



Biovision
Africa
Trust



Growing Sustainably

Development of the Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative for Africa (history, structures, achievements, opportunities and challenges)

SADC MEETING: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN ECOLOGICAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

10TH JULY 2024

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THE EOA INITIATIVE ALL BEGUN WITH:

DECISION ON ORGANIC FARMING Doc. EX.CL/631 (XVIII)

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture held in Lilongwe, Malawi on 28 and 29 October 2010 on Organic Farming, and **ENDORSES** the Resolution contained therein;
 2. **EXPRESSES** concern over the current practice of exploitation of the organic farmers in Africa;
 3. **REQUESTS** the Commission and its New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) to:
 - i) initiate and provide guidance for an African Union (AU)-led coalition of international partners on the establishment of an African organic farming platform based on available best practices; and
 - ii) provide guidance in support of the development of sustainable organic farming systems and improve seed quality;
 4. **CALLS UPON** development partners to provide the necessary technical and financial support for the implementation of this Decision;
 5. **REQUESTS** the Commission to report regularly on the implementation of this Decision.
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ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EOA INITIATIVE IN AFRICA

- The EOA Initiative in Africa was established in 2012 following the African Union Head of States and Government Decision EX.CL/Dec. 621 (XVIII) on Organic Farming.

THE AU EOA INITIATIVE CATALYST TEAM

The first meeting supported by the AUC and SSNC was held in May 2011 at SACDEP Kenya, in Thika organized by PELUM Kenya in collaboration with other key stakeholders including:

- Africa Union Representative (Dr Sarah Olembo)
- SACDEP Kenya (Mr. Ngugi Mutura)
- BvAT (Dr. David Amudavi)
- TOAM (the late Jordan Gama)
- ISD (the late Sue Edwards)
- NOGAMU (Mr. Musa Muwanga)
- KOAN (Mr. Eustace Kiarrii)
- UGOCert (Prof. Charles Ssekyewa)
- NOAN (Dr. Olugbenga AdeOluwa)

☞ **The meeting developed the first concept note with a strategic focus that led to full proposal development for pilot testing in 6 Africa countries.**

STRATEGIC FOCUS

MISSION

To scale up ecologically and organically sound strategies and practices through institutional capacity development, scientific innovations, market participation, public policies and programs, outreach and communication, efficient coordination, networking and partnerships in Africa.

GOAL

To mainstream Ecological Organic Agriculture into national agricultural production systems by 2025 in order to improve agricultural productivity, food security, access to markets and sustainable development in Africa.

VISION

Resilient and vibrant Ecological Organic Agricultural systems for enhanced food and nutrient security, and sustainable development in Africa.

STRATEGIC PILLARS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Research, Training and Extension



Responsible for understanding research and training gaps within the ecological organic agriculture value chains and undertaking activities to fill them.

Networking and Partnerships



Calls for engagement of stakeholders (governments, farmers, civil society, private sector, and the international community and sustaining such partnerships.

Information and Communication



Charged with awareness creation and strengthening EOA extension support systems.

Policy and Programme Development



Supports the development and implementation of enabling policies and programs for EOA.

Value Chain and Market Development



Aims to stimulate development of sustainable markets and increase trade in traditional and high value agricultural produce both at domestic and export levels

Institutional Capacity Development



Supports equipping of professionals with skills and competences to facilitate community-based innovation and change processes geared towards promoting EOA.



