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**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Twenty-Second Ordinary Session
21 – 25 January 2013
Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA**

**EX.CL/768(XXII)
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**REPORT OF THE AU JOINT CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS
OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTERS OF TRADE
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 26 – 30 NOVEMBER 2012**

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**JOINT CONFERENCE OF AU MINISTERS OF
AGRICULTURE AND MINISTERS OF TRADE
26-30 NOVEMBER 2012
ADDIS ABABA
ETHIOPIA**

AU/JMCAT/RPT/MIN/RPT (i)

Original: English

**REPORT OF THE
JOINT CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE AND
MINISTERS OF TRADE**

29-30 NOVEMBER 2012

REPORT JOINT CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTERS OF TRADE

Introduction

1. The Joint AU Conference of Ministers of Agriculture and Ministers of Trade convened for the first time on 29-30 November 2012 at the AU Commission Headquarters on the theme: **Boosting Intra-Africa Trade: Key to Agricultural Transformation and Ensuring Food and Nutrition Security**. It was chaired by Honourable Clement Dlamini, Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives of the Kingdom of Swaziland.

Attendance

2. The meeting was attended by the following Member States: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

3. The following Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and international organizations also participated in the meeting: Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), African Development Bank (AfDB), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), NEPAD Agency, Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), World Bank (WB), World Food Programme (WFP) and World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Item 1: Opening of the Meeting

Statement by Deputy Chairperson of AUC

4. The Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Mr. Erastus Mwencha, initiated his statement by noting that the Joint Ministerial Conference of Ministers of Trade and Ministers of Agriculture is unique in its character because it is aimed at addressing the issues of agricultural production, boosting intra-African trade in agricultural products and ensuring food security in Africa. He indicated that Africa has lost its competitive edge in trade of agricultural products to become a net importer since the early 80s. He noted that in the year 2009, the SADC region imported US\$ 10.5 billion and exported US\$ 9.5 billion worth of agricultural products highlighting the fact that most African countries are net food importers. He pointed out that in the year 2009, Africa's total agricultural imports exceeded US\$ 55 billion, which is more than the combined GDP of a number of African countries put together and related to policies pursued in Africa which makes it difficult for African countries to trade more in agricultural products.

5. He further indicated that Intra-African trade of agricultural products has averaged around 20 per cent which shows that there is room for further trade within Africa. He pointed out to incidences of high tariff barriers and non-tariff barriers, which impede trade in agricultural commodities within the continent. He underlined that farmers in Africa face additional daunting challenges in the form of Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) which include export bans among others. Some of the initiatives addressing a few of these issues include the Decision of the Summit to adopt an Action Plan on Boosting Intra-African trade and to approve the establishment of a Continental Free Trade Area by 2017. He added that equally important initiatives to boost trade in agricultural products are the tripartite free trade area, multilateral trade arrangements as well as the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). On the candidature of an African to the position of the Director General of the WTO, he emphasised the need for African countries to put up a united front in support of one candidate.

Statement by Deputy Executive Secretary of UNECA

6. In delivering his statement on the theme of the Joint Ministerial Conference, the Deputy Executive Secretary of the ECA, Mr. Abdallah Hamdok noted that Africa is showing remarkable economic growth, with 6 out of 10 fastest-growing countries in the world coming from Africa. He added that Agriculture and Trade are strategic catalysts for Africa's economic transformation and are critical to create income and job creation. He pointed out that rationalization of RECs has helped to better integrate sub regional markets while the Tripartite will help reduce challenges of multiple memberships. He commended Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) for its value chain creation and its consequent benefits while emphasising the need to ensure greater market access, improved trade facilitation and trade finance, including foreign direct investment (FDI). In concluding, he reiterated the fact that Agricultural transformation and intra-African trade need strategic interventions for short, medium and long-term benefits for Africa.

Opening Statement by the State Minister of Ethiopia

7. The State Minister of Agriculture of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, H.E. Ato Wondirad Mandefro, outlined the efforts that Ethiopia has been exerting since the early 1990s in prioritising agriculture as a foundation for the socio-economic development of the country. In particular, he underlined the premium the Ethiopian Government places on commercialisation of small-holder farming as a major source of agricultural growth. He outlined the challenges that periodic droughts pose on rural livelihoods in Ethiopia and the measures being taken to address these challenges. He also noted Ethiopia's resolve to transform its agricultural sector through the implementation of the country's Agriculture Sector Policy and Investment Framework (PIF), which is a ten- year plan to operationalise its CAADP compact.

8. The State Minister brought to the attention of the Joint Ministerial Conference the outcomes of the Conference on 'Wheat for Food Security in Africa' held in Addis Ababa from 8 to 12 October 2012. In this respect, he urged the Conference to take

note of the recommendations of the Conference on Wheat, which include the incorporation of wheat as one of Africa's strategic commodities for achieving food and nutrition security, the promotion of wheat regional value chains; fostering continental cooperation in agricultural research with the view to enhancing African wheat competitiveness; and development of policy options to promote and protect domestic producers. Finally, he declared the Conference open.

Item 2: Constitution of the Bureau.

9. The following Bureau, as constituted by the AU Assembly, presided over the meeting:

Chair	: Benin (West Africa)
1 st Vice-Chair	: Uganda (East Africa)
2 nd Vice-Chair	: Tunisia (North Africa)
3 rd Vice-Chair	: South Africa (Southern Africa)
Rapporteur	: Equatorial Guinea (Central Africa)

10. As delegations in the Bureau were not represented at Ministerial level, Member States after due consultations, nominated the Kingdom of Swaziland to chair since it was represented by a Minister.

Item 3: Consideration and Adoption of Agenda and Organization of Work.

11. The Joint Conference considered and adopted its agenda without amendment. It further adopted the following working hours:

Thursday Morning: 10h00 – 13h30

Friday Afternoon: 14h30 – 18h30

Item 4: Interactive Session on “Boosting Intra-African Trade: a Key to Agricultural Transformation, and Ensuring Food and Nutrition Security.”

12. By way of introduction to the interactive session, the meeting received statements from the Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture and Commissioner for Trade and Industry.

13. The Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, H.E. Mrs. Tumusiime Rhoda Peace, welcomed participants to the Conference and thanked the Honourable Ministers for championing the cause of agricultural development in their respective countries and regions. She also commended Senior Officials and Experts of Agriculture for deliberating over the last three days and coming up with a common position on how to boost agriculture on the continent. She further informed the meeting that to date, thirty countries have signed the CAADP compacts, out of which twenty-four countries have developed credible investment plans and have qualified for global resources from development partners. She pointed out that there was the

need to move from resource commitments and pledges to resource disbursements and actual implementation so that the desired results and impacts of CAADP could be achieved. She reminded the meeting of Africa's enormous resources in land, water, livestock, etc. and saw no good reason for Africa to be importing USD 40 - 50 billion worth of food every year.

14. H.E. Mrs. Tumusiime urged AU Member States to create incentives which would attract women and the youth into farming and agribusiness in line with the new leadership of the African Union Commission's objective to develop policies and plans that would attract women and the youth to agriculture. She stressed the need to have a mechanism for exchanging and sharing information on best practices and success stories in agriculture on the African continent and also to find ways and means of replicating and up scaling them. She informed the meeting that the African Union Commission has embarked on leading and facilitating continental efforts on Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) measures to reduce trade restrictions placed on African exports by overseas importers. In the same vein, she added that the African Union Commission was working to promote organic farming so that niche organic importers in Europe and Asia could be attracted to Africa. She concluded her address by calling on the Honourable Ministers to come out with a common position on how to move agriculture and food security on the African continent to greater heights.

15. H.E. Mrs. Fatima H. Acyl first welcomed the Ministers and participants and thanked the Member States for electing her to serve the continent as Commissioner for Trade and Industry. She then highlighted the fact that the countries and regions of the world that have made significant progress in reducing poverty and achieving sustainable economic development are those with good trade performance in terms of the quality and size of their share of global trade. In this regard, she stressed the need to advance Africa's market integration agenda by redoubling efforts to diversify Member States' economies, coordinate their economic policies to promote intra-Africa trade and investment and build capacity to produce industrial products. She pointed out that, consequent to the Summit's decision of boosting intra-African trade, the AU Commission was focused on developing an implementation strategy for the Action Plan on Boosting Intra African-Trade which is expected to identify implementable projects that will go a long way in enhancing the capacity of African countries to trade with each other. She added that the Commission was also engaged in facilitating the establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area which will be built on the model of the Tripartite Free Trade Area and aim, among others, at eliminating non-tariff barriers that still stand in the way of increased trade flows among African countries and increased market share in global trade.

