Reaffirming our Faith in a Leader Helping to Shape the Future of Global Food Systems

Your Excellency,

It is with great pleasure that we are writing to express our appreciation and support for the appointment of Dr. Agnes Kalibata, as your Special Envoy for the 2021 Food Systems Summit. We have known and worked with Dr. Kalibata for many years. Her professional background and life experience put her in a unique position to understand the complexity of the challenges and interests that define food systems globally today, and in the future. Long before becoming a minister, she spearheaded one of the most remarkable agricultural sector transformation achievements for the benefit of millions of smallholder farmers in a very difficult post-conflict situation in her native Rwanda. She has continued the same fight for progress, prosperity, resilience for African farmers, first as a cabinet minister and, for several years now, as the head of AGRA, the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, which was established thanks to the vision and efforts of your esteemed predecessor, the late Mr. Kofi Annan of Ghana.

The quality of Dr. Kalibata’s leadership, work ethic, independence and her capacity to listen to and integrate different perspectives are unquestionable and admired by the large number of colleagues that have worked or collaborated with her. She is a respected member of a new generation of African professionals who are shaping the future of the African development agenda. She was recently awarded the 2019 National Academies of Sciences (NAS) Public Welfare Medal, the most prestigious award of the US National Academy of Sciences, the latest recognition of the quality of her contribution and professional standing.

We therefore salute your recognition of her unique talents and are proud to see her serve the global community with dignity and humility. We have no doubt that she will excel in her appointed role.

Please accept the assurances of our highest regards and esteem.

Debisi Araba  
Regional Director for Africa  
International Center for Tropical Agriculture

Simeon Ehui  
Regional Director for Africa  
Sustainable Development  
World Bank

Peter Matlon  
Adjunct Professor  
Cornell University

Ousmane Badiane  
Board Chair  
African Agricultural Technology Foundation

Ismahane Elouafi  
Director General  
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Vickson Neube  
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Njuguna Ndung’u  
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Rhoda Tumusiime  
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