THE COVERAGE OF THE EOA INITIATIVE

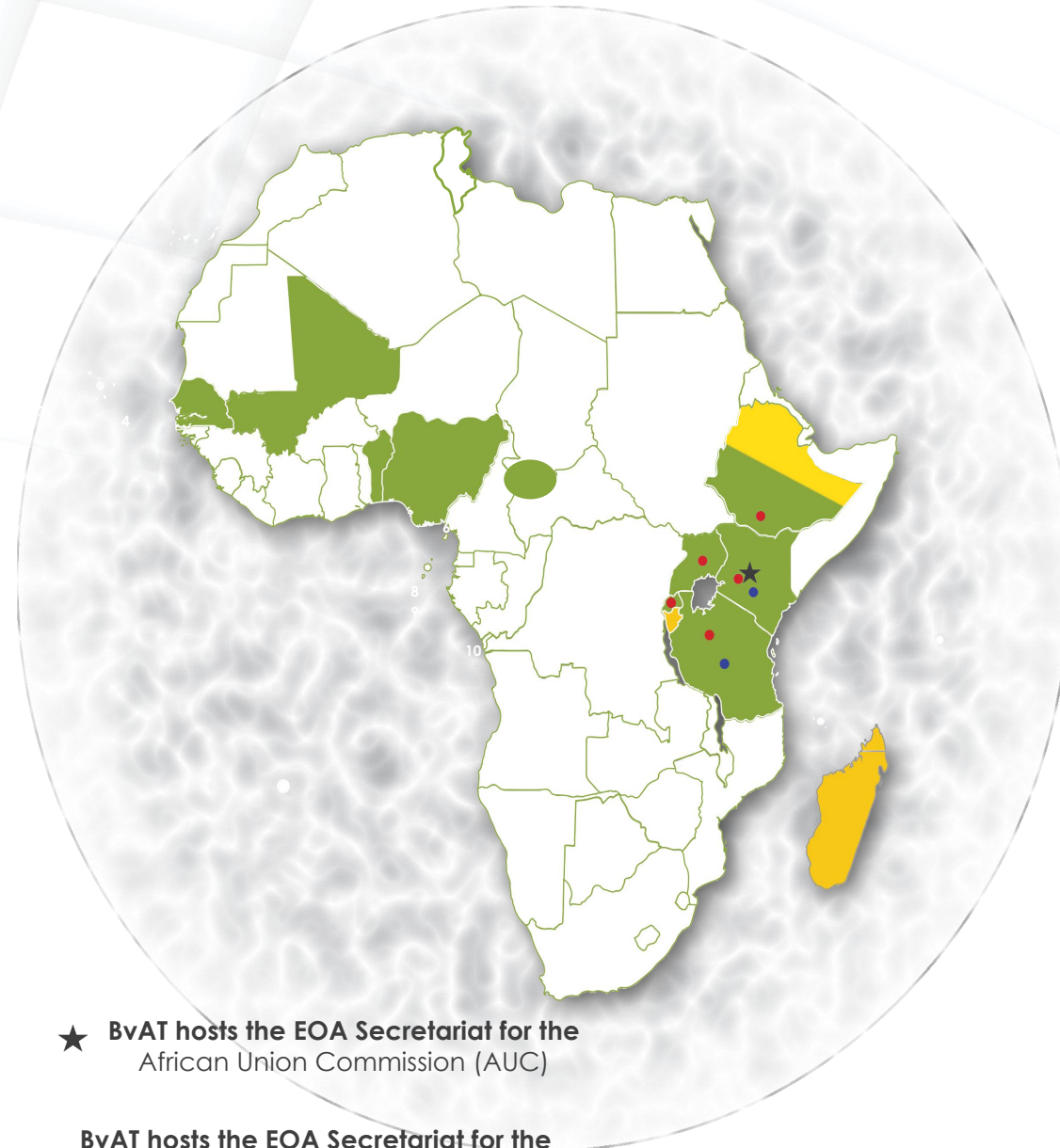
- The EOA Initiative covers all the 55 member states of the African Union. However, various projects have been rolled out in several countries in Africa. Examples are the SDC- and SSNC-funded projects in Mali, Senegal, Nigeria, Benin, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Kenya and Rwanda.
- The Knowledge Hub project for the five regions of Africa has also been initiated with support from BMZ/GIZ. Others are the ECOWAS Agro-ecology Support Programme for Western Africa. Recently, a new project called “Fair Sahel” for Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal has also been rolled out to integrate EOA into intensive agriculture .

