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## Africa Regional Group Statement

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50<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Committee of World Food Security

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### Agenda v. Data collection and analysis tools

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**Chairperson,**

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**The Republics of Ghana, Kenya, Liberia and the Central African Republic make this statement on behalf of the Africa Regional Group**

- 1. We thank the High Level Panel of Experts for preparing the report on Data Collection and Analysis Tools. This well consolidated and researched document explores how data is a critical tool for proposed solutions that make food systems more sustainable and conducive to improving widespread health and nutrition outcomes.**

2. The Africa Regional Group takes this opportunity to recognize and appreciate the CFS Secretariat and the FAO family for planning this very successful 50<sup>th</sup> World Committee of Food Security Session.
3. It is widely acknowledged that despite the incredible amount of data and information available nowadays particularly in our Regional context, these are not properly analysed and are therefore not always useful to guide the actions of all agents involved in the management and functioning of food systems. This includes but not limited to public policy makers. In certain cases, the information is also not timely and not useful when eventually collated.
4. The Africa Regional Group appreciates the recommendations made to the CFS workstream on “Data collection and analysis tools”, namely:
  - ❖ Identified barriers impeding quality data collection and analysis, for use in evidence-based decision-making;
  - ❖ Identified specific high priority gaps in data production and analysis not covered by ongoing initiatives;
  - ❖ Highlights the benefits of using data and the opportunity costs of not using data for decisions;
  - ❖ Illustrated initiatives that have encouraged evidence-based decisions in agriculture and food security across the public, private, and academic sectors as well as approaches that have not worked;
  - ❖ Provided insights into how to ensure data collection and its utilization to give voice to the people most affected by policies stemming from that data, including farmers and other food producers.
5. The Africa Regional Group supports the idea of collecting data, but however calls for greater efficiency and circumspection in the collection, analysis and dissemination of data, disaggregated by sex, age, gender and Regional statistics among other variables.
6. The ARG recognizes the importance of an inclusive process, open to all interested stakeholders, in particular governments, as well as civil society, private sector and academia, leading to the endorsement of an agreed set of CFS policy recommendations to be presented to the Committee for endorsement at CFS 51.

**I thank you.**