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#### OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
No. prev. doc.:	10080/25
Subject:	Sixth AU-EU Agriculture Ministerial Conference (Rome, 27 June 2025): Declaration

Delegations will find in the Annex the Declaration of the European Union and its Member States on the enhanced partnership with CAADP (Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme), approved by the "Agriculture and Fisheries" Council at its meeting on 23 June 2025.

**Declaration of the European Union and its Member States on the  
enhanced partnership with CAADP (Comprehensive African  
Agriculture Development Programme)**

The European Union and its Member States ARE COMMITTED to jointly work with the African Union (AU) and its Member States in supporting the implementation of the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Strategy and Action Plan 2026-2035.

**The European Union and its Member States:**

**Context**

NOTE that as a flagship initiative of the AU, the CAADP has guided the efforts of African countries and their international partners to promote agriculture-led economic growth in Africa since 2003. Lot of progress has been made on increasing agricultural productivity although many of the ambitions set by the Maputo and Malabo agendas remain unmet. Against this backdrop, the adoption of the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan 2026-2035 at the African Union's Extraordinary Summit 'Building Resilient Agri-Food Systems in Africa', which took place from 9 to 11 January 2025 in Kampala, Uganda, presents a crucial opportunity to accelerate progress on several fronts.

ACKNOWLEDGE that through the Kampala Declaration, African leaders renew their commitment to achievable goals, targets, financing and accountability. These commitments are detailed in the 2026-2035 CAADP Strategy and Action Plan, which resulted from an open consultative process and introduces a transformative shift from an agriculture-led growth model to a broader agriculture and food systems approach, which includes economic diversification, job and income creation, improved social cohesion and socio-economic stability, enhanced environmental sustainability, more diverse, healthy, nutritious and affordable diets, and improved market access and regional trade, particularly through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

WELCOME this shift and renewed commitment by African leaders to sustainable agriculture and food systems, and specifically commends the inclusive process that led to this new agenda. In the current international scenario, building on the past and looking to the future, there is great potential to refine and renew the commitment to jointly work with AU and its members in the implementation of the AU strategy for agriculture and food systems transformation.

NOTE the alignment between the ambitions laid down in the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan and the Vision for Agriculture and Food ('the Vision') and partnerships fueled by the Global Gateway.

### EU actions

STRESS that the synergies between the new CAADP, the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and the Vision for Agriculture and Food can be usefully harnessed to drive meaningful progress in the pursuit of sustainable agriculture and food security. These synergies are evident in terms of:

1. **Agricultural development:** Both CAADP and the Vision emphasise the importance of agricultural development for economic growth, poverty reduction, and food security and nutrition. By working together, the EU and the AU can leverage their respective strengths to support the development of sustainable and resilient agriculture and food systems in Africa.
2. **Sustainable agriculture and food systems:** Both initiatives aim to promote sustainable agriculture and food systems, with a focus on environmentally friendly practices, improved resilience, including climate resilience, and social responsibility. This shared commitment can be a basis for supporting the development of sustainable and resilient agriculture, including agroecological practices such as agroforestry, and sustainable livestock production systems.
3. **Regional integration:** Both CAADP and the Vision recognise the importance of regional integration and cooperation in achieving agricultural development goals. By working together, the EU and the AU can support the development of regional value chains, improve trade and market access, and enhance regional cooperation on agricultural issues.

ALREADY DELIVER significant support to sustainable aquatic and agri-food systems (SAAFS) in Africa through its continental, regional and national programmes. The EU's multi-sectorial and comprehensive approach mobilised over EUR 4.7 billion in support of SAAFS in Africa between 2021 and 2024 addressing the six priority areas of intervention targeted by the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan. Specifically, it was focussed on supporting local production and value-addition, reinforcing research and innovation for sustainable agricultural production and promoting responsible private-sector investment across the continent, for example by improving water and transport infrastructure, improving digital connectivity, promoting agri-food and fish processing, cold storage and marketing facilities and strengthening sustainable business models adapted to local contexts. In a 360°-degree approach, the EU is supporting the development for traceability systems to monitor and address deforestation, promoting development of local value chains for the production of fortified complementary foods and facilitating biodiversity conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources. This is fully aligned with the first (Intensifying sustainable food production, agro-industrialisation and trade), fourth and fifth (Advancing inclusivity and equitable livelihoods, Building resilient agri-food systems) strategic objectives of the new CAADP Strategy and Action Plan

