

# **Cairo Declaration on financing agrifood systems transformation in the Near East and North Africa region**

Cairo, 18 December 2024

We, the representatives of the following international organizations;

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

International Fund for Agriculture Development;

United Nations Children's Fund;

World Food Programme;

World Health Organization;

and

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

*Recognizing the dire state of affairs of the agrifood systems as per findings of the Near East and North Africa Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition 2024—Financing the Transformation of Agrifood Systems for Food Security and Nutrition;*

*Recognizing the importance of adequate financing in transforming regional agrifood systems and combatting food insecurity and malnutrition;*

*Recalling the importance of stepping up collaborative efforts to achieve the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, including SDG 2.1 – ending hunger and ensuring universal access to safe and nutritious food - and 2.2 - ending all forms of malnutrition;*

*Reaffirming our support for the implementation of the Paris Agreement adopted by the UN Conference Climate Change in 2015;*

*Firmly convinced that international cooperation among our agencies and with international and regional development banks and the private sector is at the core of achieving food security and improved nutrition, particularly for women and children, in the Near East and North Africa region, and increasing the financing to transform regional agrifood systems, hereby issue the following Declaration:*

1. We note, with regret, the findings of Near East and North Africa Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition 2024—Financing the Transformation of Agrifood Systems for Food Security and Nutrition, according to which the prevalence of undernourishment reached a new height in 2023, and in the same year, moderate or severe food insecurity in the Region also increased from the previous year. In addition, malnutrition, in all its forms, continues to be a serious concern for children and women in the Arab region. With almost a third of the region’s population not affording a healthy diet, this remains a key driver of food insecurity and malnutrition in the region.
2. We express deep concern that due to multiple and intensifying drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition, the Arab region, on average, remains far from achieving both SDG 2.1 and 2.2.
3. We recognize that the worsening food security and nutrition situation in the region calls for a holistic transformation of agrifood systems results in improving food security and nutrition especially for women and children, promote livelihoods, and protect the natural resources.
4. We affirm that combatting food insecurity and malnutrition and transforming regional agrifood systems require increased, accessible, and sustainable financing from public and private sectors.
5. We call for collaborative efforts to enhance additional financing, particularly the private investments, into regional agrifood systems, including through blended concessional capital and innovative financing models.
6. We propose to launch collaborative financing mechanism or platforms, with the ownership of beneficiary governments, and in collaboration with development and financing partners.
7. We affirm that we will deepen our collaboration among ourselves and with international and regional development banks, the private sector, and national governments, to develop, scale up and deploy additional financial resources to support the transformation of regional agrifood systems to achieve food security and nutrition.
8. We encourage national governments in the region, international and regional development banks, and the private sector to join us in our efforts. To achieve this, we will intensify our cooperation and outreach efforts to achieve the goals of this Declaration.