

**Statement by President Akinwumi A. Adesina, African Development Bank Group  
G-7 Ministerial Conference on “Uniting for Global Food Security”  
June 24, 2022**

I wish to thank Ministers **Baerbock, Schulze, and Cem Özdemir**, for inviting me to this G7 Ministerial Meeting on global food security.

- I applaud the leadership of Chancellor Olaf Scholz and the German G-7 Presidency on the ‘Global Alliance for Food Security’. The African Development Bank will partner with the Alliance.
- For today, as Secretary Blinken said, we should hear from those countries most affected, especially by the Russian war in Ukraine.
- I raise my voice on behalf of 1.3 billion people affected in Africa by a looming food crisis arising from this war.

For Africa, we must move beyond **emergency food aid**. We must prioritize **food production!**

We have the technologies to feed Africa. Africa does not need bowls in hand to beg for food, Africa needs seeds in the ground to produce to feed itself.

When farmers are provided with the right technologies they can feed their countries.

- Our flagship program, Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) has already provided **12 million** farmers with climate resilient crop varieties within just two years.
- In Ethiopia, TAAT-supported heat tolerant wheat varieties have allowed it to cultivate **675,000 hectares**, and it reduced its wheat imports by **80%** in two years.
- And this year, for the **first time ever**, Ethiopia **did not import wheat**.
- With our support, Ethiopia will become a **wheat exporter** next year, and export **1.2 to 1.5 million** metric tons of wheat to Kenya and Djibouti.

To tackle the effects of the Russian war in Ukraine on food security in Africa, the Board of the African Development Bank approved on May 20, 2022, a **\$1.5 billion African Emergency Food Production Facility**, to support the African Emergency Food Production Plan, jointly developed with the African Union.

- The facility will support **20 million** farmers in African countries to produce **38 million** metric tons of food, valued at **\$12 billion**.
- This will consist of **11 million** metric tons of **wheat**, **18 million** metric tons of **maize**, **6 million** metric tons of **rice** and **2.5 million** metric tons of **soybeans**.

To date, the African Development Bank has received requests from **35** countries to the African Emergency Food Production Facility.

- As of today, **26 countries’ operations** valued at **\$1.1 billion** will be before our Board for approval **before July 15**.
- Six other operations valued at **\$264 million** will be approved between **September and November**.

But we **need more resources** urgently.

- While the African Development Bank has mobilized \$1.3 billion out of the \$1.5 billion for the African Emergency Food Production Plan, we have a **financing gap of \$200 million** to provide **grant funds** to produce food in **vulnerable countries** in Africa, credit guarantees for the fertilizer sector, and fund the Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) platform.
- I would therefore like to request that **Germany and all G-7 countries help provide this balance of \$200 million.** These needs are very urgent.
- Together, we will avoid a food crisis in Africa.
- Together, we will help Africa become a global solution to global food challenges, today and in the future, by fully unlocking Africa's food production potential.
- Thank you.