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TOKA JONË



DECLARATION:
REUSE OF CONFISCATED LANDS TO PROMOTE SOCIAL AGRICULTURE

COSV
COORDINAMENTO DELLE ORGANIZZAZIONI PER IL SERVIZIO VOLONTARIO

CONSORZIO NAZIONALE cgm

ANRD

We - ***the members of the safety net for the management of confiscated lands for social agriculture***, an inclusive partnership platform of civil society organizations, project partners of the *Toka Jonë (Our Land)* project, public institutions at local and central level, media representatives, activists and members of rural communities in the municipalities of Tirana, Durrës, and Shijak, ***reaffirm our collective commitment to ensuring the long-term sustainability of the local initiatives undertaken in the frame of the Toka Jonë-Reuse of confiscated lands to promote social agriculture project and any other initiatives aimed at reusing confiscated assets for social purposes***.

The positive achievements of the *Toka Jonë* project, especially its tangible results for young people, women and farmers in the rural communities of the municipalities of Tirana, Durres and Shijak, showcase the significant potential of this approach to empower the most vulnerable groups of our society. Reusing confiscated lands for social purposes has demonstrated the ability to generate sustainable economic and social benefits, promote inclusivity and enhance the capacities of all actors involved in this process. ***We remain committed to building on these results and fostering the adoption of this model in other regions of the country***.

Drawing on successful international experiences in the social reuse of confiscated assets as well as the lessons learned from the implementation of the *Toka Jonë* project, we believe that establishing and operating a supportive, intersectoral and inclusive ecosystem is crucial. This step is essential to ensuring the sustainability of existing initiatives and to promoting the model of reusing confiscated lands for social agricultural enterprises in Albania.

We encourage collaboration among central and local government institutions, civil society and local communities as a necessary condition for transparent and accountable management of confiscated lands, ensuring that local communities benefit genuinely.

Recognizing both the importance and challenges in engaging local communities in all dimensions of civic engagement in local level, inclusion of various community groups takes on a special and unavoidable importance in the effective management of confiscated lands for social purposes. Therefore, we express our full commitment and support for ***the active, meaningful and equitable engagement of communities at all levels of the management process the confiscated assets.***

We encourage and support the institutionalization of various forms of citizen participation, such as open forums, community dialogues and public consultations, as essential tools for strengthening connections between communities and the public institutions responsible for governing and managing confiscated lands.

Considering that social agriculture represents an innovative, inclusive and regenerative model of the agricultural sector, we emphasize the importance of scaling up the use of confiscated agricultural lands for promoting social agriculture in Albania's rural communities to address the social, economic and environmental challenges faced by local communities. ***We urge responsible institutions to provide public financial and technical support for the establishment of social agricultural enterprises on confiscated lands and promotion of their products.***

In conclusion, we:

Reaffirm our commitment and willingness to undertaking and supporting initiatives that aim at the reuse of confiscated lands for implementing social agriculture models, recognizing that these initiatives provide a real opportunity to revitalize rural areas and foster sustainable social and economic development within these communities, particularly for women, young people and small farmers.

Express our strong commitment to actively contributing to the development of an open and inclusive cooperation ecosystem, where public institutions, civil society, local communities, and international partners work together in partnership and synergy to achieve common goals in advancing this cause. We are convinced that this approach requires more than just commitment. It demands clear political will, sustainable institutional support, and long-term investment in these models that can positively change the situation of managing confiscated lands and governance of this sector with the ultimate goal of using them for the common good.

We call upon all responsible institutions, donors and other interested actors to join in this effort to build on the achievements to date and to turn this vision into a genuine public policy. Only through close cooperation for shared goals can we achieve tangible results that deliver not only economic, social and environmental benefits, but also strengthen citizens trust in public institutions, improve transparency and accountability, and support the rule of law in Albania.

Together, we can create a fairer, equitable and sustainable Albania for all.

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Representatives of the Safety Net:

Albanian Network for Rural Development - ANRD
Coordinamento delle Organizzazioni per il Servizio Volontario/Coordination of Organizations for Voluntary Service - COSV
Consorzio Nazionale della Cooperazione di solidarietà sociale Gino Matterelli-CGM
ADAD Malore
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Diakonia Agapes Albania