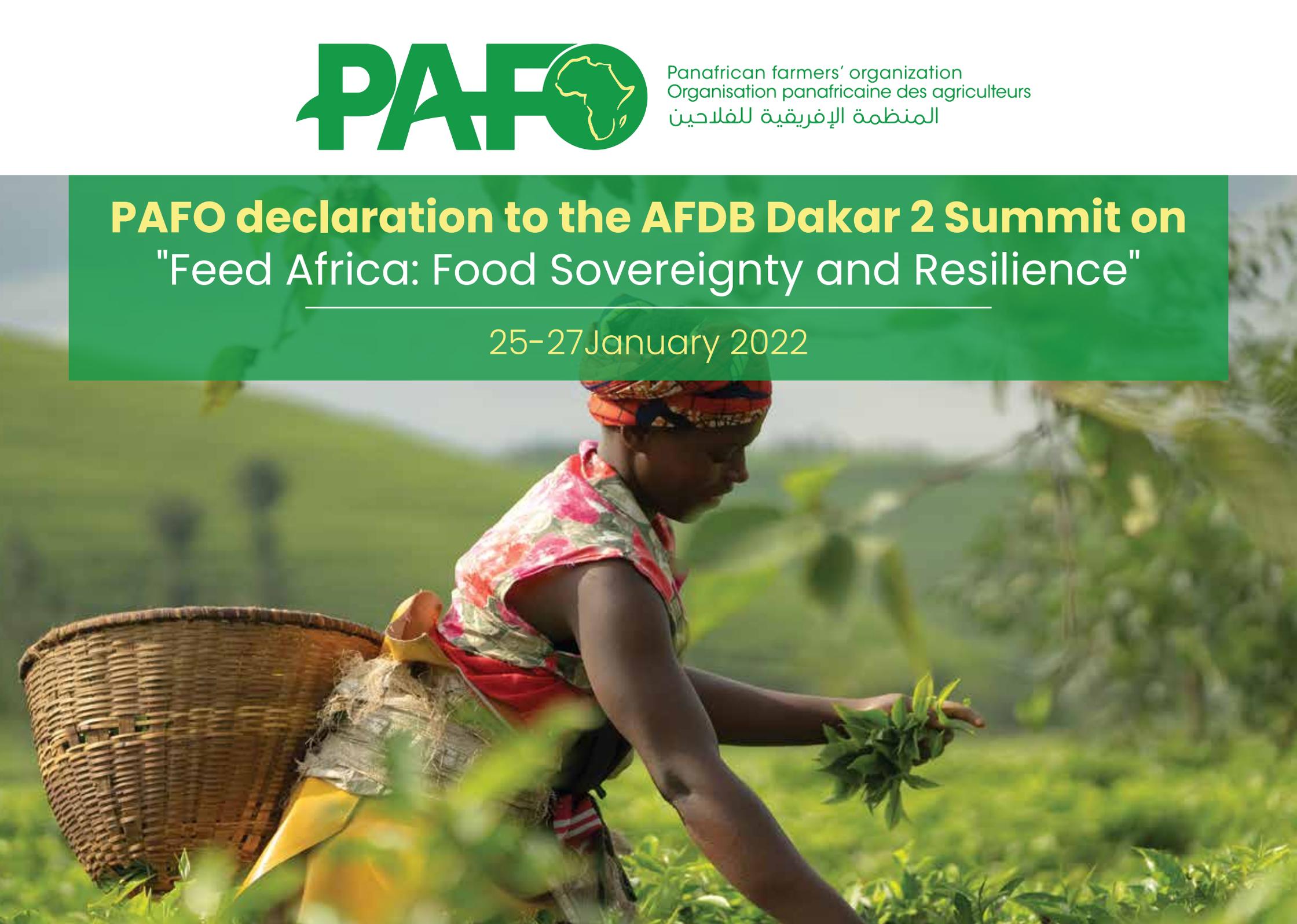




Panfrican farmers' organization
Organisation panafricaine des agriculteurs
المنظمة الإفريقية للفلاحين

PAFO declaration to the AFDB Dakar 2 Summit on "Feed Africa: Food Sovereignty and Resilience"

25-27 January 2022





Africa is known to be the richest continent in natural and human resources that could lead to the agriculture development. With about 60% of the world's arable land, with the highest number of populations employed in Agriculture, and a large youth population, Africa have a huge potential for investment. A rapidly raising food demands provides a major opportunity for the transformation of agriculture and rural economy.

World hunger and food inflation is on the rise. Over 800 million in the world goes to bed hungry and of this number, at least one in five Africans goes to bed hungry and an estimated 140 million¹ people in Africa face acute food insecurity, a crisis driven largely by conflict, climate change, and the COVID-19 pandemic .

Globally, smallholder farmers, essentially family farmers, produce most of the world's food. Therefore, family farmers have a huge potential to provide food insecurity. But to succeed, they need the right tools which requires the need to re-orient our current food system, to give farmers the opportunity to strive thrive by fairly rewarding their work.

