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Press Release

AKADEMIYA2063 and the National Council for Nutrition Development: A Series of Dialogues to Celebrate 2022 as the African Union Year of Nutrition

Kigali, May 30, 2022 – The African Union 2022 Year of Nutrition focuses on “Building Resilience in Nutrition and Food Security on the African Continent: Strengthening Agri-Food, Health, and Social Protection Systems to Accelerate Human, Social, and Economic Capital Development”. With this decision, the organization aims to (i) support African states in their commitment to invest sustainably in nutrition development, and (ii) generate political commitment and increased investment in nutrition to address current nutritional challenges.

In this context, AKADEMIYA2063 and the National Council for Nutrition Development (CNDN, in French) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) aimed at, among other things, marking the year, strengthening political commitment around nutrition, and advancing national, regional, and international agendas in this area. A series of activities have been planned to contribute to national efforts, including a series of dialogues that will address priority and strategic issues related to nutrition and food security. These continental-level dialogues will facilitate knowledge exchange and mutual learning and should lead to the required actions to achieve continental and global food security and nutrition goals.

The theme of the first dialogue, which took place on May 5 was “**Taking Stock: Africa’s Progress toward meeting Nutrition and Food Security Targets, Successes, Challenges and Opportunities**”.

This MOU between AKADEMIYA2063 and CNDN will also facilitate the generation of empirical data for the formulation, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of nutrition policies and programs in Senegal, in addition to jointly exploiting opportunities for research and publications on nutrition, food security, and topics of mutual interest.

“AKADEMIYA2063 is pleased to partner with the National Council for Nutrition Development to support Senegal’s nutrition agenda,” said Dr. Ousmane Badiane, AKADEMIYA2063 Executive Chairperson. “We are committed to bringing our technical expertise to bear as we jointly implement research projects and initiatives that help to improve nutritional outcomes and food security in Senegal,” he added.

Aminata Diop Ndoeye, National Executive Secretary of the National Council of Nutrition Development (CNDN) welcomed the AU’s decision “which reflects a will to effectively support our states in achieving their nutritional goals. This sector deserves special attention from all nutrition

stakeholders in Senegal and around the world. And in this context, we hope that our contribution to this effort, through the activities planned during the year and those resulting from the partnership between CNDN and AKADEMIYA2063, will have a lasting impact on the global nutrition agenda”.

About AKADEMIYA2063

AKADEMIYA2063 is an Africa-based non-profit research organization with headquarters in Kigali, Rwanda and a regional office in Dakar, Senegal.

Inspired by the ambitions of the African Union’s Agenda 2063 and grounded in the recognition of the central importance of strong knowledge and evidence-based systems, the vision of AKADEMIYA2063 is an Africa with the expertise we need for the Africa we want. This expertise must be responsive to the continent’s needs for data and analysis to ensure high-quality policy design and execution. Inclusive, evidence-informed policymaking is key to meeting the continent’s development aspirations, creating wealth, and changing livelihoods for the better.

AKADEMIYA2063’s overall mission is to create, across Africa and led from its headquarters in Rwanda, state-of-the-art technical capacities to support the efforts by the Member States of the African Union to achieve the key goals of Agenda 2063 of transforming national economies to boost economic growth and prosperity.

Following from its vision and mission, the main goal of AKADEMIYA2063 is to help meet Africa’s needs at the continental, regional and national levels in terms of data, analytics, and mutual learning for the effective implementation of Agenda 2063 and the realization of its outcomes by a critical mass of countries. AKADEMIYA2063 strives to meet its goals through programs organized under five strategic areas—policy innovation, knowledge systems, capacity creation and deployment, operational support, and data management, digital products, and technology—as well as innovative partnerships and outreach activities. For more information, visit www.akademiya2063.org.

About the National Council for Nutrition Development (CNDN), Senegal

The National Council for Nutrition Development (formerly *Cellule de Lutte contre la Malnutrition*) was created in 2001 by the Senegalese government. Placed under the authority of the Minister Secretary General of the Government, it ensures the coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the national nutrition policy. It develops appropriate strategies for the implementation of national nutrition programs, ensures their proper implementation as well as their monitoring and evaluation. Chaired by the Minister Secretary General of the Government, it is composed of representatives of key technical ministries involved in nutrition (Health, Education, Agriculture, Industry, Trade, etc.), representatives of the National Assembly, CESE, HCCT, Associations of Mayors, Departments, and civil society.

Through its National Executive Secretariat (NES) and Regional Executive Offices, the Executive Secretariat of the National Council for Nutrition Development (ES/NDC) assists the government in defining the national nutrition policy and strategies.

The National Nutrition Development Policy (PNDN) and the Multisectoral Nutrition Strategic Plan (PSMN), elaborated by CNDN, are part of the government's plan to strengthen the institutionalization of nutrition at all levels by establishing the multisectoral approach as a key guiding principle for their implementation. The objective is to ensure effective and efficient management of the country's nutritional issues and challenges.

CNDN also coordinates and implements large-scale nutrition projects and programs nationwide. Its projects and programs are executed through an implementation mechanism that relies on a network of community-based focal points who deliver community nutrition services. They are in charge of providing the communities with an optimal nutritional status and materializing the government's vision in terms of nutrition which is "a country where each individual enjoys an optimal nutritional status by adopting the appropriate behaviors". To ensure effective monitoring of the implementation of interventions, CNDN relies on the governance bodies set up for this purpose. These include regional, departmental, and local nutrition development committees (CRDN, CDDN, CLDN).

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