

HIGH-LEVEL POLICY DIALOGUE, ADS 2022

Sub-theme 2:

Strengthening the Resilience of Farming Systems: Land, Digital Transformation and Access to Finance – making smallholder farmers the backbones

Remarks by Amb. Kennedy Gastorn, Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations, New York

I thank the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and the Permanent Observer Mission of the African Union, together with many other partners, for organizing the 2022 Africa Dialogue Series in a manner that is inclusive and interactive.

Specially I recognize and appreciate the leadership and vision of H.E. Cristina Duarte, Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa, on numerous initiatives that

of digitalization as a tool for transformative adaptation to climate change and an enabler of sustainable development.

- Digital technologies offer solutions that can help improve the economic, social and environmental sustainability of agri-food systems around the globe. And while developed countries have led the innovation and adoption of digital agriculture so far, their potential impact in Africa is massive.
- We need to be aware that important challenges remain ahead of us. But we also need to acknowledge that the current trends in Africa create new opportunities for more resilient, inclusive and sustainable transformation of agri-food systems.
- For example, food markets in the region continue to grow and are projected to reach USD 1 trillion by 2030. At the same time, developments in science, technology and innovation, including accelerated digitalization, are improving the functioning of agri-food systems, with a potential to multiply their productivity 2 to 3 times.
- These are advances and forecasts that can make agri-businesses more profitable and, more importantly, can increase their resilience.
- Digital technologies such as blockchain, the Internet of Things, big-data analytics and artificial intelligence are the enablers that will allow agriculture in Africa to leapfrog toward the 4th Industrial Revolution.

- Digitalization can effectively address the key challenges that the agri-food sector faces across Africa. It can lead to i

- All in all, digital agriculture champion programs are being promoted in several