The institutional reforms adopted in 2003 by governments to address this issue, through the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADep) and the Maputo commitments, as well as the numerous initiatives and commitments implemented at the international and continental levels (Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) commitment on ending hunger by 2030, AfDB Feed Africa strategy, and the African Union (AU) agenda 2063), have not yielded the expected results due to a lack of political commitment and/or resources for their implementation with appropriate policy instruments and measures.

¹2022 Global Report on Food Crises 2022 Mid-Year Update

While saluting the effort made by the AfDB to mobilize government resources and private sector financing to harness Africa's food and agriculture potentials, we believe that these efforts would only achieve the desired results if they are accompanied by concrete actions.

With consideration of these challenges, we Farmers organizations in Africa call for urgent and concrete actions to facilitate an investment that will ensure a more resilient, sustainable and sovereign food that is accessible to all. An inclusive approach that involves all actors around the food system is urgently required. To implement food security initiatives without the active participation of farmers' organizations at all levels as full partners in a discussion on food sovereignty, without the active participation of farmers as equal partners.

Thus, we recommend;

To the AfDB and African Central Banks:

We advocate that they should put in place policies to ambitiously support green agricultural growth and decent and sustainable jobs on the continent within the framework of the 2030 Agenda by building on its assets and by enhancing the dynamics/initiatives of governments and non-state actors with regard to climate action. This recommendation involves:

- Putting in place strategies, programs, laws and regulations enabling development and commercial banks and Microfinances to raise sensible measures and to increase qualitatively and quantitatively the supply of agricultural credits in general and particularly the part destined for activities and investments of the agriculture sector for adaptation and/or mitigation, with adequate modalities and with a rate which is equal or less than 3%;
- Strengthen the consideration of climate criteria and imperatives in the selection and financing of development projects and programs submitted to the AfDB for financing;

- Develop within public structures, financial institutions (public and commercial banks, MFIs), local authorities and non-state actors, skills and capacities to mobilize and implement funds for climate action;
- Support the capacities of Civil Society Organisations (CSO) networks at the national, regional and continental levels and strengthen their partnership with the AfDB to conduct a citizen's watch on the governance of projects/programs and the respect of climate imperatives;
- Promote and facilitate, with the support of African governments, the establishment of an African Agriculture Development Bank that is dedicated to the financing and provision of technical support to farmers and other actors along the agricultural value chain so as to fully realize the potentials of agriculture as an engine of growth in Africa.

To national political authorities - support good global governance - strengthen access to financing and insurance mechanisms for agriculture:

- Put in place policies, strategies and programs to promote the access to green finance (capacity building of public and private actors, laws, regulations...);
- Strengthen the development of mechanisms, tools, laws and public measures supporting the supply of financing to the agriculture sector (credits, subsidies, guarantee funds...);
- Put in place a regulatory framework and incentives to promote agricultural insurance and specific funds to cover disasters and losses, and increase access to these funds for professionalization of agriculture in the agriculture sector;
- Investing in improvement of agriculture-related infrastructures and setting policies to promote digital technology in rural areas.
- Promote consultation frameworks and accountability mechanisms involving non-State actors for the monitoring of public financing mechanisms and tools; and monitoring of commitments aimed at supporting and/or guiding the development of the agriculture sector (Malabo commitments, SDGs, World Food Systems Summit, etc.);a

To regional and continental economic integration institutions - strengthen intra-regional and continental trade and community preference for agricultural products from African agriculture with incentives for those from sustainable production systems:

- Strengthen regional trade policies in favor of trade in local agricultural products on domestic markets; and facilitate the cross-border trade by implementing the AfCFTA.
- Strengthen the number and functionality of territorial and cross-border markets: infrastructure, promotion, regulation, capacity building of actors...
- Undertake research and development that will support innovative farming practices that will enhance the productivity and profitability of farmers.

The partners are invited to strengthen their support to the States and continental and regional institutions to implement policies, strategies and mechanisms for greater and more effective financing and investment in the agriculture sector:

- Support agricultural financing in line with the strategic orientations of States and regional institutions to ensure that financial resources by donors and international partners through the government reach the farmers.

PAFO, its regional members networks and along with the entire African farmers Organizations structure will continue its advocacy and actions of capacity building of the farmers and their organizations. It will also mobilize alongside the AfDB, regional economic integration institutions, national public structures and development partners for the implementation of policies and financing strategies that will strengthen the agriculture sector to:

- Identify, disseminate and popularize financing opportunities for Farmers Organisations (FOs);
- Support the structuring and professionalization of FOs and strengthen the capacities of members to develop bankable and sustainable projects to facilitate the request for financing;
- Support the financial education of cooperatives;
- Participate in the governance of agricultural funds at the local, national and regional levels;
- Produce regular farmer knowledge on the financing of FOs;
- Strengthen policy dialogue around the issue of financing family farms.

PAFO's vision is to be the voice of African farmer and undertake a coordinated approach to its interventions for sustainable food and agriculture, which meet the needs and expectations of Farmer's Organizations (FOs) and the agriculture sector in Africa.



Panafrican farmers' organization
Organisation panafricaine des agriculteurs
المنظمة الإفريقية للفلاحين

