

**THE OUAGADOUGOU CALL FOR ACTION**  
**on**  
**LAND-BASED JOBS IN AFRICA**

**within the framework of the**

***SUSTAINABILITY, STABILITY AND SECURITY (3S) INITIATIVE***

15 June 2017, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

We, African ministers, meeting in Ouagadougou on the 15 June 2017 at the invitation of His Excellency the President of Burkina Faso, for the high-level symposium on Sustainability, Stability and Security held on the sidelines of the World Day to Combat Desertification Global Observance Event

*Welcome* the support to the 3S Initiative on Sustainability, Stability and Security in Africa expressed by

- the Heads of State and Government at the 1<sup>st</sup> African Action Summit in Marrakesh (16<sup>th</sup> November 2016), who committed to speed up its implementation
- the G7 Leaders in the Taormina Declaration that recognized security, stability and sustainable development in Africa as high priority for them;
- the G20-Africa partnership at Heads of States and Government Conference that took place on 12-13 June 2017 in Berlin, Germany.

*Reaffirm* that the high dependency of the African continent on its natural base, if not well managed, risks amplifying the vulnerability of millions of people to the interlinked “3S threats”, namely

- competition and conflict over access to productive natural resources as result of degradation, unsustainable use of land and water and climate change as highlighted in the Paris Agreement;
- instability caused by the lack of employment and income generating opportunities for rural youth that forces them to seek alternatives far from their home communities;
- insecurity and risk of radicalization triggered by social and economic disenfranchisement and increased exposure to extremist groups.

*Concerned* that the movements of people caused by climate disasters such as droughts have dramatic consequences to those who have been victims

*Fearing* that, with current land degradation trends, many countries on the continent will not be able to meet the needs of a population growing at an unprecedented rate

*Deeply concerned* that rural youth are particularly exposed to distressed migration as the only perceived option for improving life prospects, rather than migration as an informed and voluntary choice

*Recognize* that land rehabilitation is crucial to create new jobs while reversing the processes of desertification and that, unlike any other employment opportunities, land-based jobs increase the sense of belonging to a specific community and place

*Aware* that investing in land rehabilitation while securing access to tenure, credit and to entrepreneurial skills is essential to upgrade the status, dignity and profile of the individual worker

*Hereby call upon*

*The international community* to promote partnerships to rehabilitate 10 million hectares of degraded lands and to create 2 million secure land-based jobs for young people, women and migrants by 2020

*African countries* to create the conditions for new job opportunities by identifying sites where tenure can be reinforced and land access rights can be secured to be provided to vulnerable and socially-at-risk groups, based on the voluntary guidelines for the responsible governance of tenure

*Development partners and other stakeholders* to help African countries to invest in rural infrastructure, land rehabilitation tools and skills development in the sites identified as migration-prone and socially at risk areas

*Other relevant sub-regional, regional and international initiatives*, including the Adaptation of African Agriculture (AAA) initiative, the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel, the G5 of Sahel, the Lake Chad Initiative, the G20 Initiative for rural youth employment, to work with the 3S Initiative to upscale the land-based jobs approach prioritizing insecure and unstable areas

*Request* the 3S Task Force to

- establish consultation mechanisms with other relevant initiatives
- elaborate joint recommendations on the contribution of secure land-based jobs to international migration policies and land reforms
- put in place effective mechanisms to monitor the effects of the land-based approach on stabilizing rural livelihoods

*Reiterate* our engagement in advocating for the consideration of the 3S Task Force recommendations at key events and fora, including the UN Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, the AU/EU Summit on Youth Employment in Abidjan, UNCCD COP 13 and UNFCCC COP 23.