

## **JOINT DECLARATION**

**By**

**Dr. SUGINAKA Atsushi,  
Director-General for Export and International Affairs Bureau,  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan (MAFF)**

**And**

**Mr. Gunther Beger,  
Managing Director,  
Directorate of SDG Innovation and Economic Transformation (IET),  
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)**

WHEREAS the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (hereinafter referred to as “MAFF”), whose headquarters are located at Tokyo, Japan, has the mission to achieve global food security and productive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems through innovations, and MAFF has been engaged in various international cooperation initiatives to assist developing countries and countries with the economies in transition in transforming their agri-food systems in a sustainable, resilient and productive manner;

WHEREAS the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (hereinafter referred to as “UNIDO”), whose headquarters are located at Vienna, Austria, as a specialized agency of the United Nations, has the central role in coordinating all activities of the United Nations system in the field of inclusive and sustainable industrial development and promotes industrial development and cooperation on global, regional, and national as well as sectoral levels within the framework of its four strategic priorities of creating shared prosperity, advancing economic competitiveness, safeguarding the environment, and strengthening knowledge and institutions;

WHEREAS MAFF and UNIDO, recognizing the value of partnership in areas where their respective functions and activities are complementary and mutually supportive, desire to collaborate within the framework of the present Joint Declaration in order to achieve global food security and productive, resilient and sustainable agro and food systems through the sustainable development of agribusiness;

NOW THEREFORE the Signatories declare as follows:

### **Paragraph I (Objectives)**

1. MAFF and UNIDO (hereinafter each referred to as “Participant” and, collectively, as “Participants”) concur that they will cooperate closely and consult one another on matters of mutual interest in order to achieve the following common objectives:

- (a) Strengthen productive, resilient and sustainable agro and food value chains from the production stage to the processing and distribution stages through innovative and affordable technologies and approaches.
- (b) Develop and upgrade strategic infrastructure utilizing innovative and affordable technologies and approaches for agribusiness development.
- (c) Increase investment and financing in agribusiness.
- (d) Promote green transformation of agribusiness sectors through innovation, knowledge exchange and international cooperation.

2. The Participants concur on working together in good faith, through joint and concerted cooperation in line with the matters of the Joint Declaration, in order to implement the objectives set forth above.

### **Paragraph II (Areas of Cooperation)**

1. In consistence with the programme of work approved by the policy-making organs of UNIDO and the conclusion of project documents for specific projects, the Participants concur on cooperating in the following areas:

- (a) Institutional reform and capacity building for productive, resilient and sustainable agro and food systems
- (b) Climate-smart agricultural inputs and infrastructure, including irrigation and appurtenant facilities
- (c) Development of value-added processing and packaging industries
- (d) Reduced food loss and waste throughout the food supply chains
- (e) Food quality, safety, nutrition and healthy diets
- (f) Agro and food logistics development and supply chain management
- (g) Increased private sector engagement and investments in productive, resilient and sustainable agro and food systems
- (h) Sustainable fishery management and aquaculture
- (i) Sustainable forest management and forest-based value chains
- (j) Promotion of the bioeconomy through sustainable use of biomass and bio-based resources
- (k) Nature-based solutions for climate resilience and ecosystem restoration
- (l) Sustainable agro-industrial park and related infrastructure development

2. The Participants concur that the Joint Declaration does not confer any exclusivity regarding activities covered by the Joint Declaration and that they may collaborate on similar activities with other Participants.

3. The areas of cooperation may be modified from time to time by written consensus of the Participants.

### **Paragraph III (Modalities of Cooperation)**

1. The Participants will pursue, either jointly or separately as mutually consented, the following non-exclusive modalities in order to implement the Joint Declaration:

- (a) Hold regular and streamlined strategic dialogues at both technical and high levels, including consultations and information exchange.
- (b) Organize joint events and meetings in appropriate settings to promote and strengthen cooperation.
- (c) Co-host thematic events, policy dialogues, workshops and conferences to promote knowledge exchange, innovation and partnership development in areas of mutual interest.
- (d) Develop and implement MAFF-UNIDO joint cooperation projects involving Japanese agribusinesses and related research institutions.
- (e) Promote the participation of MAFF experts in staff secondment and personnel exchange programs.
- (f) Promote the above activities in close coordination with the UNIDO ITPO Tokyo.