NOTE considerable potential for further synergies between the two continents' strategic visions. The Global Gateway Africa – Europe Investment Package aims to support Africa's economic recovery and transformation by investing in infrastructure, digital solutions, resilience, including climate resilience, energy, transport, health, and education, with a focus on sustainable development and equitable partnerships. More specifically, the Investment Package supports sustainable African agri-food systems by creating a transparent policy environment conducive to sustainable private investments, enhancing investments in support for agri-food and fish processing, facilitating innovation and boosting improved nutrition. Its stated ambition for 2030 is to accelerate the sustainable transformation of African food systems, in support of Africa's agriculture, fisheries and food development agenda, which is consistent with the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan 2026-2035. The implementation of the Investment Package is jointly identified through close dialogue with the African Union Commission, African partner countries, and regional economic organisations.

PURSUE multiple cross-cutting initiatives to address the mounting challenges related to the transformation of aquatic and agri-food systems. For instance, with a total budget of EUR 122 million (including EUR 22 million in co-financing by the end of 2024) the DeSIRA+ (Development Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture) initiative aims to accelerate agricultural development, by leveraging research findings and promoting agroecology and other innovations at scale to address challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and food security. DeSIRA+ works in close collaboration with the AU, providing funding and technical assistance to implement CAADP goals. Likewise, the transition towards sustainable and resilient agriculture and food systems requires new knowledge, competences, and ambitious policies. This calls for increased investment in research and innovation, hence the EU's on-going support for the CGIAR (Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers), one of the most prominent international research bodies, addressing food security and food systems challenges. In particular, the EU supports CGIAR's efforts to strengthen research capacities in the partner countries, with significant attention paid to actions around capacity sharing and development, with a particular focus on Africa, for which a substantial financial allocation (up to EUR 40 million) has recently been set aside.

HAVE INVESTED in three blended funds (Agri-Business Capital Fund, Huruma Fund and the African Agriculture and Trade Investment Fund) and have also set up one blending facility (Agriculture Financing Initiative – AgriFi), which is in line with CAADP's objective of boosting investment and financing for accelerated agriculture and food systems transformation. To date, these four blended funds contracted financing for 120 sustainable agri-food projects for a total cumulative signed amount of EUR 530 million across a wide range of value chains, from grains to oilseeds, pulses, nuts, cocoa, coffee, fruits, vegetables and dairy. The majority of projects are located in Africa.

To date, the EU has contributed EUR 120 million to the Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC), whose stated goal is to prevent, prepare for, and respond to food crises, and to support collective efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal of Zero Hunger (SDG 2). The network is crucial to providing early warnings and enabling enhanced resilience across the African continent and globally.

SUPPORT the National Information Platform for Nutrition (NIPN) in seven African countries in improving the analysis of nutrition data and encouraging evidence-based strategic decision-making and policy development. NIPN is rooted within existing institution and national multisectoral coordination systems for nutrition, emphasising national ownership.

### **The way forward**

WILL REMAIN committed to strengthening the AU's efforts on the CAADP domestication and implementation and WILL WORK with the AU Commission, AUDA-NEPAD, AU Member States and all stakeholders partnering in the implementation-as a follow up to the third EU-AU Ministerial Meeting on 21 May 2025 and, eventually, the seventh EU-AU Summit by end 2025.

WILL CONSIDER opportunities to strengthen regional complementarities, such as value chains structurally depending on cross-border activities or strategic corridors, to contribute to the implementation of Regional Agrifood Systems Investment Plans (RASIPs) as part of the Global Gateway.

WILL CONTINUE their engagement in international fora and multilateral initiatives, such as the G20 Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, and relevant working groups under the 2025 South African G20 presidency, as well as the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan 2026-2035, to support the African continent as it works towards the transformation of its agriculture and food systems, in particular to address the challenges of sustainability and food security and nutrition. This includes fostering synergies with the Rio Conventions and actively contributing to the work of the Committee on World Food Security and the UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) follow-up process, to ensure coherent and integrated approaches across global and regional agendas.

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