

## INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION DIRECTORATE

### MEDIA ADVISORY

#### EXTRA-ORDINARY SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (STC) ON AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT WATER AND ENVIRONMENT (ARDWE)

#### INVITATION TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MEDIA

**What:** Extra-Ordinary Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Agriculture, Rural Development Water and Environment (ARDWE)

**When:** Wednesday, **23 -25 October 2024**

**Where:** African Union Headquarters, Nelson Mandela Conference Centre, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (Hybrid) and Virtually via zoom:  
[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYvduCprj4pGtP\\_7f4GjdDEnRoROam3BD\\_MZ](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYvduCprj4pGtP_7f4GjdDEnRoROam3BD_MZ)

**Who:**

- Ministers in charge of Agriculture Rural Development Water and Environment (ARDWE) from Africa Union Member States
- H.E Ambassador Josefa Sacko, Commissioner for Agriculture Rural Development Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (ARBE)
- Regional Economic Communities (RECs),
- Key Partners Present/Represented (Institutions/Organisations/Donors)
- Private sector representatives and CSOs/NSAs representatives
- Parliamentarian representatives
- Farmer organizations and Youth representatives

**Organizers:** The event is organized jointly by the African Union Department of Agriculture Rural Development Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (DARBE) and African Union Development Agency- New Partnership African Development (AUDA-NEPAD)

#### Media opportunities:

Dignitaries will deliver statements on the consideration of the Kampala Declaration, the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Ten-Year Strategy and Action Plan (2026-2035); the draft Statute of Africa Food Safety Agency; and the report on selection of African Union Centres of Excellence for Research and Training in Fisheries, Aquaculture, Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation and Ecosystems Management.

#### Context:

The Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (ARDWE) is scheduled to meet in an Extra ordinary session to consider the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Ten-Year Strategy and Action Plan (2026-2035); the draft Statute of Africa Food Safety Agency; and the report on selection of African Union Centres of Excellence for Research and Training in Fisheries, Aquaculture, Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation and Ecosystems Management.

The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) has been crucial in driving agricultural transformation across Africa since its inception in 2003. The program is aimed at increasing food security and nutrition, reducing rural poverty, creating employment, and contributing to Africa's socio-economic development while safeguarding the environment. CAADP aims for a 6% annual growth rate in the agricultural sector, with African Union member states allocating at least 10% of their budgets to agriculture.

Building on the Maputo Declaration, the 2014 Malabo CAADP Declaration renewed commitment to CAADP and established ambitious goals for 2025, including eradicating hunger, reducing malnutrition, tripling intra-African trade, and building resilience of livelihoods and production systems. The Malabo Declaration underscored the importance of mutual accountability through agricultural biennial reviews and recognized the essential role of related sectors like infrastructure and rural development.

It is in this context that the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (ARDWE) is set to convene in an extraordinary session in October 2024 as per its rules of procedures to consider the draft Ten-Year CAADP Strategy and Action Plan with its associated draft Kampala Declaration on Advancing Africa's Inclusive Agrifood Systems Transformation for Sustainable Economic Growth and Shared Prosperity" as per the Executive Council Decision (EX.CL/Dec.1233-1264(XLIV) in February 2024 regarding the development of the Ten-Year post-Malabo CAADP Strategy and Action Plan and its associated Kampala Declaration.

Additionally, this 2<sup>nd</sup> Extraordinary STC will also assess the Draft Statute of the Africa Food Safety Agency during the session. Further, the STC will review the draft report on the selected African Union Centres of Excellence for Training and Research in Fisheries, Aquaculture, Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation and Ecosystems Management.

### **The Objectives of the meeting:**

The convening of the extraordinary session of the STC on ARDWE is specifically to.

- Assess and validate the Ten-Year CAADP Strategy and Action Plan (2026-2035): This plan will detail how to achieve the goals and targets in the draft Kampala CAADP Declaration.
- Review and endorse the draft Kampala CAADP Declaration. The draft declaration will focus on Transforming Africa's Agri-Food Systems.
- Review the Draft Statute of the Africa Food Safety Agency and recommending to the STC on Justice and Legal Affairs and other relevant AU processes, for further approval and endorsement.
- Review and recommend the endorsement of the draft report on selected African Union Centres of Excellence for Training and Research in Fisheries, Aquaculture, Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation and Ecosystems Management.
- Review and recommend the endorsement of the report on selection of African Union Centres of Excellence for Research and Training in Fisheries, Aquaculture, Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation and Ecosystems Management

### **Format and Structure of the Meeting**

The Extraordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment will be held on 23-25 October 2024. The Extraordinary Session will consist of a two-day technical meeting of Senior Officials/Experts that will take place on 23-24 October 2024 and a Ministerial Session will take place on 25 October 2024. The STC will take place in hybrid format with Simultaneous Interpretation in all the official Languages of the African Union

## Participants

The STC meeting will be attended by Member State Ministers and Experts in-Charge of agriculture (forestry, fisheries, crops and livestock), Rural Development, Water and Environment

### For further information, please contact:

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