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**A MEDIUM TERM POLICY FRAMEWORK AND STRATEGY FOR A
FOOD SECURE AFRICA AND COMMEMORATION OF
“AFRICA FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY DAY”**

(Item Proposed by the Republic of Malawi)

**A MEDIUM TERM POLICY FRAMEWORK AND STRATEGY FOR A
FOOD SECURE AFRICA AND COMMEMORATION OF
“AFRICA FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY DAY”
(Item Proposed by the Republic of Malawi)**

1. In his acceptance speech delivered at the 14th Ordinary Session of the African Union, the Chairperson of the African Union and President of the Republic of Malawi, His Excellency Professor Bingu wa Mutharika shared his vision focusing on Agriculture and Food Security and proposed the slogan “**Feeding Africa through New Technologies: Let Us Act Now**”. This provided an important premise for rekindling our corporate commitment towards the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) food and nutrition security agenda at both national and continental levels.
2. In reaffirming this commitment, and in implementing the vision of the Chairperson of the African Union, the Government of the Republic of Malawi is proposing that a specific Short-to-Medium Term Strategy be put in place to ensure that Africa becomes food secure within five years.

Rationale for the Medium Term Policy Framework and Medium Term Strategy

3. Africa has high potential to become food secure as shown by the example of Malawi through utilization of new technologies, increasing access to yield-enhancing inputs, market stabilization and agricultural incentives, among others.
4. The African leadership has previously adopted requisite decisions such as the CAADP, fertilizers and strategic commodities, among others. Coupled with this, there is also a global momentum to support agricultural production, productivity, food and nutrition security.
5. Given the potential, the political will and the global enthusiasm, a repeat of the recent global food crisis which adversely affected Africa can be avoided. It is therefore necessary to put in place a Medium Term Policy Framework and Medium Term Strategy to take forward the vision of a food secure Africa which will be in line with the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme.

The Africa Food and Nutrition Day

6. As part of the strategy, it is further proposed that an **Africa Food and Nutrition Security Day (AFNSD)** be inaugurated and commemorated annually. The proposed Day will be expected to complement the World Food Day (WFD) that is globally commemorated by promoting Africa’s aspirations and achievements in food and nutrition security. The purpose of the Day would be:

- 1) To commemorate Africa's vision, achievements and experiences in areas of agriculture and food and nutrition security;
- 2) To translate and disseminate the World Food Day theme for the year;
- 3) To sensitize the continent on a continuous basis on matters of food insecurity and hunger and how CAADP strategies are helping to address food security challenges within African Union member states;
- 4) In understanding that no single country can resolve food security challenges in isolation, try to raise consciousness on the importance working in unity on matters of food and nutrition among AU member states;
- 5) To promote African dignity on matters of food and nutrition security.

Rationale for the Day

7. Globally, special days are set aside for the commemoration of varying social issues and challenges developmental themes such as HIV/AIDS, Environment, Health, Water, Human Rights, and many others. Each year, we also globally commemorate the World Food Day led by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations.

8. At continental level, we have set aside special days to commemorate the African Union, the African Child, and the Environment. There is however, no special day within the African continent dedicated to the celebration of food and nutrition, despite being one of the most important elements for the survival of human population. It is therefore imperative that given the scale of food insecurity and malnutrition on the continent, Africa needs to improve the efforts towards attaining food and nutritional security. Each year, as part of the global community at large, we commemorate the World Food Day every 16th October.

9. The proposed AFSND will complement the WFD by promoting Africa's aspirations and achievements in food and nutrition security. It will highlight progress achieved on a continental basis on the vision of a 'food-secure Africa' in addition to an African focus on food and nutrition as being important for both economic and social development. The day will also build on the momentum generated by the celebration of the WFD by expanding the year's WFD theme to further reflect on the continental experiences and efforts through implementation of CAADP to achieve food and nutrition security. This will be an African-led food and nutrition commemoration event.

10. Proposed activities for this day include: Key Statements; Seminars and workshops on food and nutrition security focusing on the CAADP agenda; cultural; promotion of healthy eating habits; displays on food production and value adding technologies.

11. The AFNSD shall therefore provide an excellent forum for AU member states to follow up on the outcomes of AU decisions and declarations on food and nutrition security.

Proposed Date

12. The proposed date for the AFNSD is **30th October**, each year. The day has been chosen as it follows commemoration of the WFD on 16th October. Since Africa subscribes to a global agenda of food security it will be appropriate that it translates the global theme of the WFD to her own priority initiatives through the CAADP. In addition, there are no other major global and continental events being commemorated on this day, therefore allowing all AU member states to commemorate the day together.

“We are determined to deal once and for all with the scourge of conflicts and violence on our continent, acknowledging our shortcomings and errors, committing our resources and our best people, and missing no opportunity to push forward the agenda of conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction. We, as leaders, simply cannot bequeath the burden of conflicts to the next generation of Africans.” (Paragraph 9 of the Tripoli Declaration of 31 August 2009).

2010

A medium term policy framework and strategy for a food secure Africa and commemoration of “Africa Food and Nutrition Security Day” (Item proposed by the Republic of Malawi)

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