

AFRICAN UNION

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Opening Statement

H.E. Dr. Monique Nsanzabaganwa is the Deputy Chairperson (DCP) for the African Union Commission.

High-Level Policy Dialogue

Africa Dialogue Series 2022:

“Building Resilience in Nutrition on the African Continent: Accelerate the Human Capital, Social and Economic Development”

26 May 2022

9:00- 9:25 (EST):

- **Secretary-General of the United Nations - Mr. António Guterres,**
- **President of the General Assembly - H.E. Abdullah Shahid,**
- **Permanent Representative of Botswana to the United Nations and President of the Economic and Social Council - H.E. Ambassador Collen Vixen Kelapile,**
- **Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations - Ms. Amina Mohammed,**
- **Distinguished Ladies and gentlemen,**

On behalf of the African Union Commission, it is a great honor to participate in this year's "*Africa Dialogue Series*" under the theme "Building Resilience in Nutrition on the African Continent: Accelerate the Human Capital, Social and Economic Development.

A note of thanks to the United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA) and the Permanent Observer Mission of the African Union (AUPOM) for this successful collaboration with various other partners participating today.

The continent has made great progress in addressing food and nutrition security, but a lot more need to be done. Malnutrition continues to affect social and economic development – the Cost of Hunger in Africa study led by the AU notes that countries are losing **approximately 1.5 – 1.9 percent of GDP annually** due to child undernutrition. These losses ultimately have far reaching impacts on human capital development; as a result of health, education and health and wellness, labour and productivity being undermined.

Sustainable nutrition outcomes should be built on a resilient food system that takes into consideration social-economic, environmental, and biodiversity aspects. There is also a need to invest in productive social protection policies to minimize the impact of shocks and to escape food insecurity, malnutrition and poverty.

It is for this reason, that the African Continent is working together with all stakeholders to expand the scope of resilience work across the continent that is founded on transforming food systems for a healthy diet. This shall require solutions involving multiple sectors and stakeholders.

The main objective of the AU Nutrition for 2022 is to leverage the highest political commitment for the AUs policy priorities and to ensure that member states achieve the nutrition targets set in the Malabo Declaration, the Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy, and the Sustainable development goals. I invite you all we work together to ensure that we reach these targets in 2025 and 2030 respectively.

I look forward to fruitful deliberations and I thank you all for your kind attention.