



## **DECLARATION OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AFRICAN TOBACCO GROWERS AT THE REGIONAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO GROWER'S ASSOCIATION**

**1 – 3 JULY 2014 – HARARE, ZIMBABWE**

**The representatives of tobacco growers from Malawi, Zambia, Kenya, South Africa and Zimbabwe, together with representatives of the International Tobacco Growers' Association met in Harare, Zimbabwe, from 1 – 3 July to discuss the main issues affecting their livelihoods.**

As a result of these discussions, African tobacco growers appeal to governments around the world and particularly those from tobacco-growing countries to:

- Grant tobacco growers the right of consultation in the development and implementation of policies that directly impact on them.
- Ensure that policy recommendations on tobacco adopted at the next Conference of the Parties (COP6) of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) are practical and do not penalise growers for whom tobacco crops are a route out of poverty and a way of life.
- Recognise the positive economic contribution that tobacco growing makes to Africa. As a resilient, high-value cash crop well-suited to small-hold farming, tobacco has changed the lives of many African farmers for the better.
- Engage in a constructive dialogue on practical recommendations to deal with issues such as exploiting child labour and sustainability across the agricultural sector.
- Protect the status of tobacco exports in the international trading system. Most of the tobacco produced in Africa is exported. Growers are, therefore, naturally concerned about efforts in the context of the FCTC to change the way tobacco is treated in the international trading system. These changes would prevent tobacco-producing countries from legitimately defending and benefiting from those exports.
- Participate fully in COP6 and even those governments that have observer status should be represented.
- Send delegations to the COP6 that include officials from government departments responsible for agricultural policy.