Tenth Session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

“Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions”

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Zero Hunger: Progress and key policy options

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Undernourishment prevalence: Totally off track
Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in Africa: Prevalence is rather increasing
Share of government expenditure on the agriculture sector: Steadily declining
Nutrition: Weak performance despite slight improvement

Stunting:

• A decrease in the prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years of age in Africa, declining from 34.4 per cent in 2012 to 30.0% in 2022.

• Africa still falls short of achieving the nutrition goals of Sustainable Development Goal 2 by 2030.

• Absolute number of children affected by stunting in Africa has increased, from 61 million in 2012 to 63 million in 2022.

• The pace of progress in reducing stunting is insufficient, mere 1.3% in 2022.

• The overall decline in the prevalence of stunting conceals subregional disparities.

• The prevalence of stunting in Africa remains the highest compared with other regions.
Several challenges, including:

1. Inadequate implementations of development policies, programs, regulations etc

2. Vulnerability to climate shocks and other extreme weather events

3. Increasing debt levels; and lack of quality investment in agric sector/rural development

4. Insufficient breadth and depth of partnerships

5. Gaps in data, info and technology needed to monitor progress and inform decisions

6. Transboundary pests and diseases, high post-harvest losses and low value addition

7. Conflict, civil insecurity and political instability
Opportunities

1. Population dividend and increasing middle income

2. Reaffirmed political commitment and strengthened calls for reform including the re-design of the post Malabo agenda

3. Renewed calls for climate financing for agriculture and food security

4. Movement from silos to systems with active participation of the private sector

4. Leveraging interregional trade, South-South Cooperation, regional initiatives and food systems pathways

5. Innovations and increased access to technologies especially by the youth in agriculture
Key Policy Options

A. Unleash the power of policies, regulations and institutions

B. Scale up physical and digital infrastructure

C. Build resilience to climate shocks

D. Mobilize adequate resources including through domestic financing and PP partnership

E. Enhance data-related capacity and infrastructure

F. Seize opportunities emerging from technology, innovation, regional integration

G. Secure political, institutional and financial commitment and national leadership

H. Unleash the power of smallholder farmers, youth and women groups
Africa needs to build on existing success stories, including by:

(a) Implementing and continuously refining policies and institutions to create a business and public service environment conducive to the realization of the right to food for all;

(b) Investing in infrastructure development;

(c) Building resilience to shocks, including the long-term effects of climate change, and adopting sustainable farming practices;

(d) Tapping into opportunities unleashed by technological advancement, innovative solutions and partnerships;

(e) Adopting a holistic, multisectoral approach to advancing agrifood system transformation and the other five transitions that are required to ensure food and nutrition security for all; and

(f) Boosting enablers within the African context, including peace building, securing land rights, women’s empowerment, agricultural mechanization, implementation of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area, agri-entrepreneurship, regional value chains and agro-industrialization through agro-parks.

Key message: Lay the groundwork for agricultural transformation from within
THANK YOU!

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