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE EOA INITIATIVE

- 2011 - Ideation and concept development
- 2012 – Pilot in 6 African Countries – Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Nigeria (SSNC supported)
- 2013 – Baseline work in Benin, Mali and Senegal (SDC supported)
- 2014 - EOA Phase 1
 - SDC supported
 - SSNC supported
- 2019 - EOA Phase 2
 - SDC supported
- 2022-2026
 - SSNC supported
- 2024-2028
 - EOA Phase 3

COUNTRY KEY PARTNERS

1. **Kenya** – Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN)
2. **Uganda** – Pelum Uganda (PU)
3. **Tanzania** – Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM)
4. **Ethiopia** – Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD)
5. **Senegal** – Conseil national de concertation et de coopération des ruraux (CNCR)
6. **Mali** – Fenabe Mali
7. **Benin** - Béninoise pour la Promotion de l'Agriculture Biologique (OBEPAB)
8. **Nigeria** – Association of Organic Agriculture Practitioners of Nigeria (NOAN)
9. **Rwanda-Rwanda** Organic Agriculture Movement (ROAM)



■ EOA Initiative Implementing Countries

■ KCOA Potential Countries (Burundi, Ethiopia, Madagascar)

● KCOA Implementing Countries

● FCP Implementing Countries (Kenya & Tanzania)

★ BvAT hosts the EOA Secretariat for the African Union Commission (AUC)

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Mainstreaming Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative in Africa



EOA Implementation: **Mainstreaming EOA** in ...

- ... Policies, Strategies, Investment Plans
- ... Standards, Certification
- ... Research (agenda, methods)
- ... Training (curricula & programs)
- ... Extension (practices, information/communication)
- ... Markets, Value Chains

THE EOA-INITIATIVE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES

- The Continental EOA Steering Committee is the AUC-Chaired Continental platform mandated to provide general oversight and guidance for the implementation of African Union Head of States Decision on organic agriculture in Africa. This committee is supported by the Continental EOA Secretariat.



- At the Regional Level, Regional EOA Steering Committees are being formed with a Representative of the Africa's Regional Economic Communities (RECs) as the Chairperson . Each Committee is also to be supported by a Secretariat.



- At the Country Level, National EOA Steering Committees are also being established. These committees are chaired by Representative each of the Ministry of Agriculture.'

CONTINENTAL EOA STEERING COMMITTEE

- * The Continental EOA in its present form was established in 2013. It is the apex body in the governance structure of the EOA Initiative and is chaired by African Union Commission. It meets twice in the year but can call extra-ordinary meetings when the need arises.
- *It draws its membership from the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in Africa, Development Partners supporting the initiative, Certification Bodies, Civil Society Organizations, Academic and Research Organizations, Women's groups, African Organic Network, Coordinating Institutions of Donor-funded projects, Regional EOA Clusters and the Private Sector.
- * It has its own Terms of Reference (ToR) and Rules of Procedure governing its work. It has a sub-committee that reviews work plans and budgets of EOA projects and it meets before the main meetings of the Steering Committee.
- * The committee is supported by a Continental EOA Secretariat, which is hosted by Biovision Africa Trust based in Nairobi, Kenya.

REGIONAL EOA STEERING COMMITTEES

- According to the approved governance structure of the EOA Initiative, five Regional EOA Steering Committees are to be established in each of the five regions of Africa (Southern, Western, Central, Eastern and Northern)
- The REC(s) in each region is or are to chair the Regional EOA Steering Committee in their respective regions. In a region where there are more than one REC, chairing of the Regional EOA Steering Committee would be alternated between them.
- The REC in each region draws its membership from the National EOA Platforms as well as regional bodies of Development Partners supporting EOA in that region, Civil Society Organizations, Research Organizations, Women's groups, the Private Sector, and Certification bodies in the region.
- The RECs in the region are to nominate representatives to chair the Regional EOA Steering Committee and SUPPORT its functioning

NATIONAL EOA PLATFORMS OR NATIONAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE MOVEMENT (NOAM)

- The National EOA Platforms are to be established in each of the 55 member states of the African Union. The National Platforms are to be chaired by a Representative of the Ministry of Agriculture in that country.
- It draws its membership from the various organic agriculture stakeholders in that country. This includes input suppliers, exporters and other market intermediaries, consumers, certification bodies, farmers organizations, non-governmental organizations, donors or development partners supporting EOA in the country, women's groups, research and academia on EOA, the private sector in that country.
- The work of the National EOA Platforms is to be supported by National EOA Secretariat.

