

January 2014

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FAO Regional Conference for Africa

TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION

Tunis, Tunisia, 24-28 March 2014

DECLARATION AND ROAD MAP OF THE HIGH LEVEL MEETING “TOWARDS AFRICAN RENAISSANCE : RENEWED PARTNERSHIP FOR A UNIFIED APPROACH TO END HUNGER IN AFRICA BY 2025 UNDER THE FRAMEWORK OF THE COMPREHENSIVE AFRICA AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME”

Table of Contents

- I. Introduction and background
- II. Opportunity for change
- III. New partnership to eradicate hunger
- IV. Expected outcomes of new partnership

Executive summary

African and International Leaders, met in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia for a three days meeting (29th June to 1st July 2013) on hunger eradication under the theme “*Toward African Renaissance: Renewed Partnership for Unified Approach to End Hunger in Africa within the CAADP Framework*”. The High-Level Meeting (HLM) convened by the African Union Commission (AUC), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Instituto Lula (IL) of Brazil aimed to agree on a common set of principles and concrete actions to eradicate hunger and malnutrition in Africa. The meeting attended by over 400 delegates from about 40 countries from Africa, Asia and Latin America provided a unique platform to share, exchange and define strategies through multi-stakeholder dialogue sessions that brought together State and non- State actors.

Delegates adopted the Declaration and Roadmap for ending hunger in Africa by 2025 that calls for: (i) a combination of policies on sustainable agricultural development and social protection instruments to eradicate hunger; (ii) the need to mobilize internal budgetary resources for programmes intended to set hunger eradication as political objectives; (iii) recognizing the role of a renewed partnership bringing together state, non-state and communities in the common fight to eradicate hunger.

The HLM decisions were presented to the January 2014 African Union Summit where the commitment to end hunger on the continent by 2025 was adopted. Currently, actions in the initial group of four countries (Angola, Ethiopia, Malawi, and Niger) towards full implementation are in progress. Members also resolved to every three years honor countries and stakeholders who make significant progress or contributions toward ending hunger in Africa.

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Matters to be brought to the attention of the Regional Conference

The Regional Conference could address recommendations exhorting the governments of all countries to progressively secure increased funding for the goal of ending hunger through reallocation of additional public resources identified by rigorous reviews and adjustment of public budget priorities and spending efficiency as well as to increase domestic investment in this endeavour through policies that encourage private sector engagement.

Further attention could also be devoted to the new partnership- Performance targets related to hunger:

- i. Eliminate hunger and poverty by 2025, i.e. in the same timeframe as that adopted for the Sustaining CAADP Momentum (SCM) process;
- ii. Reducing hunger by 40 per cent by 2017 in the countries of full implementation of the partnership's approach;
- iii. Improve access to food all year round reducing the need for this to come from external food aid within 10 years;
- iv. Prioritisation of the need to defeat stunting, especially in children of under 2 years, and to nutrition of pregnant women and early childhood;
- v. Doubling the productivity of staples within 5 - 10 years, without compromising the environmental sustainability of farming systems; and
- vi. Achieving food waste levels no worse than global averages, with ambitions to further minimise them rapidly.

I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1. The 27th Session of the Regional Conference for Africa (Brazzaville, Congo, 2012) encouraged FAO to collaborate with regional and continental partners in the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) process as well as facilitation of cross country and peer learning.
2. The African Union Commission (AUC), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Instituto Lula (IL) of Brazil- with the political patronage and inspiration of former Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula Da Silva convened a High-Level Meeting (HLM) under the theme “*Toward African Renaissance: Renewed Partnership for Unified Approach to End Hunger in Africa by 2025 within the CAADP Framework*”. The three days meeting attended by over 400 delegates from over 40 countries aimed to agree on a common set of principles and concrete actions to eradicate hunger and malnutrition in Africa.
3. The meeting, commenced with the multi-stakeholder dialogue on 29th June, a Ministerial session on 30th June and the Heads of State and Government session on 1st July 2013. The inclusive dialogue facilitated governments and other stakeholders to share experiences and practices, identify key priority areas for eradicating hunger, and to define strategies for engaging in a Renewed Partnership for Ending Hunger in Africa building on CAADP successes.

II OPPORTUNITY FOR CHANGE

4. African and International Leaders had a unique opportunity in one seating to discuss strategies from African and non- African states on eradicating hunger. Case examples from Angola, Brazil, China, Ethiopia, Malawi, Niger and Vietnam among others were presented and extensively discussed. The role of high level political commitment was emphasized while the re-prioritization of national budgets towards hunger eradication emerged as key ingredient in efforts to eradicate hunger.
5. Recognizing that the hungry often constitute a segment of the society with very low ability to organise African and International Leaders in attendance, adopted a Declaration for ending hunger in Africa by 2025. The Declaration takes cognizant of the diverse impact of hunger and malnutrition on the African economies and calls for:
 - i. A combination of policies on sustainable agricultural development and social protection instruments to eradicate hunger;
 - ii. The need to mobilize internal budgetary resources for programmes intended to transform the food production sector, and to set hunger eradication and institution development as political objectives.
 - iii. The recognition of the role of a renewed partnership bringing together state, non-state and communities in the common fight to eradicate hunger.
6. The declaration reaffirms the goals of the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) framework and commits to a Roadmap to be implemented primarily with Africa’s own resources and calls upon Development Partners to strengthen their partnerships in the goal to eradicate hunger.
7. The leaders committed to honour every three years, countries and stakeholders who make significant progress or contributions toward ending hunger.

8. The decisions of the HLM were presented to the January 2014 African Union Assembly, where the decision to commit towards ending hunger on the continent by 2025 was adopted.

III. NEW PARTNERSHIP TO ERADICATE HUNGER

9. The HLM underlined that eradication of hunger transcends the scope and mandates of individual ministries (such as Ministries of Agriculture, Rural Developments or even Finance). Therefore, a strong coordinating mechanism at the highest level is necessary to facilitate anticipated actions.

10. To this end, the HLM requested AUC, FAO and the Lula Institute, with the full engagement of Non-state actors to support the building of the Renewed Partnership to end hunger in Africa by 2025. The New Partnership should among others:

- i. Strengthen South-South Cooperation,
- ii. Establish multi-stakeholders platform within the countries for dialogue on key food security related matters at the regional and national level,
- iii. Monitor/assess progress on the 2025 target,
- iv. Honour every three years countries/stakeholders making progress in eradicating hunger

11. Two working committees guiding support to Member States in the adoption, adaptation and up-scaling of best practices, as appropriate have been established under the partnership.

12. Planning for implementation at full scale is underway in the four initial countries - Angola, Ethiopia, Malawi, and Niger with a generic road map for Africa to pursue this approach developed.

13. The HLM meeting while endorsing the African Solidarity Trust called on the fund to support the new partnership actions and programmes

14. The HLM extorts upon partners to join hands with governments in supplementing internal efforts to eradicate hunger in the continent.

IV. EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF NEW PARTNERSHIP

15. The expected outcomes of the new partnership-Performance targets related to hunger are:

- i. Eliminate hunger and poverty by 2025, i.e. in the same timeframe as that adopted for the Sustaining CAADP Momentum (SCM) process;
- ii. Reducing hunger by 40 percent by 2017 in the countries of full implementation of the partnership's approach;
- iii. Improve access to food all year round reducing the need for this to come from external food aid within 10 years;
- iv. Prioritisation of the need to defeat stunting, especially in children of under 2 years, and to nutrition of pregnant women and early childhood;
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