16. With regard to the multilateral agenda, she called for innovative solutions to conclude the Doha Round with emphasis on development and critical agricultural issues such as cotton. She also stressed the need to conclude the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiations while ensuring that they do not undermine Africa's longer term objectives of regional and continental economic integration. She welcomed the extension of the Third Country Fabric provision under AGOA and

advocated for a sustainable and more predictable post 2015 trade regime. She then wished the meeting successful deliberations.

17. In kick-starting the interactive session, the Founder and former Chief Executive Officer of the Ethiopian Commodity Exchange made a presentation on Ethiopia's experience in developing the commodity Exchange. In her presentation, she highlighted the role the exchange plays in integrating local markets in the different regions of the country. She also noted the importance of harnessing ICT tools and infrastructure development to facilitate the movement and storage of commodities across the country.

18. The meeting was also informed that the Commodity Exchange has had a positive impact on the incomes of smallholder farmers who play a major role in the production of the various products traded on the Exchange. The transparency in the pricing of the commodities has also led to increases in the quality of the produce as farmers strive for high quality outputs that attract higher prices.

19. The representative of UNCTAD also made a presentation and reiterated his organization's commitment to assist the African Union Member States in the implementation of the Action Plan on Boosting intra-African trade in the areas of trade facilitation, trade policy and productive capacities. He noted that non-tariff barriers and measures play a major role in inhibiting trade between African countries and underlined that the private sector has a pivotal role to play in boosting intra African trade.

20. In the discussions that ensued after the presentations by the panellists, the Meeting congratulated the African Union Commission for coming up with the joint ministerial as there is a clear link between the portfolios of Agriculture and Trade. The meeting further made the following observations and recommendations:-

Observations

- a) Well-functioning markets are crucial for boosting the welfare of Africa, thus Africa needs to explore the possibilities of establishing commodity exchanges across the continent. In this regards, the African Union Commission should find means of popularizing the idea of commodity exchanges;
- b) Capacity Building of SMEs and Farmer Cooperatives and Trade finance gaps need to be identified and addressed both at national and regional levels;
- c) Member States need to work on improving trade -related infrastructure and the commercialization of Agriculture with a view to add value to the produce;

- d) Exchange of Trade Information and experiences through Trade Fairs should be encouraged among Member States;
- e) Political will and policy commitment are paramount in the development of commodity exchanges given the policy reforms that are required to achieve a functional system;
- f) Wide stakeholder consultation and adaptation of marketing and trading systems to suit local conditions and requirements are crucial in establishing commodity exchanges.

Recommendations

- i) Member states should work on consolidating their national markets first before working on the consolidation of regional and continental Markets;
- ii) Member States should implement the decisions on Trade and Agriculture made at Regional and Continental levels such as those on CAADP and Boosting Intra Africa Trade to enhance agricultural transformation;
- iii) African countries should enhance their trade flows by organising trade fairs to promote trade and investment opportunities including in the agricultural sector.

Item 5: Consideration of the recommendations contained in the Report of the Joint Session of Senior Officials: Agriculture and Trade

21. The Report of Senior Officials was presented by the Chair of the Meeting of Senior Officials. The Chair dwelt mainly on the recommendations made by the Senior Officials and submitted them to the Ministers for their consideration.

22. The Conference took note of the Report in general.

Item 6: Any other Business

23. No issue was raised under this item.

Item 7: Adoption of the Report of the Joint Ministerial Conference and Declaration.

24. The Conference considered its Draft Report and adopted it with amendments. It also adopted a **Joint Declaration of Ministers of Agriculture and Ministers of Trade on Boosting Intra-Africa Trade as a key to Agricultural Transformation and Ensuring Food and Nutrition Security** (Annex I).

25. The Ministers of Trade also adopted the following Documents:

- i) Declaration on WTO Issues (Annex II);
- ii) Declaration on EPAs (Annex III);
- iii) Declaration on AGOA (Annex iv);
- iv) Report of Ministers of Trade (Annex V).

26. The Ministers of Agriculture also adopted their Report (Annex VI) and a Declaration (Annex VII).

Item 8: Closure of the Meeting

27. In her closing remarks delivered on behalf of the Commission, H.E. Commissioner Acyl expressed her sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Honourable Ministers for the fruitful deliberations they had on critical issues of Trade and Agriculture that underpin the continent's development agenda. She added that there was a need for a continuation of this collaboration between the Ministries of Trade and the Ministries of Agriculture through the exchange of information and enactment of policies that seek to address the cross-cutting issues in both sectors.

28. After thanking the participants for their contributions, the Chair brought the meeting to a close.

**JOINT DECLARATION
OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTERS OF TRADE
ON BOOSTING INTRA-AFRICA TRADE AS A
KEY TO AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION AND ENSURING FOOD
AND NUTRITION SECURITY**

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**JOINT CONFERENCE OF THE AU MINISTERS
OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTERS OF TRADE
29-30 NOVEMBER 2012
ADDIS ABABA
ETHIOPIA**

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**JOINT DECLARATION
OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTERS OF TRADE
ON BOOSTING INTRA-AFRICA TRADE AS A
KEY TO AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION AND ENSURING FOOD
AND NUTRITION SECURITY**

**JOINT DECLARATION
OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTERS OF TRADE ON BOOSTING
INTRA-AFRICA TRADE AS A KEY TO AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION
AND ENSURING FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY**

We, the African Union Ministers of Agriculture and Ministers of Trade, meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 29th and 30th November 2012 during our first Joint Conference;

RECALLING the Eighteenth and Nineteenth AU Summits of January and July 2012, which are dedicated to the theme: “*Boosting Intra-Africa Trade*” and which adopted the Action Plan on Boosting intra- African trade and establishing the Continental Free Trade Area by the indicative date of 2017 taking into account the progress and developments in regional free trade areas and the COMESA-EAC –SADC Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA);

RECALLING the commitment made at the Abuja Summit of December 2006 on Food Security in Africa, aiming to increase intra-African trade of strategic commodities through the implementation of trade arrangements adopted in the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), harmonization of standards within and across RECs, the development of market information systems, and the building of trade related capacities and infrastructure;

REALISING the need and importance of a strong inter-ministerial coordination mechanism in the planning and implementation of programmes and activities aimed at boosting Intra-African trade in agricultural products;

ALSO RECALLING the commitment made at the Sirte, Libya Summit of July 2009 on Investing in Agriculture for Economic Growth and Food Security, aimed at enhancing the multitude of support given to the agricultural sector through increased public sector budgetary allocation, formulation of relevant policies and strategies, mobilisation of the necessary technical expertise, institution of appropriate implementation mechanisms, and promotion of the required public-private partnerships and business-to-business alliances to accelerate the development of competitive value chains and raise market shares in domestic, regional, and foreign export markets; and support the expansion of financial services to the rural areas;

AWARE that agriculture remains an important source of livelihood and a key sector in African economies, accounting for a high percentage of the GDP, employment, and export earnings;

RECOGNIZING the central role that Africa’s agricultural sector could play in promoting and boosting cross-border trade among Member States as well as in enhancing regional integration;

AWARE of the vital role of the private sector in upgrading productive capacities of the agricultural sector as well as promoting intra-Africa trade in agricultural products between Member States;

RECOGNISING and **WELCOMING** the recent efforts for catalysing private sector investment in agriculture through the development of a diverse portfolio of initiatives; and

COGNISANT of the challenges facing these initiatives with respect to capacity and scale of operation;

CONCERNED about the existence of tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade in agricultural commodities such as import and export bans, quantitative restrictions, unharmonized Sanitary and PhytoSanitary (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) measures, burdensome customs and documentation requirements, inadequate transport and road infrastructure and unauthorized roadblocks and check points, among others;

CONCERNED about the effects of such barriers on the cost of doing business, market access and the competitiveness of products in regional and global markets;

ALSO CONCERNED about the effect of the limited cross-border trade in agricultural commodities especially on the livelihoods of women and youth who are mostly involved in these activities;

RECALLING Africa's collective responsibility and commitment to advance its agricultural production, address market access and trade related infrastructure issues through the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), which is the framework for institutional and policy reforms, capacity development and increased investments required for enhanced agricultural performance that is necessary for the achievement of food security, intra-regional trade and socio-economic development;

TAKING NOTE of the efforts and progress being made by many AU Member States to promote agricultural growth, expand trade and enhance food and nutrition security;

APPRECIATING the efforts of the AU Commission in addressing SPS issues as part of advancing food security and safety and regional trade in general and the launch of the Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa (PACA);

AWARE of the significant contributions that value addition to agricultural commodities can make to employment generation, export earnings and socioeconomic development;

CONCERNED that Africa is yet to make much progress towards adding value to primary agricultural commodities and exploiting the opportunities for processed agro-food products in local, regional and international markets;

RECOGNISING the critical role women play in Africa's food security system, including in intra-regional trade in food commodities, as well as **NOTING** the

importance of targeted support from public investment resources to women's effective involvement in the agricultural value chain.

