Khartoum Declaration

Khartoum, Sudan 26 September 2018

The Khartoum Declaration for Smart Agriculture

The Arab Organization for Agricultural Development

The Arab Organization for Information and Communication Technologies

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We acknowledge that information and communications technology (ICT) and the new technological trends including the Internet of Things (IoT) can play in bringing about a qualitative change in the agricultural sector. This will allow the achievement of high levels of productivity of the main food commodities through the efficient and rational use of available resources, which will positively contribute to improving the rates of economic growth, sustainable agricultural development and achieve food security in the Arab and African regions.

In view of all the above we emphasize the following:

1. We appreciate the efforts exerted by the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States, the African Union and the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development to achieve Arab-African integration aimed at achieving food security and hunger eradication through the joint Arab-African mechanism of action.

2. We need to adopt the smart agriculture and ICT applications in the agricultural sector to increase productivity and achieve food security while preserving the nature and natural resources, and establishing a regional institution body for the smart agriculture forum to serve as an effective mechanism to set up and develop a regional agenda for the agricultural sector, and implementing and achieving this vision, annual organization and institutional efforts are also required.

3. We affirm that we are part of the international consensus aimed at eradicating hunger (Goal 2 of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030), combating poverty (Goal 1 of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030), combating food insecurity, improving the smallholder livelihoods and empowering women in agriculture, and preserving the environment and natural resources by coordinating efforts in using information and communication technologies in agriculture to achieve integrated and sustainable solutions for the agricultural sector.

4. We support the development of smart agricultural systems and technology, which will include them in our national plans in accordance with our financial and human capabilities. We will work in collaboration with the Arab and African countries to create a society capable of using the Internet of Things (IoT) and new technological trends to achieve agricultural integration based on creativity and technological innovation and contribute to food security and economic growth.

5. We appreciate the role of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development and the Arab Information and Communication Technologies Organization and their efforts to achieve food security and the launch of the smart agriculture initiative for the transformation from traditional agriculture to modern agriculture to increase productivity and improve the competitiveness of the Arab food sector.

6. We acknowledge the Khartoum Declaration by the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development and its initiatives to support the implementation of the smart agriculture initiative in the Arab region, including the establishment of the labor force in this sector, and the need to support and encourage the Arab and African countries to adopt smart agriculture and ICT applications in agriculture to increase productivity and achieve food security and hunger eradication through the joint Arab-African mechanism of action.