

His Excellency Mr. António Guterres
Secretary-General
United Nations

March 27, 2020

Reaffirming our Faith in a Leader Helping to Shape the Future of Global Food Systems

Your Excellency,

It is with great pleasure that we are writing to express our appreciation and support for the appointment of Dr. Agnes Kalibata, as your Special Envoy for the 2021 Food Systems Summit. We have known and worked with Dr. Kalibata for many years. Her professional background and life experience put her in a unique position to understand the complexity of the challenges and interests that define food systems globally today, and in the future. Long before becoming a minister, she spearheaded one of the most remarkable agricultural sector transformation achievements for the benefit of millions of smallholder farmers in a very difficult post-conflict situation in her native Rwanda. She has continued the same fight for progress, prosperity, resilience for African farmers, first as a cabinet minister and, for several years now, as the head of AGRA, the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, which was established thanks to the vision and efforts of your esteemed predecessor, the late Mr. Kofi Annan of Ghana.

The quality of Dr. Kalibata's leadership, work ethic, independence and her capacity to listen to and integrate different perspectives are unquestionable and admired by the large number of colleagues that have worked or collaborated with her. She is a respected member of a new generation of African professionals who are shaping the future of the African development agenda. She was recently awarded the 2019 National Academies of Sciences (NAS) Public Welfare Medal, the most prestigious award of the US National Academy of Sciences, the latest recognition of the quality of her contribution and professional standing.

We therefore salute your recognition of her unique talents and are proud to see her serve the global community with dignity and humility. We have no doubt that she will excel in her appointed role.

Please accept the assurances of our highest regards and esteem.

Debisi Araba

Regional Director for Africa
International Center for Tropical
Agriculture




Ousmane Badiane

Board Chair
African Agricultural
Technology Foundation



Simeon Ehui

Regional Director for Africa
Sustainable Development
World Bank



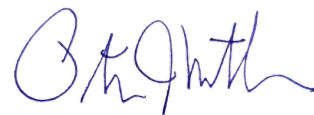
Ismahane Elouafi

Director General
International Center for
Biosaline Agriculture



Peter Matlon

Adjunct Professor
Cornell University



Vickson Ncube

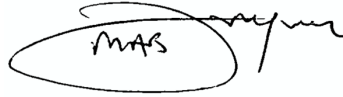
Chief Executive Officer
Pan African Federation of
Accountants



Joyce Cacho
President
Adinura Advisory Services



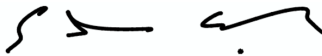
Martin Fregene
Director
Agriculture and Agro-Industry
African Development Bank



Njuguna Ndung'u
Executive Director
African Economic Research
Consortium



Gordon Conway
Professor
Imperial College London



Sheryl Hendriks
Member
Malabo Montpellier Panel



Rhoda Tumusiime
Former Commissioner for
Rural Economy and
Agriculture
African Union Commission

