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**JOINT MEETING OF  
AFRICAN MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT  
PARTNERS ON  
PARTNERSHIP FOR ADVANCING AFRICAN AGRICULTURE**

**Organized by AUC and USAID**

**STATEMENT**

With the adoption of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) as part of New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the member states of the African Union have recognized the significant contribution of agriculture to growth and poverty-reduction strategies. The CAADP agenda, as an African-led initiative, reflects principles of responsibility and accountability. CAADP today provides a credible collective framework for development planning public private partnership and delivery of external assistance to the agricultural sector in Africa.

As part of the implementation of CAADP, more than two dozen countries, under the leadership of two of Africa's main regional economic communities, COMESA and ECOWAS, are actively involved in refining sector policies, developing investment programs, and establishing the necessary partnerships and alliances to successfully implement the CAADP agenda and achieve its targets of 6% annual agricultural growth rate and 10% agricultural budget share.

We, the African Ministers of Agriculture and Development Partners, recognize that numerous countries in Africa and the international community have taken urgent action to put in place emergency and short term programs to address the crisis created by the high food and fuel prices. To ensure that the numerous short-term efforts to address the emergency situation are well coordinated and support or do no harm to the longer term efforts and agricultural agenda, countries will take immediate steps to establish coordination arrangements for all actions before the next cropping season.

A growing number of bilateral and multilateral development partners have recognized and are aligning their assistance programmes in the agricultural sector to the CAADP framework and process. A CAADP Partnership Platform has been established, which is serving as a forum for policy dialogue and review, and has the potential of becoming a major tool for development planning and coordination.

The implementation of the CAADP agenda has now reached a decisive point. It has to be taken to the next level in the coming months by its main actors, i.e. African governments

and the development community or it will fail to achieve its important and ambitious targets.

We, therefore, recognize and commend the following Member States: Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda and Zambia, which have made significant progress towards implementing the CAADP Agenda on the ground. We are determined to taking the following concrete actions to expedite the implementation of the CAADP agenda as decided by the African Heads of State and Government.

1. Communicate to the African Union by the end of October 2008 a date between now and March 2009 for the organization of the CAADP Roundtable and the signing of the CAADP Compact for our respective countries;
2. Initiate cabinet level consultations in our respective countries with the view of raising the political profile and expediting the preparation of the Roundtable;
3. Undertake the necessary dialogue with local development partners to facilitate alignment of development assistance with the national priorities as defined under the CAADP Compact;
4. Convene, latest by January 2009, in consultation with the regional economic communities, regional meetings to review and resolve any remaining impediments to and establish the necessary partnerships for scaling up implementation;
5. Convene, under the auspices of the African Union, a CAADP Partnership Platform meeting in December, in connection with the Water Summit in Libya;
6. Organize a continent-wide meeting of Heads of State and Government in February 2009 to launch global partnerships and adopt funding mechanisms for accelerated implementation of the CAADP agenda, including the establishment of a Trust Fund to finance the pillar level early actions.
7. Convene at the country level, all emergency short term programs supported by the government and development partners to ensure there is effective coordination to expedite, harmonize and align efforts with the country CAADP process by the next season.
8. Urge donors to provide financial resources to meet the financial gaps for the 2008/2009 farm inputs of fertilizers and seeds to mitigate the impact of the food crisis.
9. Seek high-level engagement of the development community to act collectively in reviewing CAADP implementation over the coming months.

**Washington, DC, October 11, 2008**