COMMON MARKET FOR EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

ADDIS ABABA DECLARATION

OF THE

FIFTH JOINT MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

HELD IN
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
19 – 20 SEPTEMBER 2013
WE the Ministers of Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources from the COMESA Member States, meeting in Addis Ababa, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia on 19th and 20th September 2013 to review progress in the implementation of regional programmes, have deliberated and reached consensus on a number of issues and have agreed to issue this Declaration on Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources;

EXPRESSING our appreciation to His Excellency, Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for hosting this important meeting, which has availed us an opportunity to review regional strategies and programmes to enhance regional food and nutrition security and economic growth through a coordinated approach involving Member States.

RECALLING the commitment that our Governments have made to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of reducing hunger and child malnutrition in Africa by 50% by the year 2015;

RECALLING the decision of the AU Heads of State and Government at the Maputo Summit in July 2003 to adopt the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) as a framework for accelerating agricultural development and food security on the continent;

COGNIZANT of the fact that Climate Change is a very important issue in the area of agriculture development and natural resources management as well as associated downstream activities in food and agricultural value chains.

FURTHER RECOGNIZING the important role which women and the youth play in enhancing attainment of food security and operations of agricultural value chains in the light of climate change;

RE-AFFIRMING our decisions at the Meeting in Swaziland in June 2011 which underscored the importance of accelerating the CAADP processes in Member States and the importance of increasing agricultural productivity to achieve food and nutrition security in the region; and
EXPRESSING appreciation to among others the Government of Norway, the European Union (EU), Rockefeller Foundation, Department for International Development (DFID), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), Southern Africa Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU), African Fertilizer and Agribusiness Partnership (AFAP) for the generous support rendered to COMESA for the implementation of the COMESA Programmes more specifically the programmes under the Alliance for Commodity Trade for Eastern and Southern Africa (ACTESA), the CAADP, the Tripartite Climate Change Programme, Sanitary and Phytosanitary programme and the Veterinary Governance initiative;

WE HEREBY AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

1. **URGE** Member States that have not signed the CAADP Compacts to fast-track the process and develop their National Agriculture Investment Plans which will enable a smooth flow of investments from local and external sources for agricultural development;

2. **URGE** the COMESA Secretariat to facilitate implementation of Gender and Climate Action Plan arising from the Regional Meeting on Gender and Climate Change held from July 17-19th 2013 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and support the COMESA submission to the UNFCCC on advancing the goal of gender balance;

3. **URGE** Member States to support the adoption of the inclusion of Agriculture in Climate Change negotiations, taking into account monitoring of emissions and adaptation interventions while exploiting opportunities of climate financing;

4. **REQUEST** Member States to mainstream and upscale Climate Smart agriculture programmes with facilitation from the Climate Change Tripartite programme and other stakeholders;

5. **FURTHER URGE** Member States to work closely with the private sector and other key stakeholders in the implementation of their agricultural programmes and promote the strategy of public-private partnerships (PPP);
6. **URGE** the COMESA Secretariat and its related institutions, such as ACTESA, to spearhead and strengthen the collection, collation and dissemination of information, data, and best practices in the areas of: food and nutrition security, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, commodity value chains, irrigation, fertilizer development and climate change mitigation and adaptation, in a coherent manner and create networks for dissemination to Governments and relevant stakeholder groups;

7. **URGE** Member States to prioritize investments in mitigating trans-boundary pests and diseases that are of economic importance to the region;

8. Urge Member States to support economic analysis for prioritization of Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) capacity building needs and integration of the necessary investments in CAADP Investment Plans;

9. **URGE** the COMESA Secretariat to develop a regional strategy for fruit fly (*Batrocella* spp) surveillance and mitigation.

10. **DIRECT** the COMESA Secretariat to develop a comprehensive Livestock Development programme and Policy for the region;

11. **ADOPT** the ACTESA Charter as a guiding instrument for its establishment and operations;

12. **ADOPT** the COMESA Seed Trade Harmonization Regulations;

13. **ADOPT** the COMESA Policy on Biotechnology and Bio-safety, taking into account the sovereign rights of Member States, as a regional framework for undertaking future work, including capacity building for Biosafety risk assessment; and

14. **NOTING** the offer by Egypt and Ethiopia, **REQUEST** the Secretariat to liaise with Member States interested, to use existing facilities in climate change, irrigation and fisheries for knowledge sharing and strengthening capacities.
WE, Ministers of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment do commit to support the enhancement of food security and improved livelihoods in the region in a manner which promotes and sustains the environment and our natural resources.

Adopted, this 20th day of September, 2013, at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia