



11 February 2013

Hunger, Food Security and Nutrition in the post-2015 Development Agenda

Informal Consultation with CFS Stakeholders

Excellencies, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

Welcome to Rome and to FAO for this informal consultation on Hunger, Food Security and Nutrition in the post-2015 Development Agenda.

This consultation process is important to define the building blocks for a new development agenda beyond 2015.

FAO co-leads this consultation process with WFP and IFAD and the governments of Spain and Colombia are also playing a lead role. I want to thank all of them, as well as all other participating UN agencies and partners for their contributions.

In this meeting we count on you to provide guidance to ensure that eradicating hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition retain their proper place in the new post-2015 development framework.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In December 2012, FAO's Council adopted the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition – rather than merely the *reduction* of hunger – as FAO's number one goal.

We are committed to do everything possible within our means, in partnership with all of you, to move rapidly towards the attainment of this goal.

To be successful, we must draw lessons from the MDG experience – looking at what is working, what is not and what is missing, to ensure that we do much better next time.

One thing that is clear is that progress against hunger can be very fast when a country makes up its mind to end hunger and puts in place the right measures.



The evidence comes from some 50 countries which are on track to reach the MDG hunger target, according to *The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2012* published by FAO, IFAD and WFP.

We must take our inspiration from countries such as Angola, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chad, China, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, Niger, Vietnam and many others that are leading the way.

The lessons from the MDG process are summarized in the issues paper that you received for this meeting, and I trust that we will keep them in mind as we move forward in this process.

I also want to highlight that it is not a coincidence that ending hunger and poverty is the first Millennium Development Goal.

Ladies and gentlemen,

FAO fully supports the UN Secretary General's Zero Hunger Challenge, announced at the Rio+20 Sustainable Development Conference last June 2012. We are pleased that several countries have already taken up the Challenge.

At the recent summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States in Chile, the region reaffirmed its commitment to the Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative 2025 and embraced the Zero Hunger Challenge.

At the same time, a recent UN Secretariat survey found that world leaders support strong action on hunger more than on any other objective.

We must work together to strengthen this growing momentum.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In line with the Secretary General's Zero Hunger Challenge, and in close collaboration with our development partners, we agree that nothing less than the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition is what we should be striving for.



The Millennium Development Goals are showing us that we can advance towards a hunger-free world.

But a bolder goal, a goal of zero hunger to be met in an established timeframe, would give us the added urgency we need to advance faster and more resolutely to this goal.

Ending hunger is first and foremost a question of political will. If food security is considered a priority we can reach the goal of a zero hunger world within our generation.

When discussing the post-2015 agenda and defining the targets that will follow, let's take this next step: commit to the complete eradication of hunger.

I wish you fruitful discussions.

Thank you.