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## Postponement of the 37<sup>th</sup> Session of the AUDA-NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee



**Addis Ababa, February 8, 2019** – The 37<sup>th</sup> Session of the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC), scheduled to take place on 9<sup>th</sup> February in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on the margins of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union has been postponed.

Following consultations with members of the Committee, it was agreed to postpone the meeting in order to identify a more appropriate date at which the achievements of H.E Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal and Chairperson of the HSGOC can be recognised.

President Macky Sall has guided the NEPAD Agency with pragmatism and has been at the helm of the HSGOC since 2013. He has also significantly raised Africa's voice in the international arena with a view to strengthening Africa's common position. In this way he has led the Agency to a degree of maturity that enables it to become the African Union Development Agency, which is part of the reforms driven by H.E President Paul Kagame of Rwanda.

The African Union Development Agency was established to drive Africa's development agenda, anchored on the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the global Sustainable Development Goals.

The 37<sup>th</sup> Session of the HSGOC will centre on NEPAD's transformation, at a date to be determined and communicated soon.

## Africa's path to 2063

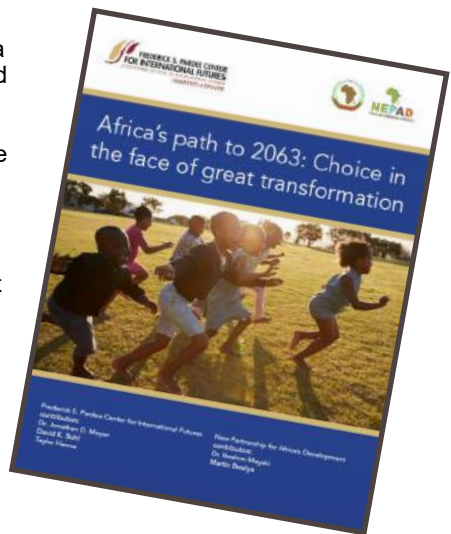
**Addis Ababa, February 8, 2019** – It goes without saying that data and information analysis, as well as strategic planning are becoming more and more critical to Africa's successful development formula.

The above is the view expressed at the launch of a special report by the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD (AUDA-NEPAD) and the Frederick S. Pardee Centre for International Futures, entitled *Africa's path to 2063: Choice in the face of great transformation*.

The launch of the report took place on the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on the margins of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union.

The AUDA-NEPAD CEO, Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, remarked that, "It is obvious that strengthening analysis and strategic planning capacity in Africa's national and regional systems is essential and should not be taken for granted. We are almost at the end of the first Ten Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063 which shows the importance of data and information" he said

He further indicated that critical transitions are taking place, which the study identified. These are demographic, technology, natural systems and human development transitions. Governance, more in the context of government capacity is one feature the report covers as an essential condition that will impact on the ability of the continent, collectively, and individual member states to leverage the values of the transitions. "None of these transitions can be dealt with independently, they are all related," said Dr Mayaki.



Dr Vera Songwe, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa highlighted the importance of forecasting and strategic planning in delivering Agenda 2063 and why this is important for African countries.

"This report is important for where Africa is going, especially as Africa is opening up as a continent of competitive advantage. We need to revisit the policies we put in place in African countries to make growth more inclusive and make *the Africa We Want* become possible even before 2063," Dr Songwe said.

The *Africa's path to 2063: Choice in the face of great transformation* report brings out evidence and insights on the "pace and direction" of the transitions highlighted above, the implications they have on the choices African countries (collectively and as individual member states) make in determining their economic growth and development pathways.

In synthesising the key messages of the report, Mr Martin Bwalya, Head of Programme Development at AUDA-NEPAD said, "The study is presented in the context of Africa in general, and Agenda 2063 (also linking it to the Sustainable Development Goals). It brings out easy to digest analytical information that could feed directly into integrated development planning in pursuit of Agenda 2063 goals and targets.

"The report serves as a reminder that the choices that countries make today, tomorrow and in the near future will determine the Africa we will see in 2063," said Mr Bwalya.