UNDERTAKE TO,

1. **Fast track** the implementation of national and regional policies that can enhance productive capacity of the agricultural sector as well as promote the profitability and competitiveness of agricultural commodities and ensure that the sector contributes to smallholder livelihoods, food security, nutrition, job creation and poverty alleviation;
2. **Ensure** that the national and regional CAADP compacts and investment plans are the instruments to define and operationalize cross-sectoral collaboration and deliver results;
3. **Accelerate** the implementation of the Plan of Action for Boosting Intra-Africa Trade in both agricultural commodities and processed food products inter-alia;
4. **Sharpen** the focus of regional trade and infrastructure initiatives to boosting the development of regional agriculture markets;
5. **Re-confirm the commitment of the Summit Decision to** implement regional as well as continental trade agreements and take additional measures as necessary to remove barriers to intra-regional trade in agricultural commodities;
6. **Strengthen** measures taken by some RECs to monitor and eliminate non-tariff barriers to intra-African trade on agriculture products and to fight against the introduction of new barriers to trade by Member States;
7. **Support** an approach that fosters focused and action-oriented multi-stakeholder partnerships that target priority value chains or geographic regions that have significant development impact;
8. **Mobilise**, identify and establish in-country multi-stakeholder platforms and implementing units, with which CAADP-aligned private sector initiatives should engage and channel support;
9. **Encourage** the establishment or enhancement of inter-ministerial Working Groups at national level with a view to coordinate and harmonize trade and agriculture processes and actions and thereby strengthen synergies, complementarities and sharing of information on cross-cutting issues relating to production and trade in agricultural commodities;

10. **Strengthen** the capacity of diverse producer and Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) stakeholder organisations to effectively participate in the innovative practices and assess their impact at country level;
11. **Strengthen** efforts on surveillance and control of aflatoxicosis using emerging technologies under PACA; speed up registration processes of potential aflatoxin reducing technologies; and help mobilize required financial resources to speed up aflatoxin control on the continent;
12. Develop mechanisms for gender based budgeting of agriculture and trade support programmes and institute systems for assessing the impact of such budgetary expenditures on the engagement of women in viable agricultural value chains.

CALL UPON,

1. **The AUC and RECs** to work towards inter-REC harmonization of pertinent standards and policies through the relevant negotiating processes with a view to facilitating trade in agricultural products;
2. **AUC and NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA)** to institutionalize policy dialogue forums at continental and regional levels aimed at realizing synergies between agriculture and trade sectors through the use of emerging platforms such as the CAADP Joint Action Group on Regional Trade and Infrastructure;
3. **AUC, NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) and RECs** to coordinate, support, strengthen and scale up the current agriculture and trade investment and promotion initiatives in the context of CAADP;
4. **AUC, NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) and RECs** to facilitate peer learning, regional consultation and case studies to identify and share lessons and best practices with respect to inclusive agricultural investment and transformative policy reforms, including Commodity Exchanges;
5. **AUC** to expedite the relocation of the Secretariat of PACA to the African Union Commission without delay;
6. **AUC** to institute mechanisms for monitoring progress of the joint agriculture and trade activities and to report regularly to the Policy Organs of the African Union.

Done in Addis Ababa on 30 November 2012

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EX.CL/768(XXII)
Annex II

DECLARATION ON WTO ISSUES

AFRICAN UNION

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MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE AND TRADE
26-30 NOVEMBER 2012
ADDIS-ABABA (ETHIOPIA)**

**AU/TI/JCMAT/WTO/Decl.1 (I)
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DECLARATION ON WTO ISSUES

DECLARATION ON WTO ISSUES

We, the Ministers of Trade of the Member States of the African Union meeting in Addis Ababa on the 29th and 30th November 2012 in the Joint Conference of the AU Ministers of Agriculture and Trade under the theme, “Boosting Intra-African Trade: A key to agricultural transformation and ensuring food and nutrition security”;

Deeply concerned at the continuing stalemate in the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) following 11 years of costly negotiations to our countries with no significant progress in respect of development issues in the areas of interest to Africa in the DDA since the outcome of the 8th WTO Ministerial Conference in 2011;

Recalling that development is – and must - remain at the core of the DDA, with agriculture and cotton retaining its paramount importance within the DDA for African countries;

Underscore that the inception of the DDA negotiations and their focus on the development imperative was -amongst others-premised on the need to redress the imbalances inherent in the Uruguay Round Agreements;

Deeply concerned by the potential negative impact of plurilateral initiatives and approaches being introduced by some members at the WTO, seriously and fundamentally affecting the DDA mandate and the WTO’s principles of inclusiveness and multilateralism;

Concerned that since the Seventh Regular session of the AU Conference of Ministers of Trade, Ghana in December 2011, the Global Economy’s recovery from the onslaught of the 2008 financial and economic crisis remains uneven and that with the slowing global output growth, the forecast for world trade expansion has been downgraded for both 2012 and 2013; all the while affected by the continued volatility of food and agricultural commodity prices;

Desirous to reaffirm principles that would guide Africa’s future engagement at the WTO;

Hereby,

1. **Reaffirm** the positions adopted in the Accra Declaration on WTO Issues of 2011;
2. **Welcome** the follow up outcome adopted by the General Council on 25th July 2012 further to the Decision on Accession of LDCs by the 8th WTO Ministerial Conference to strengthen, streamline and operationalize the 2002 guidelines;
3. **Call upon** WTO members to adopt measures and decisions aimed at simplifying accession procedures for acceding developing countries ; taking into account their levels of development and protecting the total transparency of said procedures;

4. **Further welcome** the development oriented outcomes of the Istanbul Programme of Action for LDCs for the decade 2011-2020 and the outcome of the UNCTAD XIII Quadrennial Conference held in Doha, Qatar, April 2012 in favour of developing countries;
5. **Stress** the importance of the DDA and re-commit to conclude it in accordance with the existing mandate and on the basis of progress achieved so far, with the Single Undertaking central to the outcome;
6. **Re-emphasise** the need for a fair and balanced outcome of the DDA, which must prioritise development as its main deliverable, preserve negotiated flexibilities beneficial to developing countries and be anchored on the principles of shared values, inclusiveness, transparency and bottom-up approach;
7. **Underscore** that –in breaking the current stalemate in the DDA negotiations– any provisional agreement resulting from the adoption of WTO Doha Mandate's paragraph 47, must first deliver on the development issues and result in meaningful progress on issues of importance, including – but not limited to – agriculture, cotton, issues of interest to LDCs, Special and Differential Treatment (S&DT), and implementation issues;
8. **Re-emphasise** the positions held by the WTO African Group on Trade Facilitation, specifically that it is not a self-balancing, win-win and a monolithic pillar in the DDA negotiations;
9. **Further re-emphasise** that obligations and measures being negotiated in the Trade Facilitation consolidated text must be accompanied by requisite binding technical and financial assistance and capacity building provisions;
10. **Underscore** that agriculture remains central to Africa's agenda at the WTO. We emphasise the urgency and the need of addressing tariff peaks and tariff escalation in agriculture, which inhibit value addition and job creation and overall development in Africa. We reiterate our concerns regarding food security in the continent, and support efforts by Net-Food Importing Developing Countries (NFIDCs) in respect of agriculture related rule-making at the WTO;
11. **Further underscore** that any WTO Members' consensus on a provisional agreement – the so called early harvest – must be preceded by a consensual framework that will provide necessary safeguards and guarantees to ensure that all areas of the DDA negotiations will be concluded;
12. **Strongly object** to any attempt to link non-trade issues or add new issues to the DDA, before development issues such as agriculture (including cotton), LDC issues, Special & Differential Treatment (S&DT) and implementation related concerns are satisfactorily addressed and the DDA is fully exhausted and successfully concluded;
13. **Strongly caution** against attempts to undermine the spirit of cooperation inherent in the multilateral approach to negotiating the DDA and call on

Members of the WTO to refrain from disturbing the delicate balance in the acquis of the DDA;

