



**Report of the Contact Group on
Agriculture, Food Security and Food Safety
20 April 2015, Brussels**

With a view to better coordinating our implementation of the objectives and ambitions of the Roadmap pertaining to agriculture policy, embracing all kinds of farming, pastoralism and fisheries, the Contact Group on Agriculture, Food Security and Food Safety has met to address issues related to African agricultural policy priorities and EU support thereof. This cooperation aims to achieve the objectives of the 2014 AU Malabo Declarations, facilitating value-adding and access to markets for agricultural producers, including in the field of sanitary and phytosanitary matters, sustainable use of fisheries resources, and cooperation on research and innovation in relation to food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture.

Under the priority area on 'Sustainable and inclusive development and growth and continental integration', sustainable agriculture remains central to the achievement of the development aims with a view to building self-reliance and transforming Africa's agriculture for shared prosperity. The African Union Commission and the European Commission welcome the AU's renewed commitments obtained in the 2014 Malabo Declarations, namely the Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods and the Declaration on Nutrition Security for Inclusive Economic Growth and Sustainable Development in Africa.

The Contact Group recommends the following Conclusions for the attention and consideration of the Commissioners', on the occasion of the College-to-College meeting on 22 April 2015 within the Agriculture, Environment and Science, Technology and Innovation Cluster Group:

1. We welcome the steps taken towards implementing the 2014 Malabo Declarations. We shall focus our agricultural cooperation taking into account the work programme elaborated for the Implementation Strategy and Roadmap to achieve the 2025 vision on the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). We will align our work with the thematic areas outlined in the CAADP work programme covering: ending hunger and malnutrition, inclusive agricultural growth and transformation, boosting intra-African trade, building resilience in livelihoods & production systems to climate variability. Our actions, in particular through the Pan-African programme, will be guided by the principles of coherence, complementarity and subsidiarity as well as affirmative action on women that comes to the fore in line with the Malabo Declarations.

2. We agree on various areas of policy cooperation for contributing to the previous aims in point 1. On the Malabo commitment on boosting intra-African and international trade, we consider that facilitation of private investment in agriculture, agri-business and agro-industries, by giving priority to local investors, is essential to deliver on the trade ambitions of tripling intra-African trade by 2025.
3. Furthermore, the Partners encourage investments in new partnerships between African and EU agribusinesses in order to enhance private investment in agriculture, agri-business and agro-industries to triple intra-African trade by 2025 and boost exports to the international market. Such a new engagement would build on partnerships with local African farmers' organisations in order to foster an increase of fair, intra-regional, inter-regional and global trade in agricultural products. In moving forward in the agenda of strengthening agribusiness development in Africa, the parties agree to co-host the high-level conference on investment in the agricultural sector at the Expo Milano on 15 October 2015.
4. Partners recall that the sustainable development of agricultural production in Africa must provide opportunities for economic growth. They also recognise the importance of enhancing investment in agriculture with the aim of creating the necessary and appropriate policy, and institutional conditions and support systems for farmers, processors and all operators in the agricultural and agro-food sectors. We will work together to organise a high-level event on Agricultural Finance in the margins of the United Nations Financing for Development Conference to be held in July 2015 in Addis Ababa.
5. We shall prioritise Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) policy development and policy harmonisation taking note of the steps taken by the African Union Commission to harmonize trade policies, work towards a Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA), develop a continental SPS strategy and further put in place an African Food Safety Authority (AFSA). The EU avails itself to share its experience in AUC's ambition to establish AFSA. As a consequence, the AU and the EU intend to collaborate on a multi-step approach towards assisting setting up an AU Food Safety Management Coordination Mechanism, leading to the future establishment of an operational AFSA. To address continuing need for training and capacity building in the sanitary and phytosanitary area, we shall explore the options to build on the "Better Training for Safer Food" (BTSF) programme that is scheduled to continue during 2015, focusing both on strengthening plant health management systems and on food safety in Africa showcasing how food hygiene can be mainstreamed into food law and can foster intra-regional trade.
6. We will continue to collaboratively develop and implement joint approaches to nutrition targets as a mechanism of resilience by building on existing information systems and analytical tools developed for supporting national policy decision making processes (Nutrition Integrated Phase Classification, resilience index, etc.). In this regard, we welcome the Global Alliance for Resilience Initiative (AGIR) platform whose objective is to structurally reduce, in a sustainable manner, food and nutritional vulnerability by supporting the implementation of Sahelian and West

African policies. This kind of initiative will constitute important frameworks to promote food-reserve mechanisms and agriculture risk-management instruments.

7. We acknowledge the particular need to improve research, innovation, training and transfer of technology through dissemination, for farmers' benefit. We applaud the progress made since the EU-Africa Summit 2014 in working towards a jointly funded EU-Africa Research and Innovation Partnership with a focus on food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture. The European and African Commissions are working hand-in-hand with several member states on both sides through the well-established EU-Africa High Level Policy Dialogue on science, technology and innovation. This Research and Innovation Partnership responds to our respective policy goals for agriculture and food systems as set out in the EU's Common Agricultural Policy and the long-term AU Agenda 2063 with its key instruments, namely the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA 2024) and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). Meeting our objectives depends very much on scientific progress, its adequacy to local conditions, institutional set-ups to promote innovations and up-scaling and on research and innovation capacities. Cooperation between Europe and Africa in this domain is of clear added value as sharing, adaptation and implementation of research results and innovation supporting global food security will reduce the fragmentation of our investments. Following the above, the European Commission and the African Union Commission have agreed to mobilise adequate resources for the implementation of this Research and Innovation Partnership and motivate their member states to do likewise.
8. We will further continue to work together in implementing the 2009 AU Declaration on Land using the Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa (F&G) and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in 2012. The AU Land Policy Initiative will remain an entry point to promote more equal and secure access to land in particular for small scale female and male farmers as well as efficient and environmentally sustainable use of natural resources. Further to this we will promote the application of the "Principles of Responsible Investment into Agricultural and Food systems (RAI)" as endorsed by CFS in 2014. We consider responsible investment in agriculture and food systems is essential for enhancing food security and nutrition and sustainable livelihoods, in particular for smallholders, for promoting social participation and inclusiveness, for increasing economic growth, and therefore for achieving sustainable development.
9. We will renew our policy dialogue on value adding schemes including the development of an AU Continental Framework on Geographical Indications and agree to include origin marketing and other value-adding schemes within the high level conference we intend to co-host during the Expo-Milano in October 2015.
10. We shall continue to support development of the organic sector and adoption of internationally compatible organic rules in Africa. With a view to facilitating access to the EU market of African organic products, we shall in particular continue

consultations between the EU and the AU to ensure trade under the EU regulations and include training in production and control of organic products within the BTSF programme.

11. We will further continue to work together in implementing the "Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa" adopted in 2014, to unlock the full potential of marine living resources and aquaculture for food security, livelihoods and wealth creation. We will increase cooperation in addressing cross-cutting issues of common concern like, maritime security including counter-piracy efforts and fight against "Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported" fishing.