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**Media brief by**

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**COMMISSIONER OF RURAL ECONOMY AND AGRICULTURE**

**On Malabo declaration Progress implementation and *Strengthening Resilience to Climate Change related Risks: Mitigating the Impact of the 2015/16 El Nino***

**To be delivered on:**

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**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

**1. Supporting Member States to domesticate, implement, account and report regularly on the status of implementation of the Malabo Declaration.**

The Commission in collaboration NPCA, RECs and member states have finalized:

- CAADP implementation guidelines to support the member states in domesticating the new Malabo commitments and put in place a five year implementation plan
- The guidelines also strengthen the monitoring and evaluation process as well as the accountability through joint sector and biennial review processes.
- The Commission has drafted a 4 year African Union Business Plan for Implementation of the CAADP-Malabo commitments to accelerate Agriculture transformation in Africa.
- Heads of State and Government committed to mutual accountability to result and actions and to report biennially on CAADP-Malabo implementation, the first biennial report is due to HoS Summit of January 2018.
- As recommitment to CAADP principles, 20 Countries will be supported to domesticate Malabo commitments and targets in their National Agriculture Investment Plans. The process will allow: i) Review and refresh the NAIP, ii) Put on place a 5 year spending plan together the Ministry of finance iii) Strengthen the coordination mechanism, iv) propose policy actions to allow a conducive environment for inclusive private sector investments, v) Aligning countries on a performance scorecard built out of the CAADP results framework, to ensure a focus on results and accountability.

**2. Mobilizing capacity for Malabo implementation**

- AUC is putting in place Technical networks and communities of practice organized around Malabo commitments, as a way of mobilizing the required capacity to fast-track the implementation
- The Commission has launched 4 cooperation programs to support AU Member state to strengthen their CAADP National and Food Security investment plans in the areas of i) Agribusiness Development, ii) Agricultural mechanization, iii) End hunger by 2025 and iv) Reduce post-harvest losses.
- AUC and NPCA conducted last November 2016, a CAADP business meeting to discuss and validate the AU business plan. Partners have recommitted to support the Transformation process of Africa through CAADP agenda. AUC/NPCA will continue to engage them and advocate for increased agriculture financial support and investments in African Agriculture.

### 3. Private Sector investments

- AUC and NEPAD supported by AU partners have put on place two tools: Grow Africa and New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition. So far, 2 billion USD are reported to have been invested while 10 bn are committed for future investments.
- AUC and NPCA have put on place a country led process to mobilize domestic and foreign investment in Agriculture in alignment with CAADP.
- The National Agriculture Investment Plans will dedicate a strong chapter on Private Sector Investments under the Country Agribusiness Partnerships Framework (CAP-F).
- The CAP-F will provide a framework to Private Sector and Governments allowing them to discuss how to put in place a conducive policy environment for PS while tracking investments in the Sector.

### 4. ***Strengthening Resilience to Climate Change related Risks: Mitigating the Impact of the El Nino***

- Africa's development is inextricably linked to climate change and therefore if we fail to address it properly and timely, climate variability and change will jeopardize Africa's hard-won development achievements and its aspirations for further growth and poverty reduction. Climate change is expected to, and in parts of Africa has already begun to, alter the dynamics of drought, rainfall and heat waves, and trigger secondary stresses such as the spread of pests, increased competition for resources, and attendant biodiversity losses.
- The 2015/16 El Nino weather phenomenon was far-reaching for Africa as it exposed more than 60 million people for food shortage in the Sahel, Eastern and Southern Africa. Since there are convincing scientific evidences that the 2015/16 El Nino was not the first and will not be the last and El Nino weather phenomenon may obviously trigger humanitarian crises in most regions of Africa, there is compelling need for Africa to learn from past disasters and strengthen its future response and recovery efforts.
- The Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture and the Department of Economic Affairs in partnership with African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) convened a Ministerial Roundtable on April 03, 2016 at the Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) Conference Centre, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Ministers committed to:
  - Scaling up climate smart agriculture
  - Mainstream climate change in Agriculture Investment plans

- Put on place strong early warning systems
  - Put on place strong institutional mechanisms to allow better planning and intervention
  - Put in place national food reserve systems
  - Strengthen irrigation and Natural Resources management program
- Finally AUC committed to strengthen the responsiveness of African Risk Capacity (ARC) to mitigate the negative effects of droughts in several African countries. ARC has to play an indispensable role in strengthening resilience to climate shocks that may derail the development gains that African countries have registered through the last few decades.

Strengthening resilience to disasters involves building the capacity of individuals, communities and societies to adapt and ‘bounce back better’ from hazards shocks or stress without jeopardizing sound development. Building resilience also calls for the inclusion of Disaster Risk Reduction development programmes and agenda as sound development reduces vulnerability to disasters.

Several efforts at global, continental, regional and national levels exist to build the resilience of communities to climate related risks and disasters but much more needs to be done especially in:-

1. Establishing Early warning systems;
2. Emergency preparedness;
3. Comprehensive risk assessment and management;
4. Risk insurance facilities, climate risk pooling and other insurance solutions;
5. Resilience of communities, livelihoods and ecosystems.

At the Commission the Department is implementing a number of key flagship programmes that contribute to strengthening resilience of communities regions and countries. These include:-

1. African Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and its Programme of Action:- The programme aims to build resilience and reduce the risk of communities to disasters including climate related disasters.
2. Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative:- Aims to combat land degradation and build the resilience of vulnerable communities in drylands of Africa
3. Climate for Development in Africa (ClimDev Africa):- Provides Climate information, Policy research and Financing (CDSF)
4. Monitoring of Environment for Security in Africa (MESA):-This is a programme that uses earth Observation for Policy and Decision Making. Coordinated by the Commission, the programme is implemented through the RECs under different thema including Climate

Services for Disaster Risk Reduction (ACMAD) Monitoring and Assessment of Drought (SADC and ECOWAS) Flood Monitoring and Assessment (SADC) among others.

## **5. Renew partnerships and alliance through multi-stakeholders framework**

- During the 12th CAADP PP in Accra, Ghana, AUC and NPCA have remobilized all CAADP stakeholders and partners to discuss and take informed actions towards implementing the Declaration. The theme for the PP was around “Innovative Finance and Renewed Partnerships”.
- AUC and NPCA plans to hold 2017 CAADP PP around the theme: Strengthen Mutual Accountability to Achieve CAADP Malabo Goals and Targets. The first biennial review report is due to January 2018. Therefore, 2017 is very crucial and decisive as member states have to collect the data and provide their reports in order to achieve this important milestone.
- Partnerships and cooperation meetings have been undertaken by AUC/DREA:
  - AU-EU Ministers of Agriculture meeting held in 2016 in Nederland committed to strong collaboration in supporting CAADP-Malabo especially in Agribusiness, Nutrition, Climate Smart Agriculture as well as skills development and Research.
  - AUC/DREA-China cooperation committed to support CAADP implementation and Agriculture Modernization program by supporting the formulation of NAIP, conducting agriculture modernization pilot programs, knowledge management for CAADP and wide formulation of Agriculture Modernization Program to inform Africa-China cooperation in Africa
  - AUC-Turkey cooperation in Agriculture: Initial meetings held in Addis identified Agribusiness as an area of cooperation. Both AUC and Turkey plans concertation meetings detail a cooperation program in Agriculture.
  - DREA plans to put on place DREA partners meeting as a forum for accountability and policy dialogue on how Agriculture and Rural development can be better support in line with the Agenda 2063.