A Platform to Facilitate Policy Innovation Through Exchange and Mutual Learning Among Leaders on Agricultural Growth and Food Security
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The Malabo Montpellier Forum provides a platform to facilitate dialogue and exchange among high-level decision-makers on African agriculture, nutrition and food security to promote policy innovation using evidence produced by the Malabo Montpellier Panel. The Malabo Montpellier Forum is co-chaired by The Right Honourable Dr. Saulos Klaus Chilima, Vice President of the Republic of Malawi and His Excellency Abdoulaye Bio-Tchané, Minister of State in Charge of Planning and Development of the Republic of Benin. Under the leadership of its co-chairs, the Forum seeks to create a space for politicians and policy makers to exchange directly on issues of strategic importance in a context that is free from domestic pressures. The Forum meets twice a year and gathers leading decision makers to review progress among African countries towards inclusive agricultural growth and the goals of the Malabo Declaration.

Every meeting of the Forum is guided by a technical report prepared by members of the Malabo Montpellier Panel, a group of 17 leading African and international experts in agriculture, ecology, nutrition and food security. The Panel’s research reports provide high-level decision makers with access to the latest evidence to guide effective implementation of policies and programs that benefit smallholder farmers in Africa, especially women and young people. The reports analyse and highlight areas of progress and positive change across the continent and assess what successful countries have done differently. Based on these analyses, the reports identify the most important institutional innovations and policy and program interventions, which can be replicated and scaled up by other countries. The Malabo Montpellier Panel is jointly hosted by the West and Central Africa Office of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the University of Bonn and Imperial College London and is co-chaired by Dr. Ousmane Badiane (Africa Director, IFPRI) and Professor Joachim von Braun (Director, Center for Development Research, University of Bonn).

The Malabo Montpellier Forum thereby serves as a platform to bring the latest research into use at a cross-country or continental scale. Every session gathers countries that have made the most progress in a given strategic area to share their experience with other countries for mutual learning and exchange of best practices. The Forum’s strong emphasis on evidence-based exchange, dialogue and mutual learning at the highest levels, creates a unique opportunity to help sustain and broaden recent progress towards better outcomes in agricultural transformation and economic development across Africa.

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