

Statement by Ministers Responsible for Agriculture attending the GODAN Ministerial Conference Held at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre, Nairobi, Kenya on 15th June, 2017

Building resilience on Food Security and Nutrition through Open Data

We, the Ministers for Agriculture and high level representatives of Governments, having met in Nairobi, Kenya, from 14 to 16 June 2017, with the full participation of private sector, academia and civil society, renew our commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in pursuit of Ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture:

1. *Noting with appreciation*, the request at the Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN) Summit in September 2016, to Kenya, to host a Ministerial Conference on Agriculture and Nutrition Data;
2. *Expresses* its profound gratitude to the Government and the people of Kenya for hosting the Ministerial Conference on Agriculture and Nutrition Data in Nairobi, Kenya, under the theme: Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through investment in Agriculture and Nutrition Data and for providing all the necessary support;
3. *Recalling* the report of the Secretary-General's High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda calling for a data revolution for sustainable development, with a new international initiative to improve the quality of statistics and make information available to citizens;
4. *Recognizing* that poverty eradication, changing unsustainable and promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are the overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development;
5. *Taking note* of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) that has inspired and energized African Governments, African agricultural research institutions, farmers' associations and the private sector to increase investment, improve coordination and share knowledge on Agricultural Transformation;
6. *Taking note* of the Global Open Data for Agriculture & Nutrition (GODAN) as a network that supports public and private global efforts to make agriculture and nutrition data more available and easier to access by all;
7. *Further recognizing* the commitments voluntarily made by the Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition Network at the GODAN Summit and throughout 2016 to implement concrete policies, plans, programmes, projects and actions to make agricultural related data more accurate, available and accessible for all.
8. *Bearing in mind* that open data policies in both public and private sectors should respect and work to balance openness with legitimate concerns in relation to privacy, security, community rights and commercial interests.

9. *Acknowledging* that open data can be a driver for agricultural transformation by making data available and accessible to smallholder farmers, giving the insights and services they need to improve productivity and build resilience;
10. *Convinced* that women and youth are majority of developing world's population and therefore require motivation and support for agri-business enterprises through resource mobilization, data, research and innovation;
11. *Aware* that women and youth are at the center of sustainable development and, in this regard, strive for an equitable and inclusive agriculture.
12. *Fully Convinced* that making data and statistics on agriculture and nutrition available, accessible and useful to smallholder farmers and intermediaries is essential to development of inclusive value chains, building resilience in farming communities and strengthening food and nutrition security;
13. *Recognizing* that data and innovation creates opportunities for people to influence their lives and future, participate in decision-making and amplify their concerns more than before.
14. *Emphasizing* that sustainable agriculture can only be achieved with a broad alliance of people, governments, civil society and the private sector, working together to secure a world that is food secure, without hunger and malnutrition.
15. *Reaffirming* the need to be guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.
16. *Reaffirming* our commitment to strengthen international cooperation to address the persistent challenges related to sustainable Agriculture, in developing countries.

The Ministerial Conference therefore resolves to take urgent actions to achieve sustainable agriculture, reduce food insecurity and nutritional challenges:

1. **Renew** our commitments to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by endeavoring to make more open data available as a means of assessing the progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
2. **Agree** to work together with women and youth and women and youth serving organizations to promote sustained and inclusive agriculture that focuses on creating decent jobs and economic growth for all.
3. **Reiterate** the need to strengthen South-South Cooperation and triangular collaboration as means for building capacity, technology transfer and knowledge sharing, to enable us collectively address the challenges of data-gaps in food security and nutrition.
4. **Commit** to harnessing power of new innovations, technologies and techniques, especially the data revolution to solve the challenge of extreme poverty and hunger.
5. **Urge** countries to adopt the use and release of data for decision-making and action at all levels in Agricultural Value Chains, so as to increase agricultural productivity to achieve sustainable development and environmental protection in all its dimensions.
6. **Commit** to investing in the proactive use of data in support of the CAADP Review Process and Leaders Scorecard, in the Context of commitments made by Governments under the auspices of the African Union.

7. **Resolve** to strengthen the acquisition and application of science, technology and innovation; Improving uptake of data-driven youth innovation and promote entrepreneurship; Support partnerships that leverage on youth innovation that enables agricultural producers access skills, new markets and financing; Attracting youth into agri-business.
8. **Further resolve** to increase financial allocations and human capacity towards strengthening statistical departments within the Ministries of Agriculture to improve the production of open data in Agriculture, making such data more usable, timely and comprehensive, comparable and interoperable.
9. **Decide** to establish a voluntary Intergovernmental Network on Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition, under the auspices of GODAN.
10. **Further decide** to establish a coordination mechanism to support the network activities, to be hosted by network member countries on an annual rotational basis.
11. **Invite** the Government of Kenya to host the first coordination mechanism, with the support of the Alliance for A Green Revolution (AGRA).
12. **Request** the Government of Kenya, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and the GODAN Secretariat to organize a High-Level Panel of the Intergovernmental Network on Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition at the margins of the UN General Assembly in September 2017, as a follow-up to commitments at the GODAN 2016 Summit and the Nairobi GODAN Ministerial Conference;
13. **Further request** the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Alliance for a Green Revolution (AGRA) and other partners to support Governments ascribed to the Intergovernmental Network on Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition, to strengthening their internal systems to produce timely, accurate and reliable data for Agriculture and Nutrition;
14. **Request** the Secretariat of the Global Open Data on Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN) to continue their support in the aspects of and not limited to:
 - a. Ensuring that developing countries are supported to benefit from the network and those that are not yet members, encouraged to join;
 - b. Avail network capacity and capabilities on agriculture data that is responsive to the contexts and challenges of the developing world;
 - c. Equip developing countries with insights and guidance to allow them to release and reuse data in support of Innovation and Economic Growth, Improved Service Delivery and Effective Governance, and Improved Environmental and Social Outcomes.
 - d. Provide support for developing countries to sustain national level platforms for agriculture open data that are interoperable.
15. **Invite** all participants to this conference to note these commitments and make them available to all.