14. **We caution** against any new narrative which in our view is inconsistent with—and undermines—the Doha Development Mandate. We also caution WTO Members to refrain from subjecting some agenda items of the DDA to plurilateral negotiations that have the effect of further marginalizing the majority of developing-country economies in the Multilateral Trading System;
15. **Take note** of and call for, continued positive engagement in the work currently undertaken in the Committee on Trade and Development (CTD) Special Session on S&D and efforts to fully operationalize and strengthen the mandate of the CTD as a the WTO focal point for development;
16. **Reiterate** our insistence that DDA outcomes incorporate adequate demand-driven financial and technical assistance and sustainable capacity building as an integral part of S&D treatment under all WTO Agreements;
17. **Call upon** our development partners to continue the support they provide under the Aid for Trade initiative, particularly to LDCs and small and vulnerable economies in Africa ;
18. **Take note** of the current mid-term review of the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) and urge that the EIF should be consolidated and continued without major changes to its current framework;
19. **Recall** the outcome of the 8th WTO Ministerial and the attendant Decisions on; TRIPS non-violation situation complaints, the Work Program on electronic commerce, work program on small economies, Transition period for LDCs under Article 66.1 of the TRIPS Agreement, Preferential treatment to services and services suppliers of LDCs and Trade Policy Review Mechanism and urge Members to ensure their full implementation with a view to achieving their legitimate aims and objectives as set stated therein;
20. **Commend** the tireless efforts deployed by the African Ambassadors Group in Brussels in defending Africa's interests in EPA negotiations;
21. **Request** the African Union Commission and the UN Economic Commission for Africa to undertake analysis on the envisaged CFTA vis-à-vis WTO rules with a view to boosting Intra African Trade and other pertinent issues of interest to African economies;
22. **Further request** the African Union in collaboration with the African Groups in Geneva, Brussels and Washington to meet at least once a year to review the negotiating positions at the continental level with a view to harmonising and consolidating them.

Done in Addis Ababa, 30 November 2012

TI8865

EX.CL/768(XXII)
Annex III

**DECLARATION ON THE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP
AGREEMENTS (EPAs) NEGOTIATIONS**

AFRICAN UNION

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MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE AND TRADE
26 AND 30 NOVEMBER 2012
ADDIS ABABA (ETHIOPIA)**

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**DECLARATION ON THE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP
AGREEMENTS (EPAs) NEGOTIATIONS**

DECLARATION ON THE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS (EPAs) NEGOTIATIONS

We, Ministers of Trade of the African Union Member States, meeting at the Joint Conference of Ministers of Agriculture and Trade held on 29th and 30th November 2012 in, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;

Recalling that the main objective of the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs), is to serve as development instruments, eradicate poverty, promote sustainable development, enhance trade, strengthen regional integration initiatives as well as the gradual integration of African economies into the world economy;

Taking note of the updated activity reports on the ongoing EPAs negotiations between the European Union (EU) and the African countries and regional groupings;

Recalling that the African countries and regional groupings agreed with the EU that EPAs be compatible with the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Rules;

Expressing concern about the limited progress achieved in the EPAs negotiations due to the persistence of unresolved contentious issues as a result of the severe and inflexible EU positions, and the insistence of the latter to introduce new issues into the negotiations on which the WTO did not adopt any common position;

Expressing strong concern about the European Commission (EC) proposal of amendment of EC Regulation 1528/2007 on access to EU market, which is aiming to exclude the countries which have not yet taken necessary steps to ratify in full their EPAs, from the list of countries benefiting of Regulation 1528/2007, as from January 2014;

Noting the motion voted by the European Parliament on 13 September 2012 extending, to the 1st January 2016, the amendment of Regulation EC 1528/2007 on access to EU market, instead of 31 December 2013 deadline initially proposed by the European Commission;

Stressing the importance of building a strong regional integration to serve as a central pillar for the Agenda of African Development;

Emphasizing the Decision of the 18th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly, held on 29-30 January 2012, in Addis Ababa, on boosting intra-African trade and the Decision of the 19th Ordinary Session held on 8-9 July 2012 on the Rapid Establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA), in line with the Framework, Roadmap, Architecture and the Action Plan defined in this Decision;

HAVE AGREED TO:

1. **REAFFIRM** our commitment in favor of the conclusion of EPAs negotiations between the African regions and the EU, provided that EPAs be mutually beneficial, development oriented, socially acceptable and contributing to the strengthening of regional integration of Africa;
2. **REITERATE** the need to take into account the major *development* dimension in the EPAs. In this regard, adequate and predictable resources should be

mobilized to support accompanying measures to be put in place to absorb additional costs to be entailed by the liberalization of African markets, including the costs relating to upgrading and diversification of African economies and customs revenue losses;

3. **UNDERScore** the need to resolve the contentious issues satisfactorily and in better negotiating conditions, taking due account of African concerns and existing variations in development levels between the EU and the African countries and regional groupings;
4. **UNDERLINE** the need for negotiations to be substance-based and not time-based;
5. **REITERATE** the need for the European Commission to show greater flexibility in the negotiations, similar to the one shown *vis-a-vis* some third party countries;
6. **STRESS** the need for the EU Regulation 1528/2007 on access to EU market to remain unchanged until the conclusion and entry into force of developed oriented EPAs;
7. **REITERATE** the need to engage a high level political dialogue between Africa and the EU on the EPAs, to persuade the EU to take into account African concerns, with a view to advancing the negotiations, and reaching mutually beneficial agreements that meet the initial objectives of both parties;
8. **UNDERScore** the need to maintain coherence and harmonization between African common positions in EPAs and WTO negotiations respectively, and to ensure that African countries and regions will not prejudge outcomes of the Doha Round by taking commitments in the EPAs in case EPAs are concluded prior to the Doha Round of negotiations;
9. **EMPHASIZE** that the African negotiators should not negotiate any binding commitments in areas where WTO Agreements do not require such commitments;
10. **UNDERLINE** the need to ensure coherence between EPAs and the ongoing regional integration processes on the Continent, together with the efforts geared towards boosting intra-African trade. Each African region should ensure that its regional EPAs priorities are in line with the priorities reflected in the continental integration agenda;
11. **COMMEND** the tireless efforts deployed by the African Ambassadors Group in Brussels in defending Africa's interests in EPA negotiations;
12. **ENTRUST** the AU Commission and the RECs with the responsibility to coordinate the EPAs configurations in Africa, with a view to harmonizing the major issues of common interest to Africa, and enable Africa to speak with one voice.

Done in Addis Ababa on 30 November, 2012

TI8796

EX.CL/768(XXII)
Annex IV

**DECLARATION ON THE AFRICAN GROWTH
AND OPPORTUNITY ACT**

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



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TI8796

**JOINT CONFERENCE OF THE AFRICAN UNION
MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE AND TRADE
26-30 NOVEMBER 2012
ADDIS-ABABA (ETHIOPIA)**

**AU/TI/JCMAT/AGOA/Decl.I (I)Rev. 1
Original: English**

DECLARATION ON THE AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

DECLARATION ON THE AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

WE, Ministers of Trade of the Member States of the African Union, meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 29-30 November, 2012,

Having considered Africa's overall position in the global trading system as well as the current investments trends and particularly in the context of Africa-U.S. Trade and Investment Relations and its cornerstone policy, the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA);

Taking into consideration the positive impact of AGOA on economic growth in Sub-Saharan Africa over the last decade, reinforced by job creation and broadening of economic opportunities especially for women; and also the mutually reinforcing trade and commercial interests created both in the U.S. and in Africa;

Welcoming the positive outcome of the 11th AGOA Forum, held in Washington, D.C. on June 14-15, 2012, and the U.S-Africa Business Conference that took place on June 21-22, 2012 in Cincinnati, Ohio, marked by a strong commitment to support Africa's own efforts in enhancing its infrastructure for trade, deepen and broaden U.S.- Africa economic partnership, and improve the performance of AGOA in order to allow eligible countries to take full advantage of the economic opportunities it offers;

Noting with satisfaction the announcement made by President Barack Obama on June 14 2012 of a new "U.S. Strategy Toward Sub-Saharan Africa" that calls for an increased U.S. engagement to spur economic growth by promoting an enabling environment for trade and investment, improving economic governance, promoting regional integration, expanding African capacity to effectively access and benefit from global markets, and encouraging U.S. companies to trade with and invest in Africa;

Looking forward to the implementation of the new U.S. Strategy, which provides the platform for a renewed U.S. engagement in Africa in a mutually beneficial way;

Reaffirming that one of the lessons learned regarding the undue delay of the extension of the Third Country Fabric Provision of AGOA, and its devastating effects on loss of orders, jobs, business and investment in both the U.S. and Africa, is a need for greater predictability and certainty in unilateral trade preferences schemes, as a necessary condition for sustained investment and growth;

Reiterating the high importance attached to the timely and seamless extension of AGOA beyond 2015, and the contribution it could make in supporting Africa's regional integration processes in order to enhance regional economies of scale, integration into global production chains and intra-African trade;