NATIONAL EOA PLATFORMS

National EOA Platforms currently exist in 27 African countries, namely:- Tunisia, Mauritius, Madagascar, Togo, Liberia, Cameroon, Namibia, Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique, Algeria, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Benin, Nigeria, Senegal, Mali, Ethiopia, Ghana, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Morocco, and Egypt.

ROLES OF THE NATIONAL EOA PLATFORMS

National Platform

- ✓ A National Platform is a forum that convenes, facilitates, advises, and monitors progress of implementation of EOA in general and Organic Agriculture in particular.
- ✓ Is an open forum of multi-stakeholders interested in supporting EOA development in any country in Africa.
- ✓ They provide opportunities to share experiences and lessons of project implementation at national level; report on follow ups on the integration of EOA in government national policies, plans and strategies; create links and partnerships among stakeholders and coordinating EOA activities including awareness creation and building a critical mass and voice on EOA.

MANDATE OF THE NATIONAL EOA PLATFORMS

- ✓ Streamlining EOA's operations at country level.
- ✓ Rallying of partners/actors in EOA.
- ✓ Facilitating the sharing of achievements, lessons and experiences.
- ✓ Supporting advocacy and lobbying of policy change and investment plans.
- ✓ Provide forum for shaping the national EOA agenda.
- ✓ Facilitating selection and review of and support to Country Lead Organizations (CLOs).

COMPOSITION OF THE NATIONAL EOA PLATFORMS

Representation is by Institutions

- 1) Ministry of Agriculture and other related sector ministries (Ministry of Environment, Health, Trade etc.).
- 2) Research, training and Educational Institutions.
- 3) Private sector (inputs suppliers, finance institutions, processors, and marketers).
- 4) Organic consumer organizations.
- 5) Civil Society Organizations including NGOs/INGOs.
- 6) Farmer Organizations/Associations.
- 7) Policy Institutions.
- 8) Certification and regulatory agencies.
- 9) Development Partners, including indirect partners working on EOA related matters

NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE (NSC)

- ✓ All the 9 institutions listed above will nominate, with simple majority, a well-balanced and representative National Steering Committee (NSC) to provide leadership and overall supervision of EOA at the country level
- ✓ Steering Committee (NSC) to provide leadership and overall supervision of EOA at the country level. The leadership should consist of passionate and interested men and women willing to drive the EOA agenda at country level.
- ✓ Representation in the NSC will be based on institutions rather than individuals.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE NSC

- ✓ Serving as an oversight, providing leadership, guidance and overall supervision in decision making on EOA implementation at the National Level.
- ✓ Establishing and implementing partnerships and resource mobilization for EOA at national level.
- ✓ Exploring ways of integrating EOA within National Plans, strategies and investment plans.
- ✓ Developing country's long-term goals, strategies and plans for EOA implementation.



RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE NSC

- ✓ Developing country's long-term goals, strategies and plans for EOA implementation.
- ✓ Reviewing and approving activity plans and budgets and progress reports on an annual basis.
- ✓ Undertaking monitoring visits and organising for exchange sharing forums at national level.
- ✓ Creating linkages between country level EOA activities with regional activities for learning and experience sharing.
- ✓ The national reports shall be prepared by the National Secretariat (the CLO), and approved by the NSC Chair, for sharing at national and regional forums.



