



News Release | Strictly Embargoed for 10:35 A.M. CET, 11 December 2012

Kofi Annan sets out vision to achieve food and nutrition security for all

Berlin, Germany – Former UN Secretary-General and Chairman of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), Kofi Annan, will today outline how food and nutrition security, particularly for the world's poorest and most vulnerable, can be achieved by transforming agriculture and reshaping the global food security system.

Speaking at the high-level Flagship Forum: "Securing Food, Harvesting the Future", in Berlin, Mr. Annan will:

- Warn that **"in an era of plenty, nearly one in eight people do not have enough food to eat and another billion lack the nutrition necessary for proper health and development."**
- Outline the serious threat to food and nutrition security from the damaging impact of climate change: **"Vast areas of once-fertile land are no longer productive. Rising temperatures and changes to rainfall patterns are reducing crop yields."**
- Urge world leaders from the public and private sectors to accelerate investment in agriculture: **"It is in developing countries where the need and the potential to increase agricultural production and productivity are greatest."**
- Call for climate-resilient and climate-smart agriculture: **"New crops and techniques must be developed so the productivity of land and intensity of farming can be increased, without harming the environment or biodiversity on which our food security depends."**
- Underline that small-holder farmers must be placed at the heart of the fight against global hunger and malnutrition: **"Food production can't be increased at the speed and scale needed without mobilizing the army of small-holder farmers in developing countries."**
- Call for fair and equitable global trade rules to allow crops to be sold at fair prices. He will say that the global community has to provide **"effective, efficient and equitable market access policies for food"**.

Recognising Africa's strong economic growth, and increased investment and revenues from the extractive industries, Mr. Annan will emphasize that **"there is still a great deal to be**

done to ensure this money is used wisely for the long-term benefit of all the country's citizens".

Highlighting the achievements of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and its partners in transforming smallholder agriculture into profitable businesses, Mr. Annan will stress that **"we have the ability to transform agriculture on the ground and reshape the global food security system to alleviate hunger, end poverty, and promote sustainable development."** He will end his keynote address with a call for vision, courage and leadership to achieve this goal.

For a full copy of Mr. Annan's speech to the Flagship Forum in Berlin, please visit www.kofiannanfoundation.org

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Contact:

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Notes to Editors

Kofi Annan served two terms, from 1997 to 2006, as UN Secretary-General. In 2001, Annan and the United Nations were jointly awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace. Since leaving the United Nations, Kofi Annan has established a Foundation which aims to promote better global governance and strengthen the capacities of people and countries to achieve a fairer more secure world.

For more information, please go to www.kofiannanfoundation.org . Follow the Kofi Annan Foundation on [Twitter](#). Join our [Facebook](#) fan page. Sign up to receive [updates](#)

Mr Annan is also Chairman of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). Please visit: <http://www.agra-alliance.org>.

AGRA is an Africa based organization working in partnership with governments, agricultural research organizations, farmers, private sector, civil society and other rural development stakeholders to significantly and sustainably improve the productivity and incomes of resource poor farmers in Africa. AGRA's programs in the areas of seeds, soil health, market viability, supportive policies and innovative finance work to bring about transformational change across the agricultural value chain. Funded initially by the Rockefeller Foundation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, AGRA is chaired by Kofi Annan and has offices in Nairobi, Kenya and Accra, Ghana.