Hereby:

1. **Request** the African Group in Washington, D.C., to lead the advocacy efforts with members of the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States on the way forward for a timely, seamless and meaningful extension of

AGOA beyond 2015, and leverage the beneficial impact that AGOA has had in terms of jobs creation, poverty reduction and in strengthening the diplomatic and commercial relations between the U.S. and the Sub-Saharan African Countries in order to increase further awareness of AGOA;

2. **Also request** the African Group to engage key stakeholders in the U.S. Administration, civil society, private sector, academia and think-tanks on how to strengthen, broaden and deepen, in a meaningful way, AGOA'S benefits from a strategic and sustained perspective; and also to enhance Africa's capacity to fully utilize and benefit from this program;
3. **Call upon** the U.S. Congress to pass the necessary legislation for the timely and seamless renewal of AGOA beyond 2015, in an integrated and all-inclusive approach, so as to guarantee the predictability and certainty required for long-term investment and economic growth both in the U.S. and across the African continent, based on a mutually reinforcing U.S.-Africa relations;
4. **Invite** the U.S. Congress to amend AGOA in order to allow the U.S. Department of Agriculture to become an integral part of the program in order to provide assistance for Sub-Saharan Africa's agricultural exports notably of processed goods which could help raise incomes and spur economic growth, as agriculture is a crucial sector of many African economies and an important source of income for African workers;
5. **Appeal to** the U.S. Administration to integrate AGOA into an inclusive, predictable and sustainable framework that would promote industrial, commercial and agricultural development in the beneficiary countries, expand targeted trade-capacity building and technical assistance in quality assurance and standards, simplify compliance requirements, improve trade-related infrastructure and trade facilitation; enhance trade support and trade finance;
6. **Call upon** the US Congress to recognize the AU Member States commitment to advance economic integration at a continental level and to ensure that AGOA supports this objective expressly
7. **Call upon** the United States Administration to provide incentives for US companies and investors to invest in the non-extractive sectors in Africa taking advantage of its growing economies.
8. **Also call upon** the U.S. Administration, in accordance with its renewed engagement to Africa reflected in the "U.S. Strategy Toward Sub-Saharan Africa", to work closely with the various stakeholders in order to effect a timely and seamless extension of AGOA beyond 2015;
9. **Recommend** the development of a national AGOA response strategy and the setting-up of a mechanism that can monitor and evaluate the implementation of AGOA Program and AGOA Forum outcomes at the national level, and establish an annual evaluation report at the continental level that could serve as a valuable tracking tool for decision makers;

10. **Commend** the U.S. Congress and Administration for the extension of the Third Country Fabric Provision of AGOA until September 30, 2015, making it co-terminus with AGOA. The strong Congressional bipartisan support for the passage of the third country fabric provision bears testimony of its commitment in the consolidation of economic and social development of Sub-Saharan African countries, as well as the expansion of exports and creation of employment in the textiles and apparels sectors both in the U.S. and Africa;
11. **Commend** the good efforts of the African Ambassadors Group in Washington, D.C., in particular the Co-Chairs of the Economic Development Committee of the African Ambassadors Group, Ethiopia and Mauritius, and the valuable contribution of the African Diaspora and all partners and stakeholders who worked tirelessly to secure the renewal of the Third Country Fabric Provision;
12. **Also Commend** the important contribution of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa/ African Trade Policy Center for the technical and financial assistance provided in the implementation of AGOA;
13. **Direct** the African Union Commission, in collaboration with UNECA, to carry out a study on the implications of extending the third country fabric provision to all AGOA beneficiary countries taking due consideration of the need for regional integration, inclusiveness as well as concerns on preference erosion.
14. **Reaffirm** our commitment to remain actively seized with this matter and its implications on the establishment of a sustainable and mutually beneficial trade and economic development partnership between U.S. and Africa based on shared values and common interests;
15. **Request** the African Union Commission to investigate the modalities to finance advocacy efforts of the Africa Ambassadors Group in Washington D.C. in respect of AGOA-related trade and investment opportunities, and regional integration.

Done in Addis Ababa, 30 November, 2012

TI8899

EX.CL/768(XXII)
Annex V

REPORT MEETING OF MINISTERS OF TRADE
29-30 NOVEMBER 2012

AFRICAN UNION

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TI8899

**JOINT CONFERENCE OF AU MINISTERS OF
AGRICULTURE AND MINISTERS OF TRADE
26-30 NOVEMBER 2012
ADDIS ABABA
ETHIOPIA**

**AU/TD/MIN/RPT (I)
Original: English
Annex V**

**REPORT
MEETING OF MINISTERS OF TRADE
29-30 NOVEMBER 2012**

REPORT MEETING OF MINISTERS OF TRADE

Introduction

1. The Trade Session at Ministerial level of the Joint Conference of Ministers of Agriculture and Ministers of Trade was convened at the African Union Conference Centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 29 to 30 November 2012. The meeting was chaired by Hon. Fidèle MENGUE ME ENGOUANG, Minister of SMEs, Handicraft and Trade of the Republic of Gabon.

Attendance

2. The meeting was attended by the following Member States :Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

3. The following Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and international organizations also participated in the meeting: COMESA, EAC, IGAD, AfDB, UNECA, World Bank, World Trade Organisation, Association of SADC Chambers of Commerce, African Business Round Table, Pan African Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Global Mechanism, Africa Cotton and Textiles Industries Federation, National Association of Nigerian Traders, African Organisation for Standardisation, Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, Japan International Cooperation Agency.

Item 1: Opening Remarks.

4. After welcoming the Ministers and all participants, H. E. Mrs. Fatima H. Acyl pointed out that the outcome of their meeting would be presented to the High Level African Trade Committee (HATC) comprising of Heads of State and Government that will meet on the margins of the Summit in January 2013 and in this regard stated that she would appreciate their guidance on key issues that the HATC should address. She then highlighted the fact that although trade generates growth globally, its benefits are not equitably distributed among trading partners since Africa is entirely dependent on export of unprocessed raw materials and mineral resources to the developed and emerging countries. She then recalled the adoption of various strategies on the continent for the acceleration of Africa's agribusiness and agro-industries pointing out to the need for coordination within the limited institutional

capacities and investment in the sectors of trade and agriculture and called for innovative initiatives to promote trade. Finally, she declared the meeting open.

Item 2: Constitution of the Bureau.

5. The following Bureau, as constituted by the AU Assembly, presided over the meeting:

Chair	: Benin (West Africa)
1 st Vice-Chair	: Uganda (East Africa)
2 nd Vice-Chair	: Tunisia (North Africa)
3 rd Vice-Chair	: South Africa (Southern Africa)
Rapporteur	: Equatorial Guinea (Central Africa)

6. In the absence of Ministers members of the Bureau, the meeting was chaired by Gabon.

Item 3: Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work.

7. The meeting considered and adopted its agenda without amendment. It further adopted the following working hours:

Thursday Afternoon:	15h00 – 18h00
Friday Morning :	09h00 – 13h00

Item 4: Interactive Session.

“Non-Tariff Barriers, an impediment to Boosting Intra-African Trade and International Trade”

8. The representative on UNECA made a presentation on the effect of addressing non-tariff barriers and implementing trade facilitation measures in Africa. He highlighted that removing all the tariff barriers on intra-African trade has the effect of increasing trade within Africa from the current range of 12% to between 15% and 16%. However, the combined effect of tariff elimination and implementation of trade facilitation measures will increase intra-African trade to more than 22% in a decade. He informed the meeting of a number of trade facilitation activities that are being currently carried out in various Regional Economic Communities, particularly the Chirundu One Stop Border Post between Zambia and Zimbabwe. He added that COMESA, EAC, and SADC have developed an online system for reporting and monitoring of non-tariff barriers by business operators.

9. The representative of WTO highlighted in his presentation that since the establishment of GATT, tariffs on goods have been significantly reduced and they

continue to go down. The main obstacle to trade is now in the form of non-tariff barriers which are increasing. To be able to deal with this challenge of non-tariff barriers, African governments could consider;

- i) Engaging the private sector operators with a view to understand and document the kind of non-tariff barriers they face when exporting to other countries;
- ii) Ensuring that all non- tariff measures impeding intra Africa trade are removed and these include Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary Measures (SPS), Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), trade facilitation and cumbersome customs procedures.

