

## DRAFT MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

We, Ministers of Agriculture and Representatives of International and Regional Funding Organisations and Institutions, convening for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ministerial Conference of the Adaptation of African Agriculture Initiative (AAA), held on 05 November 2019 at the Mohammed VI Polytechnic University, Benguerir, Kingdom of Morocco;

Recalling the Declaration of the Heads of African States and Governments, who convened in Marrakech on 16 November 2016 for the 1st Africa Action Summit on continental co-emergence, at the initiative of His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco, whom we warmly thank for his kindness and the high quality welcome we have received, on the sidelines of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP22), during which the AAA Initiative was formally launched to concentrate efforts on the adaptation of African agriculture to climate change;

Recalling the Marrakech Proclamation at the conclusion of COP22, adopted by all 197 Parties on 17 November 2016, calling on all Parties to foster and boost efforts towards eradicating poverty, ensuring food security, and adopting vigorous measures to counter climate change challenges in the field of agriculture;

Recalling the final declaration of the Ministerial Committee on Agriculture, Water, Rural Development, Forestry, and the Environment, at the conclusion of its meeting on 5-6 October 2017 at the African Union's headquarters in Addis Ababa, inviting the AU's Specialised Technical Committee to support the AAA Initiative as an advocacy instrument for the adaptation of African agriculture to climate change, as well as for spurring financing and facilitating capacity building for the adaptation of African agricultural projects and adopt the initiative;

Recalling the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) submitted by the majority of African countries who have listed agriculture as a priority sector for adaptation activities, thus reflecting the primordial importance of agriculture for these countries' food security, and for their respective economies and societies;

Recalling our commitments within the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), and its objective to eradicate hunger by 2025, as well as the commitments cited in the Malabo Declaration, in the AU's 2063 Agenda, and in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

Commending the leading role of the Kingdom of Morocco, which has tirelessly endeavoured to emphasise food security as a matter of regional concern and an exemplary sphere of interdependence and solidarity among our nations;

We welcome the institutionalisation of the AAA Initiative through the AAA Foundation and commend the significant progress made in the implementation of its advocacy actions both in international and continental forums as a continental reference framework for adaptation of African agriculture.

Our discussions have mainly touched on the correlated challenges that stem, on the one hand, from increased agricultural production intended to respond to the growing food demand in our continent, and, on the other, from the looming threat of an inevitable climate change. In this context, we reaffirm the right of each African person to have access to healthy, sufficient, and nutritious food. As such, we acknowledge the necessity to increase agricultural production and productivity in a manner that ensures their sustainability, with the aim of improving food security. Accordingly, we have decided to tackle head-on the issue of adapting our agriculture to climate change.

We encourage the Foundation to maintain and expand its country-level support, in such a way as to help formulate National Climate-Smart Agriculture Investment Plans. We also invite partner funding institutions to back this effort and to contribute to the financing of the implementation of these plans within the framework of national agricultural development strategies. In particular through the strategic partnership with the Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI), especially the advent of the ongoing Panafrican Climate Finance Access Program with the Green Climate Fund.

We agree to reinforce agricultural research and innovation, and to support AAA-focussed research for development, through our national agricultural-research systems and by involving the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). We also insist on the necessity to improve technology transfers to farmers to ensure that research activities respond to their needs and concerns in the face of climate-change challenges.

We invite the AAA Foundation to promote and support technology transfers, knowledge sharing, and capacity building through South-South and triangular cooperation.

We are pleased to observe that, since COP22, agricultural adaptation has taken its proper place within UNFCCC bodies and processes.

Furthermore, we encourage the AAA Foundation to pursue its advocacy efforts for the adaptation of African agriculture in the upcoming COPs and in the UNFCCC's specialised bodies and committees.