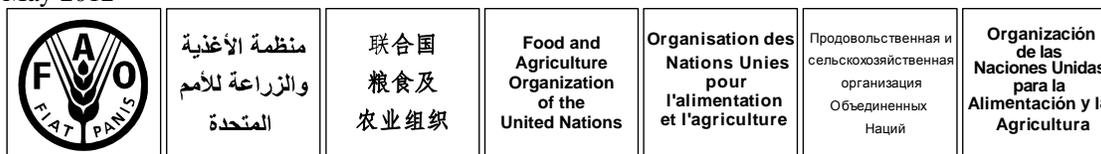


May 2012



FAO Regional Conference for Africa

TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION

Brazzaville, Congo, 23-27 April 2012

DECLARATION OF BRAZZAVILLE

We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegation of Member States of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and of Civil Society Organizations, convened in Brazzaville on 26-27 April 2012, in the 27th Session of FAO's Regional Conference for Africa:

- Recalling our countries commitments for the 2003 Maputo Declaration, particularly the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) as well as the Africa-owned and regional- and country-led frameworks for agriculture and food security,;
- Noting the continued food insecurity on the continent and the need to strengthen our efforts towards eliminating the scourges of hunger and malnutrition;
- Reaffirming our resolve to continue supporting and strengthening rural communities and institutions in their efforts to ensure preparedness and build resilience to reduce risks and vulnerability to disasters;
- Reaffirming our commitment to following a twin-track approach to development, aimed at meeting the immediate needs of vulnerable populations whilst building long-term resilience and food security and nutrition;
- Recognising the particular challenges faced by women, youth, smallholder farmers, pastoralists and fisherfolk;
- Reaffirming our continued support to build strong and lasting partnerships to better coordinate efforts to most effectively address the challenges of climate change;
- Affirming that agriculture growth is a necessary condition for peace and stability, which are fundamental conditions for food security and nutrition, poverty alleviation and sustainable development;

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- Recalling the outcomes of the World Food Summit and the commitments made by the G8 in L'Aquila, Italy, to allocate USD 22.2 billion in support of global food security and nutrition, of which almost USD 1 billion was allocated to the Global Agriculture Food Security and Programme (GAFSP) to jump-started the CAADP process; and
- Recalling the outcomes and commitments made at the High Level meeting convened by the FAO in Rome in July 2011, the Experts meeting held in Rome in August 2011 to prepare for the AU Pledging Conference, the AU Pledging Conference held in Addis Ababa in August 2011, the UEMOA high level meeting on food security held in Niamey in February 2012, the IGAD /EAC Summits in Nairobi in September 2011 and the joint IGAD Ministerial and High-level development partners meeting on drought resilience in the Horn of Africa in Nairobi in April 2012.

Therefore, hereby commit to fight hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity by:

- leading the development and implementing of national policies, strategies, programmes and budgets that promote human wellbeing and broad-based economic development;
 - promoting increased access by small farmers, especially women to finance and other productive resources to enhance agricultural productivity;
 - supporting the process of endorsement of Voluntary Guidelines on the Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the context of National Food Security being considered by the Committee on World Food Security;
 - providing space for meaningful participation of civil society, the private sector and other partners in development; and
 - promoting evidence-based decision making, capitalizing on lessons learned through effective policy and investment monitoring and evaluation systems;
 - elaboration of an innovative financing mechanism for investment and emergency responses funded through a percentage share of petroleum export revenues in some African countries;
- Support and promote increased South-South cooperation in the development of Africa's agriculture
 - Encourage national governments to support and promote the development, adoption and implementation of CAADP Compacts and National Agriculture Investment Plans (NAIPs) and and invite the participation of development partners in the internal and external resources mobilization for the implementation of investment plans;
 - Support the decentralization of decision making and FAO related resources aimed at providing effective and efficient services to the member countries;

Urge the closest possible cooperation between the FAO, the African Union as well as regional organisations and member states in pursuing the development goals and objectives of the continent relating to agriculture, food security and nutrition and call in this regard on the FAO to strengthen the liaison office in Addis Ababa

- Call for continuous communication between the Regional Office for Africa, member states and the FAO Africa Group in Rome in terms of follow-up, implementation and preparations for FAO Regional Conferences for Africa;
- Appeal urgently for an African solidarity movement with the Saharo-Sahelian countries which are suffering the severe consequences of a crisis caused by political, security, climatic and food-related factors.
- Support increased and responsible private sector investment in agriculture and downstream activities, particularly through Public-Private Partnerships while safeguarding the rights of local communities;
- Call for the strengthening of capacity of local and regional institutions in order to fulfill their development mandate;
- Strongly urge all parties to honour their pledges in supports of agricultural development and food security and nutrition, despite the economic crisis the world is experiencing;
- In preparing for and responding to humanitarian disasters, we resolve to:
 - work towards mitigating future humanitarian disasters in vulnerable areas, such as the Horn of Africa and the Sahel Region;
 - strengthen the long-term resilience of disaster affected communities whilst addressing the immediate humanitarian needs of the populations;
 - further enhance regional and global cooperation;

Thank the Government and people of the Republic of Congo for their warm hospitality and for hosting the 27th FAO Africa Regional Conference.