

## **RESPONSE TO THE GLOBAL JUSTICE NOW CAMPAIGN ON NEW ALLIANCE FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION**

Thank you to all those who have written in response to the Global Justice Now campaign on the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition.

The New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition is a partnership that brings together the capacities and interests of diverse stakeholders, including African governments and institutions, the private sector, civil society, donors, and other development partners, such as research institutions, to address key constraints to inclusive, agriculture-led growth in Africa.

The aim is to lift 50 million people out of poverty by 2022 through inclusive growth in the African agriculture sector. Preliminary findings on the progress of investments to 2015 committed through the New Alliance and Grow Africa are positive. Over 200 African and global companies have made investment commitments totalling over US\$10billion into 12 African countries. Of this total over US\$1.8billion has been implemented to date, reaching over 8.6million smallholder farmers and creating 58,000 jobs. A full progress report will be released in October 2015, following country-level and multi-stakeholder consultations.

The New Alliance is responding to a call by African governments for more investment not more aid. The vision for the New Alliance is a dynamic agricultural sector across Africa with small and large commercial farmers producing food and other crops for urban markets, and an expanding agribusiness sector that creates jobs. The New Alliance recognises the need for business models that make a difference to poor farmers, both large and small, increasing their productivity and profitability by effectively linking to markets.

Agricultural and economic policies that encourage investment by small and large players are essential. It is not the case that the New Alliance promotes policy reforms which are designed to benefit big business. Foreign investment can play a catalytic role in some supply chains but it's not going to deliver the scale of investment required to transform a whole sector so this agenda has to be as much if not more about local farms and firms.

All those parties involved in the New Alliance commit to support implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests and the Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment (RAI), to ensure that investments result in benefits for the poorest and are sustainable for the planet. We recognise that this requires strong accountability mechanisms, not least, active participation in the New Alliance from civil society and farmers' organisations. Three African farmers' organisations and one civil society

organisation are members of the New Alliance Leadership Council to ensure their perspective and input are received and acted on. Dialogue and consultation with farmers and civil society at the country level is also a high priority of the New Alliance.

The investments catalysed by the New Alliance show great promise and are already reaching millions of smallholders with new services, sourcing and training. Yet more work is needed to ensure the voice of farmers is heard by policy-makers in each country and to protect them from any risks of exploitative practice by governments or business. The New Alliance represents a real opportunity for farmers, business, government and donors to undertake this vital work together, and to deliver an inclusive transformation of African agriculture as defined by last year's Malabo Declaration from African Heads of State.

I hope that this is a helpful update.

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