Foreign Affairs Minister of Rwanda, H.E Dr Richard Sezibera advocated for Africa to make smart choices for its future, in the various transitions that the continent is going through.

Prof Jonathan Moyer, Director at the Frederick S. Pardee Centre for International Futures was one of the discussants during the launch of the study. He reported that International Futures is a global integrated assessment model designed to help in thinking strategically and systematically about key global systems - economic, demographic, education, health, environment, technology, domestic governance, infrastructure, agriculture, energy and environment.

The momentum of the identified transitions will directly impact economic growth and development trajectories— either as "energy" that could be leveraged to speed-up economic growth and development trajectories (i.e. positive energy) or hinder economic growth and development trajectories (i.e. negative energy).

For a 50-year development plan (that is, Agenda 2063), this report also brings attention and planning capability to determine inter-generational timeframes and related actions that would lead to not just economic growth, but also to sustainable development – in the context of human well-being.

The full report can be downloaded at: [www.nepad.org](http://www.nepad.org)

## Nourishing Africa through improved nutrition and sustainable food systems



**Addis Ababa, February 7 2019** – Sustainable and healthy food systems are fundamental to reach a world without hunger and malnutrition, as well as to achieve the African Union’s Agenda 2063 vision and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A high level event, *Nourishing Africa through improved nutrition and sustainable food systems* was held on the margins of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Summit of the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, at which the African launch of the EAT-Lancet Commission Report on Food, Planet, Health, took place.

The African Union Development Agency-NEPAD (AUDA-NEPAD) CEO, Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, opened the meeting and declared that, “Most of the stakeholders are convinced that we need to address nutrition challenges in Africa. Therefore, this report highlights one critical area, that of re-orienting agricultural production from just producing food in huge quantities. The quality of the food that is produced needs to improve sustainably.”

He further highlighted that solutions to the challenges faced by the continent include connecting smallholder farmers to markets; capitalising on the potential of informal markets that offer easy access and affordability of food, and; promoting regional integration in order to have better operating regional markets.

Ms Sacko Josefa Leonel Correa, African Union Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture commended the EAT Lancet Commission Report for outlining what needs to be done to attain better nutrition. “It is possible to feed the whole world sustainably,” the Commissioner reiterated.

In agreement with the other speakers, Dr Gunhild Stordalen, EAT Executive Chair and Founder stated that, “If we get it right, food is a powerful tool for action and change. With this report at hand, we need to ask ourselves questions on how we can make sure that we actually produce food that we need for better nutrition and sustainability.”

The EAT-Lancet Commission finds that:

- Healthy diets include food quality and quantity, meeting daily energetic needs of individuals ( $\pm 2500$  kcal per day) with approximately 50% consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables, 30% of energetic needs coming from grains, preferably whole grains, greater proportion of beans and pulses in diet, and more moderate consumption of meat ranging between 0-186 g per day.
- Science targets for environmental propose limits on food production to ensure a functioning and resilient Earth System. The Commission provides science targets for greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture, water use targets to preserve environmental flows, nitrogen and phosphorus applications targets to limit water pollution while closing yield gaps, land targets to protect biological carbon stocks, and biodiversity targets to halt the loss of biodiversity.
- In 2050, we can globally feed a healthy diet to a population of 10 billion, but this will require significant efforts in shifts to healthy diets, reducing food waste and loss by half, and sustainably increasing food production.

Adhering to the report’s findings will address many of the challenges outlined above and can unleash unprecedented progress towards the bold visions of Africa’s Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030.



## Grow Africa and John Deere talk mechanisation



John Deere's Jacques Taylor and Grow Africa's Ibrahim Gourouza seal the deal after a successful meeting

Mr Ibrahim Gourouza-Magagi, Grow Africa's Chief Operation Officer met with the Managing Director of the SSA John Deere Headquarters, Mr Jacques Taylor who was joined by a visiting delegation of Directors from various offices of John Deere in the United States of America.

The meeting noted the importance of mechanisation as a crucial input for agricultural crop production as well as the significant contribution that it can make to the development of value chains and food systems in rendering postharvest, processing and marketing activities more efficient and effective.

