

Africa Forward Summit | Nairobi, Kenya | 11–12 May 2026

JOINT DECLARATION

OF AFRICAN PUBLIC DEVELOPMENT BANKS AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

**ON SCALING SUSTAINABLE, RESILIENT AND INCLUSIVE
AGRICULTURAL FINANCE IN AFRICA**

Convened under the auspices of
African Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (AFRACA)

PREAMBLE

We, the representatives of African Public Development Banks (PDBs), development finance institutions, governments, and development partners, convened at the

Africa Forward Summit held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 11–12 May 2026, under the auspices of the African Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (AFRACA),

Recognizing that agriculture remains the backbone of African economies, employing more than half of the population and contributing significantly to GDP, food security, and rural livelihoods;

Acknowledging that smallholder and family farmers produce up to 80% of Africa's food, yet continue to face limited access to affordable and appropriate financial services;

Mindful that women constitute a significant share of the agricultural labour force across Africa, yet face persistent structural barriers in access to finance, land, and inputs, while overrepresented in vulnerable work and bearing disproportionate care responsibilities;

Concerned that the agricultural sector faces an estimated financing gap of over USD 90 billion annually, significantly constraining productivity, resilience, and transformation;

Recognizing that improved nutrition outcomes depend on access to diverse, locally produced foods, and that home-grown school feeding programmes represent a proven mechanism for simultaneously improving smallholders' market access and livelihoods, and supporting children's nutrition, access to education and learning outcomes;

Aware that climate change, environmental degradation, and economic shocks are increasingly threatening agricultural systems, food security, and livelihoods across the continent;

Recalling the commitments under the **Maputo Declaration (2003)**, **Malabo Declaration (2014)**, and the **Kampala CAADP Agenda (2026–2035)**, as well as the **Mombasa Declaration (2025)** adopted during the 8th World Congress on Rural and Agricultural Finance;

Recognizing further the critical role of African Public Development Banks as catalytic institutions capable of mobilizing long-term finance, de-risking investments, and crowding in private sector participation;

Determined to strengthen partnerships, scale innovative financing mechanisms, and accelerate the transformation toward sustainable, resilient, and inclusive agricultural systems;

HEREBY DECLARE AS FOLLOWS:

I. COMMITMENTS OF AFRICAN PUBLIC DEVELOPMENT BANKS

We, African Public Development Banks, commit to:

1. Scaling Agricultural Finance

- ◆ Increase and progressively track the allocation of financial resources to sustainable agriculture and agri-food systems, in alignment with continental and national priorities;
- ◆ Prioritize financing for smallholder farmers, family farming, and women-led agri-SMEs as key drivers of inclusive growth, including those supplying home-grown school feeding programmes;
- ◆ Expand access to long-term, affordable and flexible financing solutions tailored to agricultural cycles and diverse needs, labor patterns, and repayment capacities.

2. Promoting Inclusive and Equitable Finance

- ◆ Enhance equitable access to and control over financial services for women, youth, and marginalized groups through targeted policies and instruments;
- ◆ Provide targeted support (including extension, digital access, and capacity building) to farmer organizations, cooperatives, and key value chain actors (including women, youth, and marginalized groups) to enable sustained economic empowerment beyond credit provision;
- ◆ Develop and deploy tailored financial products and services adapted to rural realities and that explicitly address structural constraints faced by women, youth and marginalized groups, including irregular incomes, limited collateral, time poverty, care responsibilities and unequal access to productive resources.

3. Advancing Innovative Financing Mechanisms

- ◆ Deploy blended finance instruments, including flexible collateral requirements and risk-sharing facilities for inclusive cooperatives, to derisk investment risks and catalyze private sector participation to enhance economic empowerment and resilience;
- ◆ Scale guarantee schemes, insurance products, and risk-sharing facilities with safeguards to protect beneficiaries, particularly those most vulnerable and marginalized;
- ◆ Leverage inclusive digital financial services and agri-fintech solutions that are accessible, affordable, and adapted to existing gender and rural digital divides;
- ◆ Promote the development and uptake of green, climate-smart, sustainability- and equity-linked financing instruments.

4. Strengthening Institutional Capacity

- ◆ Improve governance, transparency, and accountability systems to improve effectiveness and trust in agricultural finance;
- ◆ Build technical expertise to design, implement and monitor equitable and sustainable financial products and services across agricultural, climate, and rural development sectors;
- ◆ Strengthen data systems and digital infrastructure, including sex- and age-disaggregated data and monitoring of structural barriers to access, to inform evidence-based decision-making and track progress on inclusion.

5. Supporting Climate-Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture

- ◆ Integrate climate risk and resilience into agricultural financing strategies and portfolios;
- ◆ Promote agroecology, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable natural resources management;
- ◆ Support investments in renewable energy, water management, and climate-smart technologies that promote a just-transition and enhance adaptive capacities for all.
- ◆ Scale climate-induced loss and damage financing mechanisms affecting agrifood systems.

