Background

In 2003, the Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa called on AU Member States to commit 10 per cent of their public expenditure to investment in agriculture towards achieving 6 per cent annual economic growth rates. Ten years on, despite spending increases by several countries, majority of African governments have not been consistent in meeting the 10% public expenditure and the 6% growth targets. In June 2014, the Malabo Declaration was adopted by African Heads of State and Government, recommitting to the principles of CAADP with the focus on results and impact at the regional and national levels. This has initiated new waves of strategy, actions and work streams emphasizing the role of regional and national level actors. This is of great significance for West Africa at this crucial point when the 10 years of ECOWAP is being marked, with emphasis on women, youth and smallholder farmers towards achieving the CAADP goals. In this regard, the Non State Actors in the West African region, seeking to play our role as responsible partners in CAADP implementation, hereby highlight our commitments and recommendations as follows.

We commit to:

1. Continue supporting capacity building of NSA to effectively engage the ECO WAP process
2. Conduct a mapping of NSA in the agriculture sector to build a comprehensive database that will inform the requisite interventions by all partners.
3. Strengthen platforms for coordinated NSA interventions to support the ECO-WAP +10 implementation process
4. Advocate for domestic capital mobilisation towards creating a sustainable pool of long term funding
5. Raise awareness of ECOWAS Citizens on ECOWAP and CAADP
6. Account for our commitments through periodic reviews including JSRs

We recommend that:

1. ECOWAS should adopt a target-based timeline and mechanism for monitoring progress towards reaching the 10% budget commitment to agriculture, and to commit significant domestic resources to achieve this aim.
2. ECOWAS should prioritise investments and innovation for increased productivity with emphasis on small-scale producers, women and youth.
3. ECOWAS should promote and strengthen avenues for effective mutually accountable and inclusive agricultural policy formulation and implementation within the ECOWAP framework for the next decade and beyond.
4. ECOWAS should integrate sustainability and climate resilience into their agriculture investment plans and implementation.
5. ECOWAS should promote increased intra and inter regional market access through investments in hard infrastructure, essential knowledge, and information services that increase the competitiveness of small scale producers, processors, and domestic private sector companies to create entrepreneurship and employment opportunities.
6. ECOWAS should commit to build the capacity and competencies of all actors involved in the ECOWAP implementation process.