The engagement yielded positive outcomes with the identification of areas of mutual interest and collaboration. The John Deere delegation showed a great deal of interest in Grow Africa's continental footprint and the work being undertaken in strengthening prioritised value chains in several countries through established Multistakeholder Platforms (MSPs).

Of particular interest was the following: The support Grow Africa is providing to rice MSPs in West Africa to contribute to the bigger goal of attaining rice self-sufficiency in the region by 2025; the business case study conducted in the pineapple value chain in Benin and commercial opportunities identified along the potato value chain in East Africa. In this regard the discussions were centered on finding suitable entry points for developing a joint partnership between Grow Africa and John Deere in advancing the aforementioned value chain developments.

Capacity building in the form of providing education and training for smallholder farmers, particularly in the area of mechanisation was also identified as a key point of collaboration. A commitment was made to continue discussions on this matter in order to identify a tangible project that can be undertaken.

Managing Director, Jacques Taylor, felt strongly that John Deere can contribute positively to the agricultural development and rural transformation in Africa and would to this end welcome opportunities to build strong, Public Private Partnerships across the continent.

Going forward, Grow Africa and John Deere will establish a formal platform of engagement that will be utilised to advance the identified areas of collaboration as well as to explore new avenues to elevate the discussions on issues related to mechanisation, value chain enhancement and private sector involvement in agriculture.



## Côte d'Ivoire: Quest to become West Africa's rice bowl



**Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, January 30, 2019** – Grow Africa, in partnership with l'Agence pour le Développement de la Filière Riz (ADERIZ), set up in 2017 an inclusive rice multi-stakeholder platform in Côte d'Ivoire to secure interest and commitment from stakeholders in the rice value chain. The platform brought together on January 30, 2019, members of the rice value chain in Côte d'Ivoire to comment on its operational approach, which is going to help increase sustainable investments in the rice sector.

In Côte d'Ivoire, rice consumption has increased sharply in the last years, especially in urban centres, with an annual consumption growth rate estimated at 6%. In recent years, government has made significant efforts to achieve rice self-sufficiency, but acknowledges that the sector still faces constraints that mainly relates to low levels of investment.

The platform is pivotal in supporting implementation of the National Rice Development Strategy, whose goal is to meet national consumption requirements for quality rice and build an export surplus.

In his opening remarks, Mr Monsieur DEMBELE Yacouba, Director General of ADERIZ, presented the rice platform as a tool to help solve structure and financing problems faced by the sector in a synergised framework.

The platform coordination in Côte d'Ivoire briefed participants on its operational approach, which will:

- (i) Improve the governance of the sector;
- (ii) Support the development of viable business cases;
- (iii) Create partnerships and facilitate investments;
- (iv) Monitor the framework.

Participants commended the platform on progress made and called the platform to: Strengthen actors' capacities in company governance and elaboration of business plans; (make the platform a permanent framework that intervenes on all topics at the request of stakeholders, and; Integrate technical development partners' agriculture group.

The workshop also provided the opportunity for stakeholders to provide feedback on the terms of reference of the regional study for identifying business opportunities and improving the governance of the rice sector in ECOWAS member countries, with focus on Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal.

## Pictures of the AUDA-NEPAD at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union

The President of Botswana, H.E Mokgweetsi Masisi and Dr Ibrahim Mayaki held a bilateral meeting. They agreed that AUDA-NEPAD should continue providing strategic advisory support to African Union Member States



AUDA-NEPAD staff were hosted by H.E. Bankole Adeoye, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Nigeria to Ethiopia and the AU on 9 February. The bid to continue working together for the good of continent was upheld by all present.



The Ministerial Advisor on AUDA-NEPAD to the President of the Republic of Senegal and Co-Chair of the NEPAD Steering Committee, Mme Gnounka Diouf, held a press briefing with Dr Ibrahim Mayaki and on the transformation of the NEPAD Agency to the African Union Development Agency



Mr Martin Bwalya, Head of Programme Development presented the findings in the study on *Africa's path to 2063: Choice in the face of great transformation*