- ✓ *The Regional Steering Committee serves as an apex of governance and decision-making body at the Regional level.*
- ✓ *The committee takes lead in overseeing activity implementation at the regional level, as well as catalysing mainstreaming of EOA into regional policies, programmes and plans at the regional level.*
- ✓ *The Committee will strategically engage and bring on board key RECs from the region like EAC, ECOWAS among others.*

REGIONAL PLATFORMS AND NETWORKS ROLES

1. *Coordinating regional actors in their clusters to implement the EOA agenda.*
2. *Engaging with the recs to integrate EOA in regional and national policy and programs.*
3. *Raising awareness on policy issues at country and trans-boundary levels.*
4. *Mobilizing resources from development partners and donors to support cluster EOA activities.*
5. *Developing rules of procedures and operations in the management of the clusters.*
6. *Aligning the EOA agenda with relevant proclamations and agendas – CAADP agenda on agriculture, SDGs, Africa Union Agenda 2063, and Malabo declaration 2014 among others.*
7. *Ensuring youth and women involvement in EOA, and particularly through value chains and market development.*
8. *Facilitate and encourage opportunities for inter-country cooperation and sharing of EOA experiences, best practices and lessons learnt.*

REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Type of Membership	Number
Regional Economic Committees (RECs)	1 from the region
AfrONet represented by regional actors	1 from regional actors
National Steering Committee Chairs or their representatives- representations from the ministries	1 from each implementing country
Country Lead Organizations (CLO's)	1 from each implementing country
Regional farmer organisations	2 from the region's
Regional research institutions	1 from the region
Lead Coordinating Organisations	BvAT and PELUM Kenya (2)
Universities & tertiary institutions	1 from the region on a rotational basis
Agricultural college	1
Private sector	1
Standards and certification	1 on a rotational basis
TOTAL	19

CONTINENTAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The CSC is at the apex in the governance structure of EOA in Africa. Its members serve to provide EOA in Africa and its membership with guidance, oversight and decision-making regarding the operations and activities of EOA Initiative in Africa.

The members are appointed to serve on behalf of their institutions, not as individuals and agree to represent the general interests of their sector

Sub-committees

These comprise of Technical Working Groups (TWGs) appointed by the CSC Chair to work on specific assignments within the CSC arrangement. They constitute members of the CSC identified with certain expertise in a certain field to work on a related task. Such teams work on pro bono basis.

ROLES OF THE CSC

- a) Awareness raising of EOA agenda, brand and profile at continental level through lobbying and advocacy.
- b) Resource mobilization and fundraising and soliciting support for the EOA initiative in africa.
- c) Overall program development guided by the strategic plan (2015-2025).
- d) Providing oversight, advice, guidance and reporting on the implementation of the strategy.
- e) Ensuring wide stakeholder participation in EOA initiative.
- f) Knowledge sharing and management.
- g) Representing the CSC in national, regional and continental meetings and workshops as advised by the chair of the CSC.

KEY MILESTONES

KEY DECISIONS ON EOA BY AU'S SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON ARDWE IN 2019

Urged Member States to mainstream Ecological Organic Agriculture into their National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIPs) and allocate adequate financial resources for its growth and development.

Further urged Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to establish and operationalize National and regional Steering committees of the EOA-I .

Further urged Member States, and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to formulate and implement EOA policies and legal frameworks targeting inputs (such as fertilizers, seeds, pesticides, herbicides, feeds, drugs and additives), certification, market development, academic curricula, research and access to finance.

Requested the AUC to develop indicators to monitor progress in implementation of the EOA and report regularly to MS through the Biannual Review Reporting Mechanism.

Requested the AUC, AUDA-NEPAD and partners to support and strengthen the capacity of the Secretariat of the EOA-Initiative.

