

**MESSAGE FROM THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UN SECRETARY
GENERAL FOR FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY DAVID NABARRO,
TO THE OPEN ENDED WORKING GROUP ON THE SDGs OF THE COMMITTEE
ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY**

January 21, 2016

Dear Ambassadors; Excellences; participants of the Civil Society and the Private Sector Mechanisms, CFS stakeholders.

Allow me first to express my gratitude to the CFS Chair Ambassador Amira Gornass, to the Chair of the OEWG on the SDGs, Willem Olthof, and to the CFS Secretary Deborah Fulton for kindly giving me this opportunity to participate in this opening session of the OEWG.

2015 was a year of global action. An unprecedented inclusive, transparent and open process led to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and to the achievement of a meaningful agreement in Paris; a historical global movement that defines a new form of inclusive multilateralism.

2016 is the year for collective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. We are entering a new era of sustainable development for which we need to set-up the foundations of implementation and accountability.

During this year, countries and all stakeholders are called to adopt and adapt their policies, strategies, actions and accountability mechanisms to the new 2030 vision. The United Nations System is also in the process of adapting to meet the ambition the 2030 Agenda represents.

The 2030 Agenda calls for a follow up and review mechanism that is a robust, voluntary, effective, participatory, transparent and integrated framework operating at the national, regional and global levels.

The Secretary General will make public in the coming weeks the Report requested by Member States in preparation for the 2016 meeting of the High Level Political Forum (HLPF), outlining his vision of a coherent and efficient follow-up and review at the global level. He will underscore the inclusive nature of the architecture that is needed, and will further build on the experience of the CFS. It is my hope that this Report will also be a relevant input for your consideration in your deliberations.

At the global level, The HLPF will have a central role in overseeing a network of follow-up and review processes. Thematic reviews on progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, including identifying policy challenges and bottlenecks, will periodically take place at the HLPF, supported by the ECOSOC functional commissions and other inter-governmental bodies and forums. They should reflect the integrated nature of the goals as well as the interlinkages between them, engaging all relevant stakeholders.

Hence, the CFS is called to play a central role for the SDGs. It is now up to the CFS membership and to the constituencies it represents to decide the extent to which, and how, the CFS will play this key role in a strategic and catalytic manner.

The CFS has much to share with the broader system. I see, in particular, three key roles the CFS has successfully played that will also be essential pillars for delivering on the SDGs:

- 1) First, serving as a platform where all actors can participate on an equal footing to deliberate on complex and contentious policy issues related to food security and nutrition and to the Right to Food, reaching agreed policy recommendations.
- 2) Second, serving as a platform where essential elements of a global enabling and normative framework are deliberated, negotiated and agreed.
- 3) The Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests; the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems and the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crisis are three examples.
- 4) Third, by serving as a platform for transparency, exchange, mutual learning and evidence-based reflection on the progress towards food security and nutrition, the CFS enhances accountability from all actors.

I encourage you to consider these and other areas and roles in which the CFS can make essential contributions to the SDGs. I further encourage you to take a leading role on the hunger-related SDGs thematic follow-up and review in the context of the HLPF.

I ask the OEWG to do it in a way that is fully in line with the CFS nature and that reinforces this new form of multilateralism: through a fully inclusive process.

As some may already know, I have recently been appointed by the Secretary General as his Special Adviser for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and taken over the responsibility of galvanizing action on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, deepening its integration with climate action, and fostering multi-stakeholder engagement for action towards the SDGs.

I will be fully supportive of the CFS OEWG work from this broader perspective. I have asked my advisor Gabriel Ferrero, who has served in the team of my predecessor Amina Mohammed during the last three years, to be fully available to the CFS and OEWG chairs, the CFS Secretariat, the group's membership and all stakeholders.

Ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition, transforming food and agriculture systems in a way that empowers smallholders and preserves our planet is one of the most complex challenges of the new agenda and cuts across all the SDGs.

The way in which this OEWG deliberates; what you propose; and what is finally agreed by the CFS Plenary, will show the way to go to other intergovernmental bodies working for the overall success of the 2030 Agenda.

Much has been achieved by the CFS, and much more will be needed from it. I wish you a successful and illuminating process.

Thank you.