

STATEMENT BY HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT
IN SUPPORT OF
THE OUTCOMES OF THE HIGH LEVEL MEETING
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CAADP AGENDA
HELD IN ACCRA ON MAY 5-6 2005

Abuja, 19 June 2005

By adopting the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) under the broader NEPAD initiative, African Heads of State and Government have recognised the critical role of the agricultural sector in promoting broad-based development and thereby helping achieve the Millennium Development Goals in African countries.

Over the last year, the NEPAD Secretariat has developed and carried out a roadmap to speed up the implementation of CAADP. Under the leadership of Regional Economic Communities, five regional implementation planning meetings were organised, attended by representatives of national governments, farmer organisations, agribusiness operators, and multilateral and bilateral development partners to identify regional medium and long term action plans, including early actions to be implemented over the next 12 months.

We are pleased by the participation of G8 members and other bilateral and multilateral partners in the regional meetings and their strong commitment to support the CAADP priority action plans and early actions and use them as a framework to align future support to the agricultural sector in Africa.

We note with great satisfaction the level of mobilization and ownership that has been demonstrated by all the regions and different groups of stakeholders during the regional meetings. We salute in particular the unprecedented mobilization of a large number of development partners, leading African and international agribusiness companies, and farmer organizations to agree on concrete steps to accelerate the pace of agricultural growth across the continent.

We, the Heads of State and Government, meeting on June 19 to review the Ghana and Rwanda APRM Country Reports fully endorse the Statement of the Accra meeting, which assembled close to 350 participants to review and approve the outcomes of the regional implementation meetings and agree on next steps to speed up the implementation of the early actions over the next 12 months under the leadership of Regional Economic Communities.

We confirm the role of CAADP as the framework for agricultural growth and development and a central component of the strategy of African countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

We confirm our commitment to supporting the process of implementing the CAADP agenda as agreed at the Accra meeting, in particular the early actions over the next 12 months.

We reiterate our commitment to meeting the Maputo pledge of allocating 10% of budget allocation to agriculture within the stated 5-year timeframe and endorse the call for a special meeting between ministers of finance and agriculture in order to devise strategies to channel more resources to the agricultural sector, including external resources, in particular under the HIPC and PRSP programs.

We take note of the recommendations to the Heads of State and Government to strengthen the capacities of the NEPAD Secretariat in the areas where it adds values to the implementation process; and of the Regional Economic Communities to effectively coordinate the implementation process.

Abuja June 19, 2005