KEY MILESTONES - Cont'd



African Union – BvAT MoU SIGNED

- In 2019, the AU Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment officially endorsed the EOAI Secretariat as its agency to oversee the implementation and reporting the progress of the implementation of its Decision on Organic Agriculture (EX.CL/Dec.621 XVII) and endorsed BvAT to host it.
- The MoU was signed in Addis Ababa on 20 July 2022 between BvAT and the AUC

KEY MILESTONES - Cont'd



Governance of CSC

- The Continental Steering Committee has so far held 20 CSC Meetings
- The CSC Meetings are chaired by Africa Union Commission
- The CSC provides strategic guidance on the implementation of EOA in Africa
- So far we have had 4 CSC Committed Chairs
- Currently Dr. Janet Edeme Chairs the CSC
- Previously we had Dr. Simplice Noaula chair of the CSC
- Other chairs previously were Dr. Yemi and Boaz Kezire



KEY MILESTONES – Cont'd

EOA INDICATORS FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE AFRICA AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (CAADP) FRAMEWORK

The following Indicators are currently being reported I the CAADP BR with successful inclusion of the three EOA indicators into the 4th CAADP Biennial Review (BR) cycle:

1. Total arable land under organic fertilizers (*Organic fertilizer use as part of total fertilizer consumption*)
2. Status of *Farmer Managed Seed Systems (FMSS) in national seed policy instruments and institutional arrangements*
3. *Agriculture area under EOA practices in ha.*

FARMER MANAGED SEED SYSTEMS (FMSS) MAINSTREAMED WITHIN THE AU AFRICA SEEDS AND BIOTECHNOLOGY FRAMEWORK POLICY

The following milestones achieved:

1. CSC has established an FMSS sub-committee chaired by Dr. Sarah Olembó and managed by the CSC Secretariat hosted under BvAT
2. The FMSS sub-committee has been integrated into the Africa Seeds and Biotechnology Platform (ASPB) where it participates in meetings to provide updates
3. Funding has been allocated to the FMSS through FARA that chairs the ASPB Platform



REGIONAL EOAI PLATFORMS

Launch of the Central Africa Regional Platform was successfully done with support of the CSC I 2021 in Cameroon

Launch of the Southern Africa Regional Platform was successfully done in 2022 with support of the CSC

Launch of the Southern Africa Regional Platform was undertaken in 2022

The West and Eastern Regional Platforms are more active

Multistakeholder Forums for Boosting the Organic Sector



2023 Eastern Africa Agroecology Conference held in Nairobi



2019 International Conference on Agroecology held in Nairobi





KEY MILESTONES – Cont'd

THE THIRD NATIONAL ECOLOGICAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE (NAEOAC)

The National Ecological Organic Agriculture Strategy (NEOAS) launched by the Deputy Minister of Agriculture

TOAM as the lead Organization has been spearheading Policy development under EOA-I

Uganda Launched the National Organic Policy in 2019

Other policies going on in development are National Agroecology Strategies in Kenya and Uganda



NATIONAL ECOLOGICAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE (NEOAC)

Nurturing Nature, Harvesting Health!



Hon. David Silinde, Deputy Minister of Agriculture launches The National Ecological Organic Agriculture Strategy (NEOAS) 2023-30



CHALLENGES FACING THE EOA SECTOR

1. The EOA Sector is not adequately supported compared to conventional Agriculture. Most of the support to the EOA Sector comes from donor-funded projects.
2. There is little knowledge, research and development as well as innovation on EOA in Africa and this deficiency adversely affects the growth and development of the EOA sector. This weakness is also exploited by proponents of conventional agriculture much to the detriment of the EOA sector.
3. There is also the perceptual problem that when EOA is wholly adopted, it is incapable of feeding Africa.

WHAT ASSISTANCE DO WE NEED FROM RECs?

1. Sensitize your Member States about the existence of this initiative and the urgent need to implement the decisions of the 3rd Session of the STC on ARDWE, especially with regards to allocation of adequate national budgets to the EOA sector.
2. Urge your Member States to enact laws and regulations for the promotion and development of the EOA sector.
3. Serve as Champions of the EOA initiative in Africa and advocate for the EOA Sector.

Acknowledgement



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

**Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC**



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