**BOOSTING AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMME WITHIN THE 2014 INITIATIVE "YEAR OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION" OF THE AFRICAN UNION**

**Consensus Cotonou: Making Benin a champion**

1. Under the initiative of the Platform of Civil Society Actors in Benin (PASCiB) and the International Organization ONE and under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Agriculture (MAEP), Benin agricultural sector actors: *representatives of the Ministry, international donors of the agricultural sector, National Platform farmers' organizations and agricultural producers of Benin (PNOPPA), NGOs and other civil society* organisations met at AZALAÏ Hotel, Cotonou from 15th to 16th January 2014 for a Multi-Stakeholder High-Level Policy Forum on the theme: **Boosting agricultural programme under the African Union’s** “2014 Year of agriculture, food security and nutrition " initiative.
2. The purpose of the forum is to build a consensus for 2014, focused on a greater investment in agriculture and specific reform framework for Benin that will benefit millions of small farmers.
3. Discussions, analysis and deliberations based on the conclusions proposed by various high-level consultations on the ten year Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Plan (CAADP) and similar fora held in other African countries. Participants assessed, identified shared progresses and challenges facing the agricultural value chains in the sub-region and the continent.
4. On this basis, the forum has identified priority interventions able to promote small farmers and develop agricultural value chains in the action programme marking the Year of agriculture in Benin.
5. This consensus for which all stakeholders in the agricultural sector are committed to ensure the development of agriculture in Benin during 2014, represents a results-based common agenda and is divided into four priority actions:
6. *Evaluation of CAADP/ECOWAP/PSRSA (Agricultural Sector Revival Strategic Plan) latest April 30th, 2014 in order to formulate concrete recommendations for the update of commitments related to the implementation of the National Agricultural Investment Plan and the determination of the baseline to use under CAADP results framework 2014 -2024 ;*
7. *Mobilization of all actors in the institutional framework of the agricultural sector including PASCiB, PNOPPA, Ministry of Agriculture, donors and the private sector in favour of the immediate installation of the National Council for Orientation and Monitoring (CNOS);*
8. *Facilitation of the drafting process of the law on agriculture during the first half of 2014 ;*
9. *Celebration of the days of recognition of “agricultural champions” through excellence awards and merits to small scale farmers, women and youth.*
10. *Increased mobilisation of financial resources through agricultural investment in order to ensure inclusive economic growth, youth employment, and improvement of living standards of rural people and operationalisation of the National Fund for Agricultural Development (FNDA) by March 31st 2014*
11. To achieve these commitments, all stakeholders were mandated, each according to the requirements of the institutional framework of the agricultural sector related to the roles of the different actors and a call for greater accountability was made ​​to all stakeholders of the sector.
12. The Government of Benin through the Ministry of Agriculture with the support of technical and financial partners will ensure the necessary leadership for the implementation of these priorities.
13. PASCiB and PNOPPA will monitor the implementation of these commitments in particular with regards to the mobilization of human, material and financial resources as well the respect of deadlines.
14. A mid-term review of the implementation of this consensus is planned for the month of July 2014.
15. Finally, all actors welcome the commitment made by the Head of State, President Yayi Boni on behalf of his peers of the African Union for making 2014 the year of agriculture, food security and nutrition, and this in accordance with the international Year of family farming declared by the United Nations.
16. They also commend the organisation of this forum, made ​​possible through the support of the organisation ONE and commit to widely disseminate this document throughout the country and to all development actors.

Done in Cotonou, January 16th 2013

Participants