10. The presenter highlighted three relevant issues for improvement of trade, which include: i) transparency on new measures being introduced by trading partners, ii) conformity assessment procedures and iii) harmonization of measures among countries. The Aid for Trade (AfT) is a relevant mechanism to acquire the adequate level of infrastructure required to conduct conformity assessment procedures and harmonize measures among countries. In requesting transparency from trading partners, African countries should be prepared to reciprocate. He also stressed the need for harmonization of procedures both regionally and globally. Finally, he noted that justifiable Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) should not be used for protectionism, but when they are used, this should be done in a way that does not disrupt trade.

11. In the discussions that followed, the following observation was made;

- i) In addition to the harmonization of standards and measures, mutual recognition agreements with major trading partners could also be used to address the problem of differences in standards among countries.

**Agenda Item 5: Presentation of the Report of Senior Officials and
Consideration of Recommendations contained therein.**

12. The Report of Senior Officials was presented by the Chair of the Meeting of Senior Officials. He dwelt mainly on the recommendations made by the Senior Officials and submitted them to the Ministers for their consideration.

13. The Conference took note of the Report in general and made the following observations and recommendations under each item:

Implementation of the Summit Decision on Boosting Intra-African Trade

i) Progress Report on the Summit Decision on Boosting Intra-African Trade

14. The meeting took note of the progress report on the Summit decision on Boosting Intra-Africa Trade and recommended that the on-going work on Rules of Origin and Non-Tariff Barriers limit itself to the collection of data and evaluation of the present situation in view of preparations for negotiations and subsequent recommendations should not pre-judge actual CFTA negotiations;

ii) Draft Strategic Framework for Implementation of the Action Plan of BIAT

15. Following some discussions, the meeting made the following recommendations:

- Member States and RECs, with the support of development partners, should deploy all necessary efforts to mainstream the Action Plan for Boosting Intra-African trade (BIAT) in national and regional plans, programs and resource allocation, taking into account existing institutional structures and arrangements at national, regional and continental levels.
- The AUC should review the Draft Strategic Framework for the implementation of the Action Plan for BIAT taking into account the comments received from Member States.

Report on the AGOA Forum

16. Following discussions, the meeting recommended that the African Union Commission, in collaboration with UNECA, should carry out a study on the implications of extending the third country fabric provision to all AGOA beneficiary countries taking due consideration of the need for regional integration, inclusiveness as well as concerns on preference erosion. However, the meeting observed that, AGOA being a unilateral initiative, the United States would need to agree to do so, even if the study shows no negative impact on the countries presently benefiting from that provision.

Review of Multilateral Trade Negotiations

i) State of Play in the WTO Negotiations

17. Following discussions, the meeting made the following recommendation:

- i) African Countries should support the candidate from Ghana for election to the position of Director General of the WTO in accordance with the Decision of the AU Summit of Heads of States and Government.

Item 6: Consideration of the Draft Declarations on WTO, EPAs and AGOA.

18. The meeting considered the Draft Declarations on WTO, EPAs and AGOA and adopted them with amendments.

Item 7: Date and Venue of the 8th Ordinary Session of the Conference of AU Ministers of Trade.

19. The Angolan delegation confirmed the hosting of the 8th Ordinary Session of the Conference of Ministers of Trade in Angola in 2013 and that an official written confirmation to the Commission would soon follow. The dates will be fixed following consultations between Angola and the AU Commission.

Item 8: Any other Business.

20. Under this item, the Ghanaian candidate for the post of Director General of the WTO, Mr. Alan Kyeremanten, introduced himself to the Ministers.

Item 9: Adoption of the Report of the Joint Ministerial Report.

21. The Conference considered its report and adopted it without amendment.

Item 10: Closure of the Meeting.

22. The Chair, Hon. Fidèle MENGUE ME ENGOUANG, Minister of SMEs, Handicraft and Trade of Gabon, thanked the Ministers and the Senior Officials for their contribution and brought the Conference to a close.

RE8716

EX.CL/768(XXII)
Annex VI

**REPORT OF THE AGRICULTURE MINISTERS' MEETING
PROCEEDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



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RE8716

**JOINT CONFERENCE OF AU
MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE AND
MINISTERS OF TRADE (JCAMA)
29-30 November 2012
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

AU/JMCAT/AG/MIN (I)

Original: English

**REPORT OF THE AGRICULTURE MINISTERS' MEETING
PROCEEDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**REPORT OF THE AGRICULTURE MINISTERS' MEETING
PROCEEDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Meeting of the AU Ministers of Agriculture of the Joint Conference of African Ministers of Agriculture and Ministers of Trade took place at the AU Commission in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 29-30 November 2012. The theme of the Joint Conference was 'Boosting Intra-African Trade: A key to agricultural transformation, and ensuring food and nutrition security'. Within this context, the Agricultural Ministerial Parallel Session deliberated on broader issues of significance to the advancement of Africa's agricultural sector as a lever for facilitating intra-regional trade and attaining food and nutrition security.

II. PARTICIPATION

2. The Following Member States of the African Union participated in the Ministerial Conference: Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Sudan Republic of Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, The Gambia, Gabon, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Namibia, Mozambique, Rwanda, Saharawi Arab Republic, Seychelles, South Africa, South Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

3. In addition, the following organisations and institutions participated in the Conference: ACTION-AID, UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), OXFAM International, UNECA, UNCTAD, WFP, African Business Roundtable, World Bank, ONE, and European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) and UN World Food Programme.

III. PRESENTATION ON THE THEME ON SUSTAINING THE CAADP MOMENTUM

4. A representative of The NEPAD Agency made a presentation on the theme 'Sustaining the CAADP Momentum' identifying the factors that underlined the endorsement of CAADP as a continental political framework and highlighted the progress and achievements since endorsement in Maputo, Mozambique in July 2003 and made the case for the need for member states to sustain this momentum.

5. The presentation further underscored the progress made noting that 42 countries have so far engaged in CAADP implementation, with 30 countries having signed the compact, 27 countries having developed the National Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plans (NAIPs) and 24 countries having held their business meetings that built consensus on implementation and financing arrangements and further noted the signing of one regional compact by the ECOWAS region.

6. Highlighting achievements on the CAADP targets, the presentation recognised the improved political commitments toward increased budgetary allocation to

agriculture noting that 8 countries had reached or surpassed the 10% budgetary allocation target, while 9 are in the 5% - 10% range and eleven (11) countries having benefited from the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP) Fund.

7. The presentation further appreciated that a decade since the endorsement of the Maputo declaration, the commitment of 10% budgetary allocation and 6% annual growth rate are still valid and must continue to be pursued in the context of sustaining the CAADP momentum and recommended the need to review these commitment to ensure they translate to enhanced implementation action to secure food and nutrition security repositioning African agriculture on the path of renewed transformation and increased momentum.

8. Noted the challenges at global and continental level confronting the continent's agricultural transformation agenda and recognised CAADP as having defined a multi-stakeholder approaches and instruments to addressing the existing challenges.

9. The presentation further took note of the need to sustain the momentum by renewing Africa's political commitment and drive to the CAADP agenda to ensure more action that provides incentives for the smallholder farmers and the private sector linked to wealth creation as a primary driver of the Agriculture sector.

IV. DISCUSSIONS ON THE THEME

10. Ministers expressed concern over the lengthy process of CAADP implementation and noted that there is a need to consider measures to fast track its implementation.

11. The meeting highlighted the importance of Monitoring and Evaluation at national level against the continental level targets and was informed that a comprehensive continental CAADP evaluation is scheduled for year 2013 and the outcomes of this evaluation will be shared with the Ministers when completed.

12. The meeting discussed the significance of wheat in Africa's food systems and the need to recognise it as a strategic commodity for the continent.

