



African Union



African Development
Bank



Economic Commission
for Africa



NAIROBI ACTION PLAN ON LARGE SCALE LAND-BASED INVESTMENTS IN AFRICA

We, participants of the *High Level Forum on Foreign Direct Investments in Land in Africa*, representing African governments, Members of Parliament, traditional leaders, private sector, civil society and other stakeholders, meeting in Nairobi, Kenya from 4 to 5 October, 2011;

REAFFIRMING the various commitments made by the Heads of State and Government of the African Union to eradicate poverty and raise the living standards of African people, and in particular, specific commitments under the *Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges in Africa* adopted in July 2009 calling for the use of the *Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa* to guide the development and implementation of land policies that provide for equitable access to land and related resources among all land users;

FURTHER AFFIRMING the importance of developing land policies in synergy with other sectoral frameworks and policies at national, regional, and Pan African levels including the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP);

NOTING the increasing investment opportunities in agriculture driven by new global markets, Africa's own growing demands and

the resulting increases in the value of land, water and other natural resources;

ACKNOWLEDGING that Africa faces many challenges in its quest to promote land based investments that ensure its rich land and natural resources are fully utilized to promote equitable economic growth, peace and prosperity for its people;

AWARE of the spiritual and cultural importance of land in Africa; and that the majority of Africans derive their livelihoods from land based activities including agriculture, pastoralism and hunting and gathering; and further, that the majority of African farmers are smallholders, most of whom are women;

BUILDING ON the policy messages from the joint AU-ECA-AfDB Land Policy Initiative (LPI) and the Coalition for Dialogue on Africa (CoDA) *Lisbon Policy Forum on Foreign Direct Investment in Land in Africa*;

RESOLVE TO work in close consultation with governments, parliaments, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), private sector, traditional leaders, civil society, development partners and other stakeholders to promote alternative land based investment models. These models should aim to increase agricultural productivity, maximize opportunities for Africa's farmers, with special attention to smallholders and minimize the potential negative impacts of large-scale land acquisitions, such as land dispossession and environmental degradation, in order to achieve an equitable and sustainable agricultural and economic transformation that will ensure food security and development;

UNDERTAKE TO PROMOTE:

1. Assessments of land-based large-scale investments, including gender differentiated and poverty impacts, in support of evidence-based advocacy that draws on best practices and ongoing initia-

- tives of governments, private sector and development partners to promote profitable, equitable and sustainable land-based investments, within 12 months;
2. Capacity support to governments, traditional leaders, civil society organisations and communities to facilitate fair and transparent negotiations that lead to equitable land related investments, initiated within 12 months;
 3. Establishment of a monitoring and reporting mechanism for tracking large-scale land based investments with a view to ensuring that these ventures are beneficial to national economic development and local communities, including women, within 12 months;
 4. Development of principles which encourage sound and sustainable investments in land, and guide fiscal policy in this regard, within 6 months;
 5. Development and implementation of land policies and land use plans that facilitate equitable access and secure land rights for communities - including women and investors, both local and foreign, in the medium term.

To ensure implementation of the above

CALL UPON:

1. The LPI in collaboration with CoDA to develop a detailed work plan and implementation mechanism for the Nairobi Action Plan with specific timeframe, deliverables and responsibilities, within 3 months;
2. LPI consortium, in implementation of the work plan, to facilitate collaboration with governments, parliamentarians, traditional leaders, RECs, private sector, civil society, development partners, centres of excellence, and other stakeholders.
3. The AUC to facilitate the identification of a High level panel of African champions to support the AU Declaration on Land issues and challenges in Africa and the Nairobi Action Plan;

4. The LPI Consortium and its partners to increase human and financial resources available to the LPI Secretariat in order to see an expanded team within 3 months, able to implement the *AU Declaration on Land* and this Nairobi Action Plan.