporting implementation of sustainable food system approaches, that include industrial food fortification and biofortification projects, to support the initiative within their

areas of influence and to work together and to support a community of practice that engages with policy makers in Member States; and

6. **FURTHER REQUEST** the AUC to follow-up and report on the status of implementation of this Declaration in the next and subsequent Conference of Ministers of Agriculture and of relevant ministries.

Done at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, this ___ day of January, 2022

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