V. MINISTERIAL RESOLUTIONS:

A. Adoption of the Experts Report: The Ministers reviewed and adopted the Report of the Agriculture Experts and made the following Resolutions

B. Resolutions

We, the African Union Ministers of Agriculture meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 29th and 30th November 2012;

1. **TAKING NOTE** of the progress made by the AU Member States in the implementation of CAADP since the AU Heads of State and Government endorsed CAADP, in Maputo, Mozambique in 2003;

2. **ALSO TAKING NOTE** that as of October 2012, ?? 42 countries have formally launched the CAADP implementation process, out of which 30 have signed their national CAADP compacts, 27 have completed formulation of their National Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plans of which 24 have held their Business Meetings;
3. **COMMEND** ECOWAS for having signed its regional CAADP compact and already implementing its Regional Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plan and **RECOGNISE** the efforts being made by the other Regional Economic Communities in formulating their regional compacts and investment plans;
4. **TAKING NOTE** of the progress countries are making on the 10% of the national budgetary allocation to agriculture and 6% annual sector growth rate targets;
5. **ACKNOWLEDGING** that the country CAADP implementation process and the national Investment Plans have emerged as key rallying frameworks to take forward support to reform-based innovations, market and public policy supported advances in agriculture and agriculture-led growth and development;
6. **RECOGNISING** that many of the strides and achievements in CAADP implementation, especially with regard to policy and institutional reforms, remain fragile and that significant challenges remain for CAADP and African agriculture to be a key driver for socio-economic growth and development agenda;
7. **AWARE** that compared to the pre-2003 period, some key issues and circumstances have significantly changed including the emergence of new ones, thereby opening up new and unprecedented challenges as well as opportunities for agriculture and agriculture-led development in Africa;
8. **RECOGNISING** that trans-boundary and regional markets and trade will be critical and integral part to the success of the national agriculture development agenda;
9. **RECOGNISING** that at the core to sustain Member States' interest and commitment to CAADP will be CAADP's increased ability to catalyse and demonstrate results and impact, both in terms of productivity and competitiveness as well as in terms of sustainable development;
10. **MINDFUL** of the fact that Africa will need to take bold steps in policy and institutional reforms to strengthen and align local implementation capacity to effectively and efficiently deliver on the goals of CAADP and agricultural development;

11. **COMMENDING** the African Union Commission and the NEPAD Agency for their leadership on the exercise of “Sustaining the CAADP Momentum” to identify tangible and time-bound actions and result areas to increase delivery of results along the country and regional CAADP investment plans and programmes as well as ensure appropriate interventions and financing for consolidating the gains being made;
12. **RECALLING** that the Declaration of the Abuja Food Security Submit of December 6th 2006 which called on AU Member States to increase intra-African trade by promoting and protecting rice, maize, legumes, cotton, oil palm, beef, dairy, poultry, and fishery products as strategic commodities at continental level, and cassava, sorghum, and millet at sub-regional level without prejudice to focus on attention being given to products of national importance,
13. **RECOGNISING** the rapidly growing demand for wheat in Africa, linked to the population and income growth and a strong urbanization trend which has led to the growing ‘food gap’ in all regions, mainly met by imports of over 35 million tons per year costing over USD 12 billion per annum;.
14. **NOTING** the progress made on the 10% budget commitment to agriculture and recognising the critical role women play in Africa’s food system and the importance of targeted support to women food producers from public investment resources;
15. **RECOGNIZING** the various pledges made by development partners and AU Member State governments in investing in small-holder agriculture and appreciating the need for tracking these pledges and commitments;
16. **NOTING** that hunger and malnutrition act as a drain to socio-economic development, and considering the capacity of Africa’s diverse ecology and agricultural production system to provide healthy and nutritious food;
17. **RECALLING** the Sirte Declaration of 2009 on Land Issues and Challenges in Africa that requested the Commission in collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities and the African Development Bank to establish an appropriate institutional framework to provide coordination of follow up activities and facilitate mutual learning by Member States as they develop/review their land policies in accordance with the Framework and Guideline.

UNDERTAKE TO:

18. **DEDICATE** even more efforts for strengthened leadership and ownership in directing and championing the drive on CAADP and African agriculture based on Africa’s own socio-economic growth and development priorities and agenda;
19. **RECOMMIT** to the CAADP Vision and specifically to continue upholding the CAADP targets of 10% annual public expenditure budget to

agriculture and 6% annual productivity growth rate as valid and visionary targets in pursuing the CAADP agenda and promoting agriculture-led development;

20. **DEVELOP** a mechanism for gender based budgeting and gender disaggregated budget beneficiaries to measure impact of budgetary expenditure on smallholder farmers and vulnerable groups especially women and youths;
21. **ADOPT** an annual accountability mechanism to capture actions on commitments made and serve as an instrument for resource mobilisation for CAADP;
22. **FURTHER STRENGTHEN** and use the CAADP Compacts and the Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plans and Programmes as primary instruments to foster implementation and reforms in policies and institutions including strengthening knowledge support and accountability systems as well as urging systematic and coherent alignment in development assistance and engagement with the business sector;
23. **CRITICALLY REVIEW** and facilitate reforms and increase investment financing to strengthen national-level institutions and systems for knowledge and expert support to the policy and programme design processes, including strengthening and aligning capacity to analyse and generate technical data-information;
24. **ENGAGE** partners and stakeholders to identify and facilitate innovative and domestic-based investment financing with clear link to agricultural development strategies and policies aligned towards wealth creation and retention, employment and incomes, food security and poverty alleviation for local communities;
25. **AUGMENT** implementation capacity in national and community agriculture development programmes by facilitating and supporting interventions empowering women and youth through increased access to knowledge and information, credit and production resources including land, water and skills development and sharing good practices between Member States;
26. **ESTABLISH** mechanisms for ensuring that the gender dimensions of agricultural development activities are tracked and assessed as part of CAADP's long-term strategy;
27. **RECOMMIT** to review and define an agriculture science agenda in an effort to enable Africa respond better to current and future needs in knowledge, science and technologies;
28. **ENDORSE** the outcomes of the Wheat for Food Security Conference held in 8-12 October 2012 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and resolve to

include wheat among the African strategic commodities for achieving food and nutrition security in Africa;

- 29. DEVELOP** and employ strategies for ensuring nutrition security with a special focus on vulnerable, undernourished and malnourished communities through production of diversified and/or bio-fortified foods by supporting the 'Scaling Up Nutrition in Africa Initiative' and its integration into the CAADP agenda;
- 30. MAKE** effective use of the services of the Land Policy Initiative Secretariat established to support Member States with respect to strengthening and/or developing respective land policies and strategies within the Framework of the AU Land Policy and Guidelines in Africa.

CALLS UPON

- 31.** The Africa Union Commission, the NEPAD Agency and the World Economic Forum that are jointly leading the Grow Africa initiative to develop a clear strategy and roadmap to expand this initiative to other Member States as well as the establishment of a mechanism to support the strengthening of domestic private investment into African agriculture. Grow Africa initiative is catalysing increased business sector investment financing to agriculture;
- 32.** The AU Commission and NEPAD Agency to provide leadership in elaborating appropriate tools, analytical works and information support on the "10% Maputo Decision" in terms of:
 - Determining which aspects in agriculture within a national circumstance will provide best opportunity to realize optimal value from public sector budget investments;
 - Linking more clearly and objectively public sector investments to results, impact and value-for-money; and
 - Determine the most optimal levels of public sector investment in agriculture taking into account progress in economic and GDP growth.
- 33.** The AU Commission, the NEPAD Agency and Regional Economic Communities to support Agriculture Ministries to strengthen engagement with Finance and Planning Ministries on the issues of budget allocation;
- 34.** The NEPAD Agency to accelerate the operationalization of the Knowledge, Information and Skills (KIS) support systems and ensure expanded access to expert backstopping in country and regional processes defining implementation arrangements for development programmes identified in the Investment Plans;

- 35.** The African Union Commission, the NEPAD Agency and Regional Economic Communities and their Partners including the UNECA and FAO to prioritise analytical support for defining agricultural policies and associated investment strategies aimed at positioning agriculture as a source for national wealth and gainful youth employment and enable Africa to strategically position itself in the face of heightened global food demand and advances in bio-fuel;
- 36.** The AU Commission, the NEPAD Agency, the Regional Economic Communities and their Partners to provide necessary backstopping analysis and empirical support to Member States for championing trans-boundary and regional market and trade investment programmes with a focus on implementation, results and impact;
- 37.** The Regional Economic Communities to accelerate development and implementation of the regional CAADP Compacts and Investment Plans and ensure that this is providing the empirical and business case and framework to support Member States identify, negotiate and leverage increased public-private investment financing to agriculture-based regional/trans-boundary trade initiatives, including trans-boundary investment corridors;
- 38.** The African Union Commission, the NEPAD Agency, the Regional Economic Communities and their partners at all levels to facilitate appropriate support to local and community level State and Non-State constituencies, including farmer organisations, in building informed citizenry 'voice' as an integral part of social capital geared at enhancing local ownership and responsibility;
- 39.** The NEPAD Agency to provide leadership on desired analytical work and strategic thinking and, through the CAADP implementation process, make access to Member States and regional initiatives technical and political economy data and information to support evidence-based historical and prospective analysis of the challenges and opportunities in key national, continental and global drivers of change;
- 40.** The NEPAD Agency and Regional Economic Communities to support AU Member States to integrate in their national policies and investment plans and programmes interventions to strengthen resilience and risk management - including capacity for prospective analysis to anticipate shocks;
- 41.** The Commission and NEPAD Agency to commission studies with extensive consultations with Member States and RECs to develop an African food sovereignty policy framework and strategy;
- 42.** The farmer organisations, through their continental, regional and national level institutions, to embrace and facilitate desired reforms and ensure the farming community is functioning in the agriculture value chain and

positioned to champion business-oriented agriculture that pursues higher levels of productivity and competitiveness in a globalised world;

