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Investing in rural people

## **Memorandum of Understanding between the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, McKinsey & Company Inc. Kenya, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa and the International Fund for Agricultural Development**

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**For: Approval**

## Recommendation for approval

The Executive Board is invited to approve the recommendation contained in paragraph 11 of this document.

### I. Background and purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding

1. In September 2021, the IFAD Executive Board approved the establishment of the Trust Fund for the African Agricultural Transformation Initiative (AATI),<sup>1</sup> an initiative that aims to build and help to coordinate effective and sustainable delivery mechanisms that can implement policies for agricultural and food system transformation.
2. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), McKinsey & Company Inc. Kenya, the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and IFAD are founding members of AATI. As part of its implementation arrangements, AATI will draw upon the complementary capacities, resources and expertise of the four founding partners.
3. IFAD and BMGF have already entered into a supplementary funds agreement, on 7 October 2021. As part of the conditions of this agreement, it was agreed that the four founding members would enter into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to govern the relationship between the parties as regards AATI implementation.

#### A. Background and activities of the founding partners

4. BMGF is a charitable trust based in Seattle, Washington, United States of America. It is a grant-making organization committed to accelerating the development of life-saving advances in health and development to reduce the burden of disease in developing countries and to ensure that all people, especially those in disadvantaged communities around the world, secure their right to live healthy and productive lives. Through its Agricultural Development Strategy, the Foundation supports farmers and governments in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia seeking a sustainable, inclusive agricultural transformation — one that creates economic opportunity, respects limits on natural resources and gives everyone equal access to affordable, nutritious food. The Foundation invests in public and private sector efforts to develop more effective systems for delivering products and services to smallholder producers. To that end, the Foundation supports government endeavors to develop and implement detailed agricultural development strategies that include clear milestones for progress.
5. McKinsey is a global management consulting firm that provides business management consulting services to clients across multiple industries. McKinsey contributes to societal good through a range of efforts spanning its client service and knowledge work, including through social responsibility collaborations in which it strategically works with other organizations on select social initiatives.
6. AGRA is an African-led partnership working to bring together governments, the private sector, civil society and farmers to develop stable, sustainable growth for Africa's smallholder farmers. Its vision is a food secure and prosperous Africa achieved through rapid, sustainable agricultural growth, improved productivity and livelihoods of smallholder farmers in Africa and its mission is to trigger a uniquely African green revolution that will transform African agriculture into a highly

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<sup>1</sup>Trust Fund for the African Agricultural Transformation Initiative (EB 2021/VBC/7).

productive, efficient, competitive and sustainable system that assures food security and lifts millions out of poverty.

## **B. Background, objectives and nature of the partnership.**

7. The parties share a common interest in promoting, in accordance with their respective mandates, agricultural development and food security in developing countries. They further share a common interest in supporting the successful implementation of AATI and recognize the benefits to be achieved from cooperation between them in supporting AATI and from clarifying their respective contribution to the initiative through a joint memorandum.
8. This MoU will establish a mutually beneficial framework for cooperation between the parties with a view to facilitating collaboration in supporting AATI. In accordance with their respective mandates, policies and rules, the parties will seek opportunities for collaboration in supporting AATI implementation, which will draw upon their complementary capacities, resources and expertise in a number of areas, including but not limited to: (i) support for the development of expressions of interest by countries; (ii) AATI governance and decision-making; (iii) advisory support and access to technical expertise mobilized through AATI; and (iv) partnerships and outreach to facilitate the success of AATI.

## **C. Benefits of signing an MoU with BMGF, McKinsey & Company Inc. Kenya and AGRA.**

9. The signing of the MoU will establish a mutually beneficial framework for cooperation between the parties with a view to facilitating collaboration in supporting the successful implementation of AATI.

## **II. Alignment with IFAD strategies**

10. The development principles and objectives set forth in IFAD's Strategic Framework 2016-2025 are aligned with those of AATI.

## **III. Recommendation**

11. In accordance with article 8, section 2 of the Agreement Establishing IFAD, the Executive Board is invited to authorize the President of IFAD to finalize and sign the MoU among IFAD, BMGF, McKinsey & Company Inc. Kenya and AGRA, along the lines described above.
12. The signed MoU will be submitted to the Board for information at a subsequent session.