2. The Participants will negotiate in good faith the terms of any subsequent arrangements that are required to implement their collaboration at the project level. Such arrangements will be in line with the details of the Joint Declaration and the regulations, rules, instructions, directives and procedures in UNIDO.

3. Nothing in the Joint Declaration may be construed as granting a license or permission to a Participant concerning the intellectual property of the other Participant. Intellectual property rights arising from or relating to the Participants' cooperation will be the subject of a separate arrangement between the Participants.

### **Paragraph IV (Exchange of Information and Documents; Focal Points)**

1. The Participants concur on undertaking an exchange of relevant information and documents, subject to such restrictions and arrangements as may be considered necessary by either Participant to preserve the confidential nature of certain information and documents.

2. The following focal points are designated for coordinating all communication between the Participants and facilitating the day-to-day implementation of the Joint Declaration:

- (a) For MAFF:  
Director for Multilateral Affairs, Export and International Affairs Bureau  
Address: 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan  
Tel.: +81-3-3502-8111
  
- (b) For UNIDO:  
Director for Division of Agribusiness and Infrastructure Development  
Address: Vienna International Centre, Wagramer Strasse 5  
P.O. Box 300, A-1400 Vienna, Austria  
Tel.: +43-1-26026-3477

#### **Paragraph V (Public Announcements; UNIDO Name, Emblem, Official Seal)**

1. Either Participant may issue press releases or make public announcements relating to the Joint Declaration; provided, however, that MAFF will first provide a draft of any press release to UNIDO for review and approval before being issued.
  
2. MAFF consents that use of the name, emblem and official seal of UNIDO for commercial purposes is strictly prohibited. Any request to use the name or emblem of UNIDO will be in line with the conditions for such use established by UNIDO, in line with UNIDO's policy on the protection and use of the name, emblem and official seal of UNIDO.

#### **Paragraph VI (Financial Matters)**

1. The Joint Declaration does not establish a financial obligation on the part of any Participant.
  
2. The implementation of activities and projects envisaged in the Joint Declaration will depend on the availability of the necessary financial resources and will be made in line with the regulations, rules, instructions, directives and procedures for UNIDO.

#### **Paragraph VII (Privileges and Immunities)**

Nothing in or relating to the Joint Declaration will be deemed as a waiver, express or implied, of any of the privileges and immunities of UNIDO.

### **Paragraph VIII (Governing Law and Settlement of Disputes)**

1. The present Joint Declaration will be construed in line with general principles of law, to the exclusion of any single national system of law.
2. In the event of a dispute, controversy or claim arising out of or relating to the Joint Declaration or to any arrangements made in consistence with the Joint Declaration, the Participants will use their best efforts to promptly settle such dispute through direct negotiation.
3. Any dispute that is not settled within sixty (60) days from the date a Participant has notified the other of the nature of the dispute and of the measures that should be taken to rectify it will be resolved through consultation between the executive heads of the Participants or their duly authorized representatives.

### **Paragraph IX (Final Matters)**

1. The Joint Declaration will commence upon its signature by the authorized representatives of the Participants.
2. The Joint Declaration will continue for an initial period of 4 years as of the date of signature by the Participants, and it will be renewed automatically for similar 4-year periods until it is discontinued.
3. The Joint Declaration may only be changed, modified, or supplemented by written consent of the Participants.
4. The Participants may discontinue the Joint Declaration by written consent. Each Participant may discontinue the Joint Declaration, for any reason and at any time, by giving six months' written notice to the other Participant. In the event of discontinuation, steps will be taken to ensure that the discontinuation does not affect any prior commitment, project or activity already in progress.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, duly appointed representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, respectively, have signed the present Joint Declaration, in English and in two originals, on the date and at the place set forth below:

Signed in Tokyo, Japan, 29 May 2026

---

Dr. SUGINAKA Atsushi,  
Director-General for Export and International Affairs Bureau,  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan (MAFF)

---

Mr. Gunther Beger,  
Managing Director,  
Directorate of SDG Innovation and Economic Transformation (IET),  
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)