II. COMMITMENTS OF DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS IN SUPPORT OF AFRACA

We, Development Partners, reaffirm our commitment to support AFRACA and African Public Development Banks by:

1. Providing Coordinated Financial and Technical Support

- ◆ Mobilize, to the fullest extent possible, concessional finance, grants, and inclusive demand-driven technical assistance aligned with country priorities;
- ◆ Supporting the development of bankable projects through early-stage preparation facilities;
- ◆ Support the capitalization, financial sustainability and operational effectiveness of PDBs;
- ◆ Strengthening institutional and human capacities of PDBs for delivering inclusive, climate-resilient and sustainable financial products and services.

2. De-risking Agricultural Investments

- ◆ Expand blended finance mechanisms to unlock private investment in agriculture and agri-food systems;
- ◆ Support the design and scaling of guaranteed schemes and risk-sharing facilities;
- ◆ Facilitate inclusive and equitable access to climate finance and green investment funds, particularly for underserved actors and markets.
- ◆ Unlocking local currency lending to reduce the cost of capital.

3. Promoting Knowledge, Innovation and Research

- ◆ Invest in agricultural research, data systems and analytics to inform inclusive and evidence-based policy making and financial product development;
- ◆ Facilitate inclusive knowledge exchange and peer learning platforms, in particular the Agri-PDB Platform, that integrate scientific, local and indigenous knowledge, ensuring participation of women, young researchers and representatives of marginalized communities;
- ◆ Promote digital innovation systems and agri-fintech solutions tailored to African contexts.

4. Strengthening Policy Alignment and Coordination

- ◆ Advocating for the important role of National Development Banks to scale sustainable, resilient and inclusive agriculture;
- ◆ Align financial and technical support with national, regional, and continental frameworks and strategies;
- ◆ Support enabling policy and regulatory environments for inclusive agricultural finance;
- ◆ Enhance coordination among stakeholders to improve efficiency, coherence and maximize development impact.

III. JOINT COMMITMENTS

We jointly commit to:

- ◆ Strengthening collaboration between Public Development Banks and Development Partners, governments and the private sector, in particular through AFRACA and the Agri-PDB Platform;
- ◆ Mobilizing and aligning increased investments toward sustainable, inclusive and climate-resilient transformation of agri-food systems;
- ◆ Promoting inclusive and gender-responsive, climate-resilient, and market-oriented agricultural systems;
- ◆ Enhancing transparency, accountability, and the measurement of equitable impact through robust monitoring frameworks;
- ◆ Supporting smallholders and family farming and home-grown school feeding as central actors in resilient and sustainable food systems;
- ◆ Establishing clear mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation, learning and reporting of progress.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOW-UP

We mandate AFRACA to:

- ◆ Develop a **comprehensive Action Plan** with clear targets, indicators and accountability mechanisms to operationalize this Declaration;
- ◆ Coordinate closely with the **Agri-PDB Platform hosted by International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)** for coordination and knowledge-sharing among stakeholders;
- ◆ Monitor, evaluate and report on implementation progress at regular intervals;
- ◆ Convene regular forums to review achievements, share lessons and strengthen commitments;
- ◆ Facilitate the establishment of a **Public Development Banks Forum for Sustainable Agricultural Finance** to sustain momentum and institutionalize collaboration.

V. CONCLUSION

We reaffirm our collective commitment to transforming agricultural finance in Africa by strengthening Public Development Banks and leveraging the support of Development Partners.

Together, we stand ready to unlock the full potential of Africa's agricultural sector, enhance food security, build resilience to climate change, and drive inclusive and equitable economic growth across the continent.

***Adopted in Nairobi, Kenya
On this 12th day of May 2026***

SIGNATORIES

AFRICAN PUBLIC DEVELOPMENT BANKS

- ▶ Agricultural Bank of South Sudan
- ▶ Agricultural Finance Corporation Kenya
- ▶ Bank of Ghana
- ▶ Bank of Industry Nigeria
- ▶ Bank of South Sudan
- ▶ Bank of Uganda
- ▶ Banque Centrale du Congo
- ▶ Banque Nationale de Développement Agricole (BNDA), Mali
- ▶ Banque Ouest Africaine de Développement (BOAD)
- ▶ Central Bank of Kenya
- ▶ Central Bank of Nigeria
- ▶ Commodities Fund Kenya
- ▶ Kenya Development Corporation (KDC)
- ▶ National Agricultural Development Fund (NADF) Nigeria
- ▶ NIRSAL PLC
- ▶ Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe
- ▶ The African Guarantee and Economic Cooperation Fund (FAGACE)
- ▶ Vital Finance Benin
- ▶ Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank
- ▶ La Banque Agricole du Sénégal
- ▶ Le Crédit Agricole du Maroc (CAM)

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

- ▶ Agence Française de Développement (AFD)
- ▶ International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- ▶ Agri-PDB Platform

AFRACA Secretariat

African Rural and Agricultural Credit Association
