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ANNEX: CONCLUSIONS OF THE EU HIGH LEVEL PANEL

**High Level Ministerial Panel The country and the city: competition or cooperation?, 8th Global Forum for Food and Agriculture
15 January 2016, City Cube, Berlin**

The High Level Ministerial Panel was hosted by the European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Phil HOGAN. The participants were Ricardo BURYAILE, Minister of Agroindustry, Argentina, Aziz AKHANNOUCH, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Morocco, Chief Audu OGBE, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Nigeria, Theo De Jager, President of Pan African Farmers' Organisation (PAFO) and Sir Gordon CONWAY, Professor of International Development at Imperial College, London. Approximately 250 participants attended the event and contributed to the debate. These included politicians, researchers, agribusinesses and farmer's organisations, international organisations and NGOs.

THE DISCUSSION SHOWED MANY BROAD AREAS OF AGREEMENT:

- **Food security** is a key area where rural and urban stakeholders and policy makers must work together. Urban food security depends on transparent, functioning markets where rural suppliers are given fair prices and contract terms.
- The growth of successful and sustainable cities is central to any country's industrialisation and development. But this must not be at the cost of rural decline. It is not a competition or conflict, but a partnership. However, in many parts of the world it is an uneven partnership.
- Bilateral and multilateral **trade** agreements between countries are important to facilitate the functioning of international markets and so contribute to urban food security and open new opportunities for rural producers.
- There is a need for a **strong agricultural and rural voice** to take on responsibility for feeding the cities **in partnership** with urban stakeholders.
- Beyond food production, rural areas will supply **public goods** to urban dwellers, including ecosystem services, fresh air, recreational opportunities, raw material, and energy. Balance is needed between food production and public goods provision.

- Integrating both urban and rural priorities along with territorial planning, making better use of green infrastructure to reduce degradation of natural resources and loss of agricultural land to soil sealing.
- Meeting future urban food needs will require **sustainable rural strategies and investment in research and innovation, know-how and technology transfer** for agricultural production and productivity to meet changing demand.
- In countries where urban growth and population growth is high, massive private sector responsible investments are needed in the agricultural and agro-industrial sector. This must be facilitated by simplifying investment rules and requirements. Appropriate financial instruments need to be developed in view of matching the needs of farmers and rural enterprises concerning access to capital.
- **Broadband and ICT, access to big data and use of satellite, precision farming** have the potential to become drivers for change in agriculture and rural areas, as they lead to better services and business opportunities, as well as to increasing farmers' productivity and incomes and improving their environmental footprint. Rural operators must have the same access to these data sources and networks as in urban areas, which calls for differentiated investment.
- There is a strong link between **knowledge and education**, on the one hand, and **growth of the economy**, on the other. Making technology available is just the first step. To be successful, we must also focus on developing skills and knowledge in rural areas and on extension services. Vocational training is essential to ensure new agriculture is taken up by next generation of farmers.
- To maintain vibrant rural areas, it is **necessary to ensure that value addition is linked to rural areas and owned by farmers**.
- Farmers' organisations are needed to increase farmers' **bargaining power**, secure fair prices and reduce their exposure to unfair contract terms.

The actors of the food system, and more specifically farmers, need to have the appropriate tools to develop their task which is becoming increasingly complex: producing food in a **sustainable** way as well as matching other demands from agriculture. **Unsustainable production and consumption patterns – producing food loss and food waste - must be addressed** in both their rural and urban dimensions. We must be ready to act on challenges identified throughout the entire food system.