

UNITED NATIONS HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM (HLPF) ON FOLLOW UP AND REVIEW OF THE SDGs:

ENSURING THAT NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND – FOOD SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, CLIMATE ACTION, SUSTAINABLE OCEANS AND TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS – ADOPTING A NEXUS APPROACH

INTERVENTION STATEMENT BY MR SAMUEL ZAN AKOLOGO, ON BEHALF OF THE TOGETHER 2030 CIVIL SOCIETY COALITION ON 12TH JULY 2016

Your Excellencies: Chairperson, Moderator and Panellists

In Africa, for instance, food security is more than just availability and access to food. Food security has very sacred social and cultural linkages and implications to land and Mother Earth. Pope Francis has recognized this in a very profound way in his Encyclical – Laudato Si. We have a responsibility to ensure that our pursuit to attain goals 2, 13 and 14 and other related goals do not put Mother Earth in jeopardy.

For us in Together 2030, the focus of this theme underscores our proposal for addressing inter-linkages between the goals and not tackling the goals in silos. This calls for policy coherence at the national level with clear multi-sectorial institutional arrangements for monitoring and review of policy performance and impact

We also recommend food security approaches that builds on indigenous knowledge and coping mechanisms of local farmers; especially focusing on family-farming systems to ensure that rural farmers are not left behind. The spate of land grabbing for large commercial agriculture and other purposes in the extractive industry, is not compatible with sustainable agriculture. National policies must support the interest of farmers at all times and have safe-guards for nature's endowments.

I thank you!