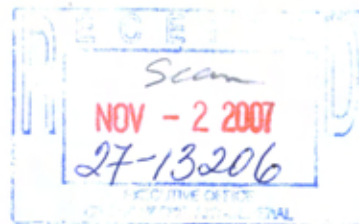


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5 Nov 07 FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS JSC



The Director-General

TCO-DG/07/1426

Rome, 02.XI.2007

Dear Secretary-General,

I have the pleasure to refer to your letter of 18 October 2007 inviting the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to coordinate, together with the African Union, the work of the Thematic Group on Agriculture and Food Security, which is being established within the framework of your MDG Africa initiative, announced at the G-8 Summit in July 2007.

As I stated at the recent CEB Session, FAO (i) welcomes your initiative to focus attention on, and mobilize support for Africa's efforts to achieve the MDGs and other internationally agreed goals and (ii) is willing, as requested, to take the lead with the African Union, for the Thematic Group of Agriculture and Food Security.

I have reviewed the documentation attached to your letter describing the objectives and modalities of the Steering and Working Groups and providing guidelines for the Thematic Groups. The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) of NEPAD and the subsequent National Medium-Term Investment Programmes, which were prepared with FAO's assistance and endorsed by the African Union as an appropriate approach to reach the MDGs, as well as the Regional and National Programmes for Food Security under implementation or being prepared in many African countries, can serve as a solid basis for the work of the Thematic Group, including the envisaged plan of action.

The Organization will need to consult the African Union and all other possible partner organizations, including IFAD, WFP, the World Bank, etc. on how to organize the work of the Thematic Group on Agriculture and Food Security. It is, therefore, clear that more time will be needed for preparing the requested draft work plan and I would recommend that the meeting of the MDG Africa Working Group, which will review the draft work plans, be postponed by one month.

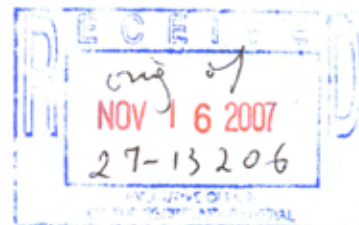
Mr Ban Ki-moon  
Secretary-General  
United Nations  
New York



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Mr Ban Ki-moon  
Secretary-General  
United Nations  
New York






I have designated Mr Tesfai Tecle, Assistant Director-General, Technical Cooperation Department, to lead FAO's contribution to this exercise in the immediate future.

I look forward to the Organization's participation in this important common undertaking of the UN system under your leadership.

Yours sincerely,

 *Best regards*

**Jacques Diouf**