

9TH ICA RECTORS AND DEANS FORUM 2009

AFRICA AND EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN BUILDING A
SUSTAINABLE AFRICAN AGRI-FOOD SECTOR.

Tom Arnold

Chair, EU Commission Task Force on Rural Africa.

24 October, 2019.

AGENDA

- POLITICAL BACKGROUND TO ESTABLISHMENT OF TASK FORCE RURAL AFRICA (TFRA).
- REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS.
- FOLLOW UP TO REPORT AND FUTURE ACTIONS.

POLITICAL BACKGROUND TO ESTABLISHMENT OF TFRA

THREE LEVELS

- HEAD OF STATE – SUMMITS.
- MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE.
- AU COMMISSION AND EU COMMISSION.

TFRA REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- ESTABLISHED, MAY 2018: 11 MEMBERS.
- TOR: *'ADVISE THE EU COMMISSION ON HOW BEST THE EU CAN CONTRIBUTE TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND JOB CREATION IN AFRICA'S AGRI-FOOD SECTOR AND RURAL ECONOMY'*.
- SITUATED ANALYSIS WITHIN THE WIDER AFRICAN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONTEXT.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 4 KEY MEDIUM TO LONG TERM POLICY PRIORITIES
- 6 SHORT TO MEDIUM PRIORITIES

AFRICA'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONTEXT.

- DIVERSITY – 3 MAIN REGIONS: NORTH AFRICA, SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA, SOUTH AFRICA.
- ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE SINCE 2000.
- CROSS CUTTING ISSUES:
 - POPULATION AND JOBS.
 - GOVERNANCE AND CONFLICT.

POPULATION AND JOBS

- POPULATION HAS DOUBLED OVER PAST 30 YEARS TO REACH 1.25 BILLION.
- PROJECTED TO DOUBLE AGAIN BY 2050 TO REACH 2.5 BILLION.
- LABOUR FORCE TO INCREASE BY 800 MILLION BY 2050: AN AVERAGE ANNUAL INCREASE OF 27 MILLION OVER NEXT 30 YEARS.
- CURRENT STATE OF HUMAN CAPITAL IN AFRICA.
- NUTRITION, EDUCATION, HEALTH.
- WORLD BANK HUMAN CAPITAL INDEX (HCI): 31 COUNTRIES FROM SSA IN LOWEST 40.

GOVERNANCE AND CONFLICT

- IBRAHIM INDEX OF AFRICAN GOVERNMENT SHOWS SLOW IMPROVEMENT, WITH PROGRESS IN GENDER, HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.
- OF 29 COUNTRIES CLASSIFIED AS 'FRAGILE STATES' BY WORLD BANK, 16 ARE AFRICAN.
- SHARP INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF CONFLICTS GLOBALLY OVER PAST 15 YEARS, WITH AFRICA ONE OF THE MAIN REGIONS AFFECTED.
- OF 19 COUNTRIES IN A PROTRACTED CRISIS, 14 HAVE BEEN SO CLASSIFIED SINCE 2010, OF WHICH 11 ARE IN AFRICA.

TFRA POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS: THE 'WHAT'

4 MEDIUM TO LONG TERM RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. ADOPT A TERRITORIAL APPROACH IN PLANNING FOR INCOME AND JOB CREATION.
2. SUSTAINABLE LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION.
3. SUSTAINABLE TRANSFORMATION OF AFRICAN AGRICULTURE.
4. DEVELOPMENT OF THE AFRICAN FOOD INDUSTRY AND FOOD MARKETS.

TFRA RECOMMENDATIONS: THE 'WHAT'

6 SHORT TO MEDIUM RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. SUPPORT RURAL GOVERNANCE AND LOCAL ACTION PROGRAMMES.
2. MAINSTREAM ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND PROMOTE CLIMATE.
3. KNOWLEDGE, INNOVATION AND NETWORK INITIATIVE FOR RURAL AREAS.
4. IMPROVE ACCESS TO PRIVATE FINANCE AND EU FUNDING FOR SMEs IN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD.
5. SCALE UP VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT, RURAL INTEGRATION AND INTRA-REGIONAL TRADE.
6. BRING TOGETHER EUROPEAN AND AFRICAN EXPERTISE FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT.

TFRA RECOMMENDATIONS: THE 'HOW'

- AFRICA AND EUROPE SHOULD DEVELOP AN INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIP FOR THE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSFORMATION OF AFRICA'S AGRI-FOOD SECTOR AND RURAL ECONOMY.
- PARTNERSHIP BASED ON AFRICAN POLITICAL AND POLICY LEADERSHIP SUPPORTED BY EUROPEAN EXPERIENCE, EXPERTISE AND FINANCE.
- SHOULD OPERATE AT THREE LEVELS, PEOPLE TO PEOPLE, BUSINESS TO BUSINESS, AND GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT.
- SCOPE FOR IMPROVED COORDINATION BETWEEN THE EU INSTITUTIONS AND MEMBER STATES IN DEVELOPING A MORE INTEGRATED PAN-EUROPEAN APPROACH IN SUPPORT OF AFRICAN AGRI-FOOD AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT.
- POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE ADAPTED TO NATIONAL AND REGIONAL REALITIES – NOT A BLUEPRINT FOR ANY SINGLE COUNTRY.

