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MEDIA BRIEFING WITH KOFI ANNAN – Details below

**KOFI ANNAN CALLS FOR A
'UNIQUELY AFRICAN GREEN REVOLUTION'
TO ADDRESS FOOD CRISIS**

Kofi Annan has called for a “uniquely African Green Revolution” founded on “bold pro-poor policies” to address the food crisis facing Africa and the world.

As food prices escalate at an unprecedented rate and shortages worsen, the Former Secretary General of the United Nations and Chairman of the Board of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) has called for a new approach to finding equitable solutions.

“To address poverty at its core, particularly in light of the growing threat of climate change, we need a uniquely African green revolution,” said Mr Annan. “Our farmers need better seeds, soils, and prices for what they sell. They need access to water, markets and credit. They need policies that accelerate rural economic growth, investment and job creation.”

“For decades African agriculture has been neglected, and the price for neglect is now glaring. But the changes required can only be realized if supported by bold pro-poor policies, both from African governments and their international partners,” Mr Annan added.

Mr Annan was speaking at the ‘Toward a Green Revolution in Africa’ conference in Salzburg, Austria, which kicks off a multi-year initiative by the Salzburg Global Seminar, the Future Agricultures Consortium and the Institute of Development Studies in the UK. The initiative seeks to develop a new vision for African agricultural development.

Over 60 experts from government, farmer organizations, industry, academia, and non-governmental organisations will debate issues of vital concern to the future of agriculture in Africa.

Issues such as how can Africa avert a food crisis and the spectre of serious social unrest? How can new interest and investment in African agriculture be used to bring about real and sustainable change? How can these efforts be aligned strategically to avoid overlaps and wasted efforts? How can new policies help achieve a pro-poor future for Africa?

Farmers are the key link between policymakers and reality on the ground, says Ishmael Sunga, CEO and board secretary of the Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU). Biofuels and climate change are but two examples of crucial decision-making processes where the farmers arrived too late to the discussions. Mr Sunga said: "You need to sort out the policy first that will then inform the practice on the ground. Without that, that becomes a problem. The issue is to which extend the farmers organizations are able to interact at policy level."

And women are the key to a uniquely African Green Revolution said Njabulo Nduli, former chairman of Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA). Women do not have the chance to properly participate in the discussions and decisions as result of the lack of understanding, knowledge and appreciation on the current developments.

"We can no longer ignore the role of women, especially now when there is more evidence on the linkages between climate change, the soaring food prices and the rising costs of energy and agriculture productivity. The success of the African Green Revolution will be achieved through an inclusive process that recognizes the role of women who constitute 60% - 70% of the producers," Ms Nduli said.

An equitable and sustainable future for African agriculture can be achieved if pro-poor policies are established now.

"Farmers' unions, civil society and the public need to be included in finding solutions that work for them, solutions that go beyond the purely technical. Policies need to be driven by the stakeholders," said Gem Argwings-Kodhek, a member of the Future Agricultures Consortium and Senior Research Fellow at Tegemeo Institute of Agricultural Policy and Development, Kenya.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Full text of Mr Annan's opening speech to the conference available at: <http://www.SalzburgGlobal.org> and <http://www.future-agricultures.org>

MEDIA BRIEFING WITH KOFI ANNAN

Mr Annan and other panelists from the conference will be taking part in a media briefing telephone conference call on Friday 2 May at 12.30CET.

Register to take part in the briefing by email: emitterndorfer@SalzburgGlobal.org

You must be registered by Thursday May 1st 2008 at 12:00 CET

To submit questions via email: questions@salzburgglobal.org

The Salzburg Global Seminar (<http://www.SalzburgGlobal.org>) has been convening individuals and institutions from diverse countries and professional sectors for 60 years. Dedicated to promoting the free exchange of ideas, experience, and understanding in a multi-disciplinary, cross-cultural environment, the Seminar each year develops and conducts a variety of international seminars, workshops, symposia, and conferences in its distinctive conference facilities in Salzburg, Austria.

The Future Agricultures Consortium (<http://www.future-agricultures.org>) aims to encourage critical debate and policy dialogue on the future of agriculture in Africa. The

Consortium is a growing partnership involving research-based organisations in Africa and the UK, with core funding from the UK Department for International Development (DFID). Through stakeholder-led policy dialogues on future scenarios for agriculture, informed by in-depth field research, the Consortium aims to elaborate the practical and policy challenges of establishing and sustaining pro-poor agricultural growth in Africa.

The Institute of Development Studies (<http://www.ids.ac.uk>) The Institute of Development Studies (IDS) is a leading global organisation for research, teaching and communication on international development. Its purpose is to provide practical policy solutions to global inequity based on rigorous academic research and innovative partnerships. In the 40 years since it was founded IDS has established a reputation for pioneering research into poverty reduction and social inclusion.