



**8 June 2013**

## **Nutrition for Growth**

### **Beating Hunger through Business and Science**

Thank you for the opportunity to speak at this meeting.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The main message FAO wants to share is that we cannot expect better nutrition without food security. And this requires better food systems. This is the key message of FAO's flagship, State of Food and Agriculture, launched earlier this week.

Overcoming malnutrition in all its forms - undernourishment, micronutrient deficiencies, obesity - requires appropriate interventions in food systems, public health, education, social protection and other related areas.

The cost of inaction is too high. Malnutrition kills millions every year, and damages billions of lives. It costs up to 5 percent of global GDP according to our recent estimates.

Good nutrition requires participation by a range of stakeholders, many of whom are represented here today.

FAO has been committed to improving nutrition since its foundation.

Over the last 17 months, we have worked hard to strengthen this commitment within our limited means. This includes the deployment of additional staff resources outside Headquarters to better respond to country needs.

Meanwhile, we are improving measurement of hunger and malnutrition.

As Vice-Chair of the UN Secretary General's High Level Task Force on World Food Security, we have been working to mobilize the UN system to rise to the Zero Hunger Challenge announced last year at Rio+20.

I therefore welcome the Global Nutrition for Growth Compact. FAO will work with all committed governments to realize their food security and nutrition goals.



The second International Conference on Nutrition in Rome in November 2014 is being co-organized by FAO, WHO and others. A preparatory technical meeting will be held in November bringing together different partners, scientists, including civil society and the private sector.

I look forward to working with you as a member of the Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition.

Thank you.