FOLLOW UP TO TFRA REPORT

- 3RD AFRICAN EU AGRICULTURAL MINISTERIAL MEETING, 21 JUNE 2019
- MEETING ADOPTED A POLITICAL DECLARATION COMMITTING BOTH UNIONS TO FURTHER STRENGTHENING THEIR PARTNERSHIP IN FOOD AND FARMING AND AN ACTION AGENDA OF 9 POLICY INITIATIVES, BASED ON THE TFRA RECOMMENDATIONS.
- WORK HAS COMMENCED ON IMPLEMENTING THE ACTION AGENDA RANGING FROM FOOD SAFETY TO DIGITAL AGRICULTURE.
- A MORE COMPREHENSIVE FOLLOW UP FITS WITHIN THE OVERALL EVOLVING PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN AFRICA AND THE EU.

FUTURE POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AFRICA AND EUROPE.

- 2018: AFRICA-EUROPE ALLIANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENT AND JOBS, AIMED AT CREATING UP TO 10 MILLION JOBS OVER THE NEXT 5 YEARS.
- FUTURE AFRICA EUROPE RELATIONSHIP WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE POLITICAL PARTNERSHIP, DECISIONS ON THE EU BUDGET (THE MULTIANNUAL FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK (MFF) FOR 2021-27) AND HORIZON EUROPE WITH ITS RESEARCH AGENDA.
- PROGRAMME FOR INCOMING EU COMMISSION CONTAINS IMPORTANT COMMITMENTS TO FUTURE AFRICA EU PARTNERSHIP.

PRIORITIES FOR EU COMMISSION.

PRIORITIES FOR EU COMMISSION SET OUT IN PROGRAMME DEVELOPED BY INCOMING PRESIDENT VON DER LEYER AND THE PRIORITIES OF INDIVIDUAL COMMISSIONERS.

COMMISSIONER URPLAINEN FOR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS.

‘WE MUST MAKE THE MOST OF THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES THAT AFRICA, WITH ITS GROWING ECONOMIES, POPULATIONS AND DIGITAL INNOVATIONS, PRESENTS. BUILDING ON THE CURRENT EU-AFRICA SUSTAINABLE ALLIANCE, I WANT YOU TO WORK ON A NEW COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY FOR AFRICA. THIS SHOULD CREATE A PARTNERSHIP OF EQUALS AND MUTUAL INTEREST’.

PRIORITIES FOR EU COMMISSION.

- 'I WANT YOU TO FOCUS ON CONCLUDING THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR AN AMBITIOUS POST-COTONOU AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTRIES FROM THE AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC GROUP OF STATES.'
- 'YOU SHOULD SUPPORT EFFORTS TO REACH COMPREHENSIVE PARTNERSHIPS WITH COUNTRIES OF MIGRATION ORIGIN AND TRANSIT, BRINGING TOGETHER ALL INSTRUMENTS, TOOLS AND LEVERAGE. YOU SHOULD THEREFORE BE READY TO ADAPT BILATERAL FUNDING TO ACHIEVE OUR OBJECTIVES ON MIGRATION MANAGEMENT'.
- 'YOU SHOULD ENSURE THAT GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS CONTINUE TO BE A TOP PRIORITY IN OUR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT POLICIES'.

PRIORITIES FOR EU COMMISSION.

COMMISSIONER HOGAN FOR TRADE.

‘ I WANT YOU TO PRIORITISE OUR TRADE AND INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP WITH AFRICA. THE IMPLANTATION OF THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AGREEMENT SHOULD BE SEEN AS A STEP TOWARDS OUR LONG TERM OBJECTIVE OF A CONTINENT-TO CONTINENT FREE TRADE AREA BETWEEN AFRICA AND THE EU.’

‘A TOP PRIORITY WILL BE TO LEAD THE REFORM OF THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION NOTABLY ON THE ISSUES OF SUBSIDIES, FORCED TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGIES AND DISPUTE SETTLEMENT. YOU SHOULD AIM TO LAUNCH A BROAD INITIATIVE BY THE END OF 2020, FOLLOWING THE NEXT WTO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE, WITH A VIEW TO REACHING A COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT ON 2022.’

OTHER EU POLICIES INFLUENCING THE AFRICA EU PARTNERSHIP.

- MULTIANNUAL FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK, 2021-27.
- PROPOSED INCREASED RESOURCES FOR AFRICA WITHIN MFF, DECISIONS YET TO BE TAKEN.
- HIGH LEVEL POLICY DIALOGUE (HLPD) ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION, ADDIS ABABA, 6 NOVEMBER, 2019. WILL INFLUENCE DECISIONS ON AFRICA EUROPE PARTNERSHIP WITHIN HORIZON EUROPE.

SUMMARY

- TFRA REPORT AND FOLLOW UP DECISIONS AT JUNE 2019 AGRICULTURAL MINISTERIAL MEETING HAS DEVELOPED MOMENTUM FOR THE AGRI-FOOD SECTOR AND RURAL ECONOMY WITHIN THE AFRICAN EU PARTNERSHIP.
- REPORT ARGUES FOR GREATER POLITICAL AND POLICY PRIORITY TO BE GIVEN TO AGRI-FOOD SECTOR AND RURAL ECONOMY AT COUNTRY LEVEL IN AFRICA AND WITHIN THE AFRICA EUROPE PARTNERSHIP.
- THE WIDER POLITICAL PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN AFRICA AND EUROPE APPEARS SET FOR FURTHER POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT AND THE HOPE IS THAT THE AGRI-FOOD SECTOR AND RURAL ECONOMY WILL BE A KEY ELEMENT WITHIN THIS.