

*July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Lilongwe Call for Action on Forest Landscape Restoration in Africa*

## The Lilongwe Call for Action on Forest Landscape Restoration in Africa

We, Ministers of African countries and representatives gathered in Lilongwe on July 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017 for the SADC+ Ministerial Bonn Challenge Summit, hosted by the Government of Malawi issue this '**Call for Action for Forest Landscape Restoration in Africa**'.

**RECOGNISING AND VALUING THE AFRICAN RESTORATION INITIATIVE - AFR100 AS THE CONTINENTAL PLATFORM TO CONTRIBUTE TO AND IMPLEMENT THE BONN CHALLENGE**, the global mechanism for the restoration of degraded land that aim to harness political, technical and financial backing for national restoration targets.

**ENDORISING THE KIGALI DECLARATION ON THE PROMOTION OF FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION IN AFRICA** and the need for its effective implementation;

**HIGHLIGHTING THAT THE ECONOMIC COST OF LAND DEGRADATION REGULARLY EXCEEDS 5% OF GDP** within the region, making forest landscape restoration a national development priority;

**EMPHASIZING THAT THE COSTS OF INACTION ON LAND DEGRADATION EXCEED THE COSTS OF ACTION** by an estimated factor of four to one;

**CONFIRMING THAT FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION IS A BROAD APPROACH** that integrates restoration across different land types and uses, including forests, drylands, woodlands, wetlands and farmlands;

**ALSO CONFIRMING THAT THESE EFFORTS ARE IN DIRECT SURPPORT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND LAND DEGRADATION NEUTRALITY** as reflected in SDG target 15.3, Agenda 2063 Aspiration 7.

**ACKNOWLEDGING THE REGIONAL SPECIFIC FOCUS IN THE SADC REGION**, as defined through the existing SADC Protocol on Environment (2014) and supporting programmes and plans such as the SADC Biodiversity Action Plan (2013), SADC Sub-Regional Action Plan to Combat Desertification (2015), SADC Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (2015) and SADC Regional Green Economy Strategy and Action Plan (2015);

**HIGHLIGHTING THE RECENT DECISION BY THE UNCCD REGIONAL FORUM**, held in South Africa in April 2017, which encouraged Member States to participate in the Bonn Challenge through AFR100 as a contribution to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN);

### **WE:**

1. **REAFFIRM OUR EXISTING COMMMITMENTS TO THE BONN CHALLENGE** to restore 150 million hectares of deforested and degraded lands by 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030;
2. **ENCOURAGE OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES MAKE AMBITIOUS COMMITMENTS** to the Bonn Challenge' as a global initiative, the AFR100 regional platform, as well as other sister initiatives such as the Great Green Wall, Land Degradation Neutrality and the Sustainable Development Goals.

3. **ENCOURGE FURTHER SIGNATURES TO THE KIGALI DECLARATION** by those countries that have not already signed and promoting its up take at the national level;
4. **REQUEST RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE EMERGING LINKS BETWEEN DEGRADATION, POVERTY, MIGRATION AND CONFLICT;**
5. **ENCOURAGE GOVERNMENTS TO MAINSTREAM RESTORATION INTO THEIR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AND LAWS** including developing and implementing national forest landscape strategies with an emphasis on the need to ensure coherence and consistency between land-use, fiscal and other relevant policies;
6. **PROMOTE THE INCORPORATION OF NATURAL CAPITAL VALUATION WITHIN LAND-USE POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES,** with a view to strengthening national accountability over their implementation and how these measures enhance or diminish the sustainable management of land, soil and natural resources;
7. **COMMIT TO THE INCLUSION OF YOUTH AND WOMEN IN FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION ACTION,** specifically encouraging the Bonn Challenge and AFR100 to make this a central theme of the next regional FLR meeting;
8. **UNDERTAKE TO EXPLORE INCREASES IN DOMESTIC INVESTMENT OF RESOURCES TOWARDS ACTION ON THE GROUND** including the alignment of domestic investment policies, social safety next developing incentives for farmers and their communities, including revolving funds, tree fertilizer subsidies and similar approaches;
9. **CALL ON DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS, INTERNATIONAL FINANCE INSTITUTIONS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO SUPPORT DOMESTIC INVESTMENT AND FACILITATE ACCESS TO EXTERNAL INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION,MECHANISMS,** including among others international funds such as the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility;
10. **PROMOTE INCREASED COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION ON FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION** within the SADC region and with other African regional economic communities with a view to promote cross-learning and effective approaches of land restoration at scale;
11. **PROMOTE CROSS-LEARNING AND EFFECTIVE APPROACHES OF LAND RESTORATION AT SCALE** through south-south collaboration, within Africa and across continents;
12. **PROMOTE ‘BUSINESS UNUSUAL’ APPROACHES INCLUDING REGENERATIVE DEVELOPMENT TO REVERSE CLIMATE CHANGE** and promote interlinkages of different networks such as trans frontier conservation areas, the Miombo network and others
13. **DEVELOP A CULTURE OF RESTORATION AND STRENGTHEN CONTINENTAL CAPACITY TO ACHIEVE THIS** by developing technical expertise, mainstream restoration in education curriculums and developing environmental and social standards for the implementation of Forest Landscape Restoration to help tackle climate change effects, improve human well-being, ecosystem health and biodiversity conservation across Africa;

- 14. PROMOTE COST EFFECTIVE APPROACHES THAT INCREASE TREE SURVIVAL, INCLUDING FARMER-MANAGED NATURAL REGENERATION FOR RESTORATION.**
- 15. UNDERTAKE TO EXPLORE OPTIONS FOR FLR MONITORING AND EVALUATION ACTIVITIES, including enabling framework for policy and financial resources.**
- 16. ENCOURAGE PROMOTION OF EFFICIENT FUEL ENERGY ALTERNATIVES TO REDUCE DEFORESTATION**
- 17. DEVELOP STRATEGIES AND IMPLEMENTATION PLANS TO REVERSE DEGRADATION on coastal zone as a result of sea level rise and effects of climate change; including degradation of soil in agricultural lands, salt intrusion.**

**Done in Lilongwe, July 13<sup>th</sup> 2017**

**Annex:**

- 1. List of delegates**