



The Malabo Montpellier Panel to host UN Food Systems Summit post-event

Kigali, October 27 2021 – The Malabo Montpellier Panel at AKADEMIYA2063 will, on October 29 2021, host a virtual high-level policy conversation to address the outcomes of the September 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS). Organized in partnership with the African Union Commission, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the African Development Bank (AfDB), the event will provide a forum for policy leaders to reflect on the UN food systems transformation agenda, in line with country-level, regional, and continental priorities.

“The post-UN Food Systems Summit agenda is an opportunity for UN agencies to scale up support to African countries to enhance and help advance the African Union (AU) Malabo Declaration agenda,” said Dr. Ousmane Badiane, AKADEMIYA2063 Executive Chairperson and Malabo Montpellier Panel Co-Chair. “The implementation modalities, innovations, and mutual accountability systems under the Malabo agenda provide a solid foundation to build on to drive sustainable food system transformation in Africa, as evidenced in our most recent report **Connecting the Dots: Policy Innovations for Food Systems Transformation in Africa**, which draws on the experience and leadership of Ghana, Malawi, Morocco, and Rwanda. Amid the disruptive, albeit complex COVID-19 context, and with the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) on the horizon, the interventions of these policy leaders will provide fodder for game-changing solutions towards the transformation of food systems and the achievement of Agenda 2063,” he said.

"The Action agenda initiated at the UNFSS calls for implementation primarily at the country levels. Addressing global food issues connected to climate crises, and COVID must be addressed with innovations and finance too," said Prof. Joachim von Braun, Malabo Montpellier Panel Co-Chair from the Center for Development Research, Bonn University in Germany. "Spending less than 1% of agricultural GDP on science will not produce the innovations needed. We are confident that this event will take us one step closer to achieving food systems transformation," he said.

The event will feature high-level policy leaders, including H.E. Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, AU Commissioner, Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Development (AUC-DARBE); H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn, former Prime Minister of Ethiopia and Co-Chair, Malabo Montpellier Forum; Honorable Desiré M'zinga Birihanze, Minister of Agriculture, Democratic Republic of the Congo; Mr. Jean Claude Musabyimana, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI), Rwanda; Honorable Lobin C. Lowe, Minister of Agriculture, Malawi; Dr. Gilbert Hougbo, President, IFAD; Dr. Beth Dunford, Vice President, Agriculture, Human and Social Development, AfDB; Ms Maura Barry Boyle, Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau

for Resilience and Food Security, USAID; Dr. Liz Kirk, Senior Adviser, Food Security and Commercial Agriculture, FCDO; and Ambassador Ertharin Cousin, CEO and Founder, Food Systems for the Future and Member, AKADEMIYA2063 Board of Trustees.

About The Malabo Montpellier Panel

The Malabo Montpellier Panel convenes 16 leading experts in agriculture, engineering, ecology, nutrition, and food security. Its aim is to facilitate policy choices by African governments in order to accelerate progress toward food security and improved nutrition. The Panel identifies areas of progress and positive change across the continent and assesses what successful countries have done differently. It identifies the institutional and policy innovations and program interventions that can best be replicated and scaled by other countries. The related Malabo Montpellier Forum provides a platform to promote policy innovation; it uses the evidence produced by the Panel to facilitate dialogue among high-level decision-makers on African agriculture, nutrition, and food security.

The Malabo Montpellier Panel is jointly facilitated by AKADEMIYA2063, University of Bonn, and Imperial College London. For more information, visit www.akademiya2063.org; www.mamopanel.org.

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