Third International Conference on Financing for Development (The Addis Ababa Accord)

Reaction to the Revised Draft Outcome Document (6\textsuperscript{th} May 2015) from the point of view of food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture

Key concerns and suggestions

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) is the foremost inclusive international policy body for food and agriculture within the UN system. The CFS is inclusive (all relevant stakeholders are involved) and its decisions are based on independent, scientific and knowledge-based analysis and advice from its science-policy interface, the High-Level Panel of Experts. Its major stand-alone products, including the VGGT\textsuperscript{1}, can be “key deliverables” for the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, in particular in the area of food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture. Therefore, we propose that the CFS and VGGT are mentioned in para. 68 by including agreed language from Rio+20.\textsuperscript{2}

68. As a significant portion of the world’s poor live in rural areas, we emphasize the need to revitalize the agricultural and rural development sectors, notably in developing countries. We agree to strengthen international cooperation to support agriculture, with a focus on smallholders, agricultural cooperatives and farmers’ networks. We will provide access to markets for smallholder farmers and fishers, as well as marine resources for small-scale artisanal fishers. We will improve food security and nutrition and scale up programmes for smallholder resilience, in partnerships with relevant actors. These efforts must be supported by enabling domestic and international environments. We reaffirm the important work and inclusive nature of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), including through its role in facilitating country-initiated assessments on sustainable food production and food security, and we encourage countries to give due consideration to implementing the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security. We value the contribution of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Program (WFP), the World Bank and other MDBs. We welcome the UN initiative to reach zero hunger in our life time. We call on the Secretary-General’s High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis to coordinate the preparation of concrete proposals to improve food security and nutrition and scale up programmes for smallholder resilience. We call for strengthening collaboration with regional initiatives towards addressing the key constraints to sustainable agriculture and the achievement of food security and nutrition.

Country-initiated, inclusive and evidence-based assessments and planning efforts support decision-makers and other relevant stakeholders in determining, prioritizing, and implementing effective and foresighted policies, strategies and actions in all areas of sustainable development. Therefore, we strongly support para. 117 and suggest strengthening the language in para. 8.

117. (…) We further recognize the importance of national ownership of the post-2015 development agenda, and we stress the importance of preparing country needs assessments for the different needs and priority areas that would allow for greater transparency and efficiency of implementation by linking needs and support, in particular in developing countries.

8. Cohesive nationally owned sustainable development strategies, supported by integrated national financing frameworks and country-initiated, inclusive and evidence-based assessments, will be at the heart of our efforts to eradicate poverty through facilitating sustainable economic growth and industrialization, social inclusion and environmental sustainability. (…)
In the area of food security, nutrition, sustainable agriculture and food systems, it is critical to emphasize the need for country-ownership in the design of national plans, which should be built on consultation with all key stakeholders. This is in line with the spirit of the Five Rome Principles, as endorsed at the World Summit on Food Security in 2009. 3 We would hence like to suggest including the following wording in para. 12.

12. Scaling up efforts to end hunger: It is unacceptable that more than 800 million people are chronically undernourished and do not have access to safe and nutritious food. Investments in nutrition, rural development and sustainable agriculture and fisheries will lead to rich payoffs across the SDGs. Ending hunger is linked to poverty reduction will ultimately depend on increasing incomes, and in the short term this can come about through sustainably increasing higher smallholder productivity and incomes. We recognize the enormous needs for investment in agriculture, food production, and fisheries. This will primarily be financed through private sources, and we encourage increased private investments, in accordance with the Committee on World Food Security’s (CFS) voluntary Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems. However, public investments in agriculture and nutrition must play a strategic role, particularly in financing research, infrastructure and pro-poor initiatives. We agree to substantially increase locally identified and targeted public and private investment in areas such as rural infrastructure, sustainable agricultural research, and sustainable food systems, with a focus on smallholders, agricultural cooperatives and farmers’ networks, the multi-dimensional challenge of nutrition and promoting gender equality and empowerment of women. We reaffirm that food security is a national responsibility and that any plans for addressing food security challenges must be nationally articulated, designed, owned and led, and built on consultation with all key stakeholders. These efforts must be supported by enabling domestic and international environments.

Additional suggestions

The wording on smallholder productivity in para. 12 could be misleading (see above). We therefore suggest including language that highlights the fact that sustainable (long-term) increases in productivity and incomes of smallholders support the eradication of hunger and poverty.

With regard to the increase of public investments in para. 12 (see above), we suggest strengthening the text by calling for locally identified and targeted public and private investments, as well as by listing the areas where these investments fill important gaps and/or can leverage additional investments and value creation.

With regard to agricultural research and development in para. 109, we suggest making reference to the International Agricultural Research Centres (IARCs) instead of the CGIAR because IARCs are more inclusive. We also suggest referencing the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR), hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, a stakeholder-led initiative that serves as a neutral forum for discussion and action.

109. We will support research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, and provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health and other relevant agreements. We will support relevant initiatives, such as Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, which incentivizes innovation. We commit to increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular in least developed countries. This includes support for the work of the International Agricultural Research Centres (IARCs) Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR). We agree to increase scientific knowledge and develop research capacity and transfer technology to improve ocean health and enhance marine biodiversity, in particular in SIDS and LDCs.

For more information or questions please contact: Michael Bergöö (m.bergoo@biovision.ch) and Mayumi Sakoh (ms@millennium-institute.org)

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