

## **Response to Global Justice Now's campaign on the activities of Dominion Farms in Nigeria**

Thank you for contacting me regarding Global Justice Now's campaign on the activities of Dominion Farms in Nigeria.

We take any allegation of mistreatment seriously and concerns about forced displacement are raised with the Nigerian Government through the New Alliance framework. The Department for International Development (DFID) does not fund the activities of Dominion Farms in Nigeria.

The New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition is a joint initiative involving African governments, local and global companies, and donors. It aims to lift 50m people out of poverty by 2022 by encouraging inclusive and responsible private sector investment into agriculture. The £140m of UK aid committed to New Alliance projects in Nigeria represents the sum of DFID's support to agriculture and food security between 2012 and 2015. The UK is using this money to build the technical, marketing and financial capacities of small farmers by improving inputs and output market conditions. This includes working in sectors such as seeds, fertilizers, crop protection products, fisheries and poultry.

We recognise that agribusiness investments can present significant risks to the interests of small scale farmers and need to be managed responsibly. The priority of DFID, and other donors, is to help make investments more responsible and inclusive than they might be without our involvement. We have worked hard to deliver a structured process for responsible investment and specifically align land related investments with the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of land, fisheries and forests (VGGTs) which all parties investing under the New Alliance are committed to support. DFID has also played an active role in the global negotiation process on the principles for responsible agricultural investment (rai) which were formally endorsed on 15 October by the Committee on World Food Security.

Following the Leadership Council of the New Alliance in September, African heads of state, donor ministers, private sector and civil society organisations have committed to developing operational guidelines to support implementation of the VGGTs, and establish a shared platform for monitoring, learning and providing technical support to the private sector to comply with international norms related to responsible agricultural investment.

DFID is directly supporting the Nigerian Presidential Technical Committee on Land Reform to roll out systematic land titling and registration across the country. Under our Growth and Employment in States project, 33,500 parcels of land have already been demarcated and certificates of

occupancy are being issued. These measures are specifically aimed at protecting the rights of farmers at risk of involuntary relocation.

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