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Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная
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Organización
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Naciones Unidas
para la
Alimentación y la
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FAO Regional Conference for Africa

TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION

Brazzaville, Congo, 23-27 April 2012

TOWARDS ENDING HUNGER IN AFRICA: STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY AND ACTION

We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegation of countries in the Horn of Africa and Sahel regions and of Civil Society Organizations participating in the 27th session of the FAO Regional Conference for Africa, are greatly concerned that many of our citizens continue to face hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity on a daily basis. We note that strategies and adequate plans have been developed and continue to be developed. We must act with determination without further delay, to mobilize resources at national and regional levels to implement plans, drawing on the support of all our financial and technical partners to avoid needless human suffering.

In 2011, tens of thousands of people in the Horn of Africa died from famine and millions more were brought to the brink of starvation because of lack of timely action on the required scale. We are resolved to prevent such a disaster from ever happening again in our region.

With the food security situation in the Sahel deteriorating, we should do everything possible to avert tragedy. We do not have time. Equally, in the Horn of Africa, the current weather conditions are a cause for new concern. We should avoid a reoccurrence of last year's situation.

We therefore:

- reaffirm our political commitment to act strategically and comprehensively to lead national and regional efforts to end hunger, guarantee food security for all and rebuild livelihoods, working within agreed frameworks, in particular the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). We know clearly that we cannot do it alone.
- call on all our partners (developed and developing countries, multilateral, international and regional agencies, research institutions, the private sector, civil society and non-governmental

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organizations, cooperatives and farmers' associations) to join us to implement concrete and coordinated action.

We call for technical and financial support to implement them with the view to:

- Adopting a twin-track approach that integrates emergency and development responses in the medium and long term;
- Building resilience in rural communities and families, permitting them to reduce and better manage risks;
- Supporting increased private sector investment in agriculture while safeguarding the rights of local communities, in line with the Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Land Tenure, Fisheries, and Forests, in the Context of National Food Security, to be endorsed by the Committee of World Food Security in May 2012; and
- Strengthening local and regional institutions so they have the capacity to fulfill and sustain their mandates as these relate to the above objectives;

We also note that several African countries have been successful in the fight against hunger, proving that it is possible to have a hunger-free Africa. We will, therefore do all within our power to move quickly towards bringing about a permanent end to hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity within our borders and to engage in South-South Cooperation programmes to assist other countries that seek our help in achieving similar progress.

We recognize the economic crisis the world is going through. We praise efforts of the development partners to maintain international assistance and urge them to find ways to increase their support in order to minimize the impact of drought on vulnerable populations.

We also stress that a sustained political and economic effort is needed to stop the cycle of repeated crisis. We must consolidate our successes and have the means to do better in addressing future crisis.

Agriculture and food security are essential for social stability and peace and vice-versa. We call upon African nations to reaffirm their commitment to the war against hunger, poverty and social exclusion, by strengthening partnerships and cooperation with all stakeholders.

Deeply conscious of the need to prevent any of our fellow Africans from ever again facing the horrors of famine, we adopt this statement as a signal of the strength of our commitment to work together in a spirit of mutual solidarity towards ending the suffering of our people by eradicating hunger and improving nutrition and food security throughout our region.

Countries – Horn of Africa	Countries – Sahel
Djibouti	Burkina Faso
Ethiopia	Cape Verde
Eritrea	Chad
Kenya	Gambia
Somalia	Mali
Sudan	Mauritania
Uganda	Niger
	Senegal