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Africa Regional Group Statement

50th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

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Item VII Boosting Responsible Investment in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems

Chairperson,

1. The statement is delivered on behalf of the Africa Regional Group by South Africa, Algeria, Mozambique, and Republic of the Congo.
2. The Secretariat is thanked for its background paper on monitoring the use and application of the CFS Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems and the contribution made by the panellist on the use and application of these principles is highly appreciated.
3. The Africa Regional Group recognises the value of the universal application and use of these CFS Principles and notes that the Secretariat's analysis highlights several good practices that contributed to the continued successful use of these Principles.
4. The engagement with African Member States is welcomed that resulted in, for example, the review and adoption of legal frameworks and development of action plans consistent with these Principles, capacity building and the empowerment of youth in responsible investments.
5. These engagements reinforce the believe of the Africa Regional Group that continued efforts to raise awareness of these principles, including in relation to government

stakeholders, financing institutions, business enterprises and parliamentarians, as well as strengthened capacity building programmes will facilitate the continued uptake of these Principles in Africa.

6. The global impact of the COVID pandemic and conflicts have led to increased food insecurity, especially in Africa, and which is also aggravated by high food prices and the negative impact of climate change on agricultural production.
7. This highlights the importance of the first principle that responsible investment should contribute to food security and nutrition, which is urgently needed.
8. In this context, the African Development Bank has recently issued a USD 100 million 7-year “Feed Africa” Theme Bond, which aims to increase food production in Africa, in addition to its existing 2017 roadmap to grow agriculture in African countries by providing USD \$24 billion over 10 years to build roads and agriculture related infrastructure.
9. To effectively deal with food insecurity and to end hunger and malnutrition on the Continent, the aim of Africa is to become a net food exporter as outlined in the Feed Africa strategy of the African Development Bank.
10. The Africa Regional Group also attaches importance to principles 3 and 4 on gender equality, women’s empowerment and on the engagement of youth. In this regard, the Group looks forward to the completion of the process that could lead to the adoption of CFS Gender Guidelines and welcomes the adoption of the CFS Policy Recommendations on Youth. These voluntary instruments will complement the CFS Principles for Responsible Investment leading to increased food security and better nutrition, and accelerating the transformation of food systems on the continent.
11. With these comments, the Africa Regional Group takes note of the Secretariat’s analysis of the use and application of the CFS Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems and supports the continued monitoring of the use of these Principles and strengthened activities to facilitate their application.

I thank you, Chairperson