- 43.** The African Union Commission, the NEPAD Agency and Regional Economic Communities to immediately ensure the necessary implementation issues and arrangements, including harnessing the collaborations and partnerships with development partner institutions and governments are defined and CAADP support, is aligned in a manner consistent with NEPAD principles;
- 44.** The African Union Commission, the NEPAD Agency and Regional Economic Communities to define and facilitate endorsement by Member States of specific continental-level targets on a set of major actions and results areas over the next ten years within the context of celebrating the ten years anniversary of CAADP and within the efforts to take forward the outcomes of the Sustaining CAADP momentum,. This should also define clear indicators and tracking systems aimed at supporting impact assessment, accountability and learning, including the area of measures to improve the function of regional food markets;
- 45.** The African Union Commission and the NEPAD agency to develop national guidelines to support Member States proactively and effectively manage a transparent and balanced relationship between mining and agriculture developments so as to ensure that mining does not undermine but, catalyses CAADP objectives locally and nationally;
- 46.** The AU Commission, the NEPAD Agency and Regional Economic Communities to ensure that the policy, institutional and implementation issues as well as the thematic considerations raised in this declaration inform and are integral to Africa's engagement in defining the post-2015-MDG and sustainable development agenda; and
- 47.** The AU Commission to report regularly on the status of implementation of these Decisions.

VI. Adoption of the Ministers' Report

- 13.** The Ministers reviewed and adopted the report. Rwanda moved for the adoption which was seconded by Liberia.

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Annex VII

DECLARATION OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE

DECLARATION OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE

We, the African Union Ministers of Agriculture meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 29th and 30th November 2012;

1. **TAKING NOTE** of the progress made by the AU Member States in the implementation of CAADP since the AU Heads of State and Government endorsed CAADP, in Maputo, Mozambique in 2003;
2. **ALSO TAKING NOTE** that as of October 2012, 42 countries have formally launched the CAADP implementation process, out of which 30 have signed their national CAADP compacts, 27 have completed formulation of their National Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plans of which 24 have held their Business Meetings;
3. **COMMENDING ECOWAS** for having signed its regional CAADP compact and already implementing its Regional Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plan and **RECOGNISING** the efforts being made by the other Regional Economic Communities in formulating their regional compacts and investment plans;
4. **TAKING NOTE** of the progress countries are making on the 10% of the national budgetary allocation to agriculture and 6% annual sector growth rate targets;
5. **ACKNOWLEDGING** that the country CAADP implementation process and the national Investment Plans have emerged as key rallying frameworks to take forward support to reform-based innovations, market and public policy supported advances in agriculture and agriculture-led growth and development;
6. **RECOGNISING** that many of the strides and achievements in CAADP implementation, especially with regard to policy and institutional reforms, remain fragile and that significant challenges remain for CAADP and African agriculture to be a key driver for socio-economic growth and development agenda;
7. **AWARE** that compared to the pre-2003 period, some key issues and circumstances have significantly changed including the emergence of new ones, thereby opening up new and unprecedented challenges as well as opportunities for agriculture and agriculture-led development in Africa;
8. **RECOGNISING** that trans-boundary and regional markets and trade will be critical and integral part to the success of the national agriculture development agenda;
9. **RECOGNISING** that at the core of sustaining Member States' interest and commitment to CAADP will be CAADP's increased ability to catalyse and demonstrate results and impact, both in terms of productivity and competitiveness as well as in terms of sustainable development;

10. **MINDFUL** of the fact that Africa will need to take bold steps in policy and institutional reforms to strengthen and align local implementation capacity to effectively and efficiently deliver on the goals of CAADP and agricultural development;
11. **COMMENDING** the African Union Commission and the NEPAD Agency for their leadership on the exercise of “Sustaining the CAADP Momentum” to identify tangible and time-bound actions and result areas to increase delivery of results along the country and regional CAADP investment plans and programmes as well as ensure appropriate interventions and financing for consolidating the gains being made;
12. **RECALLING** that the Declaration of the Abuja Food Security Summit of December 6th 2006 which called on AU Member States to increase intra-African trade by promoting and protecting rice, maize, legumes, cotton, oil palm, beef, dairy, poultry, and fishery products as strategic commodities at continental level, and cassava, sorghum, and millet at sub-regional level without prejudice to focus on attention being given to products of national importance;
13. **RECOGNISING** the rapidly growing demand for wheat in Africa, linked to the population and income growth and a strong urbanization trend which has led to the growing ‘food gap’ in all regions, mainly met by imports of over 35 million tons per year costing over USD 12 billion per annum;
14. **RECOGNISING** the critical role women play in Africa’s food system and the importance of targeted support to women food producers from public investment resources;
15. **RECOGNIZING** the various pledges made by development partners and AU Member State Governments in investing in small-holder agriculture and appreciating the need for tracking these pledges and commitments;
16. **NOTING** that hunger and malnutrition act as a drain to socio-economic development, and considering the capacity of Africa’s diverse ecology and agricultural production system to provide healthy and nutritious food;
17. **RECALLING** the Sirte Declaration of 2009 on Land Issues and Challenges in Africa that requested the Commission in collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities and the African Development Bank to establish an appropriate institutional framework to provide coordination of follow up activities and facilitate mutual learning by Member States as they develop/review their land policies in accordance with the Framework and Guideline.

UNDERTAKE TO,

18. **DEDICATE** even more efforts for strengthened leadership and ownership in directing and championing the drive on CAADP and African

agriculture based on Africa's own socio-economic growth and development priorities and agenda;

19. **RECOMMIT** to the CAADP Vision and specifically to continue upholding the CAADP targets of 10% annual public expenditure budget to agriculture and 6% annual productivity growth rate as valid and visionary targets in pursuing the CAADP agenda and promoting agriculture-led development;
20. **DEVELOP** a mechanism for gender based budgeting and gender disaggregated budget beneficiaries to measure the impact of budgetary expenditure on smallholder farmers and vulnerable groups especially women and youths
21. **ADOPT** an annual accountability mechanism to capture actions on commitments made and serve as an instrument for resource mobilisation for CAADP
22. **FURTHER STRENGTHEN** and use the CAADP Compacts and the Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plans and Programmes as primary instruments to foster implementation and reforms in policies and institutions including strengthening knowledge support and accountability systems as well as urging systematic and coherent alignment in development assistance and engagement with the business sector;
23. **CRITICALLY REVIEW** and facilitate reforms and increase investment financing to strengthen national-level institutions and systems for knowledge and expert support to the policy and programme design processes, including strengthening and aligning capacity to analyse and generate technical data-information;
24. **ENGAGE** partners and stakeholders to identify and facilitate innovative and domestic-based investment financing with clear link to agricultural development strategies and policies aligned towards wealth creation and retention, employment and incomes, food security and poverty alleviation for local communities;
25. **AUGMENT** implementation capacity in national and community agriculture development programmes by facilitating and supporting interventions empowering women and youth through increased access to knowledge and information, credit and production resources including land, water and skills development and sharing good practices between Member States;
26. **ESTABLISH** mechanisms for ensuring that the gender dimensions of agricultural development activities are tracked and assessed as part of CAADP's long-term strategy;
27. **RECOMMIT** to review and define an agriculture science agenda in an effort to enable Africa respond better to current and future needs in knowledge, science and technologies;

28. **ENDORSE** the outcomes of the Wheat for Food Security Conference held in 8-12 October 2012 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and resolve to include wheat among the African strategic commodities for achieving food and nutrition security in Africa;
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30. **MAKE** effective use of the services of the Land Policy Initiative Secretariat established to support Member States with respect to strengthening and/or developing respective land policies and strategies within the Framework of the AU Land Policy and Guidelines in Africa.

CALL UPON,

31. The African Union Commission, the NEPAD Agency and the World Economic Forum that are jointly leading the Grow Africa initiative to develop a clear strategy and roadmap to expand this initiative to other Member States as well as the establishment of a mechanism to support the strengthening of domestic private investment into African agriculture; (Grow Africa initiative is catalysing increased business sector investment financing to agriculture);
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40. The NEPAD Agency and Regional Economic Communities to support AU Member States to integrate in their national policies and investment plans and programmes interventions to strengthen resilience and risk management - including capacity for prospective analysis to anticipate shocks;
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47. The AU Commission to report regularly on the status of implementation of these Decisions.

Done in Addis Ababa 30 November 2012

2013

Report of the AU joint conference of ministers of agriculture and ministers of trade Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 26 – 30 November 2012

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