



**Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations**

A statement by FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva

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*IX CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE
COMMUNITY OF PORTUGUESE SPEAKING COUNTRIES (CPLP)*

The CPLP and the challenges of food security and nutrition

His Excellency Armando Emilio Guebuza, President of Mozambique,

**In the name of whom I greet all Heads of State and Government and their representatives
present in this conference,**

**Mr Domingos Simões Pereira, Executive Secretary of the Community of Portuguese
Speaking Countries (CPLP),**

In the name of whom I greet all participants of this summit

**Mr. Fernando de Araújo, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the CPLP, in the
name of whom I greet all parliamentarians present,**

Members of the Judiciary

Ladies and gentlemen,

As the first Portuguese speaking person to occupy the post of Director-General of FAO, it is a
great honor to participate in this summit.



I would like to congratulate you for choosing “the CPLP and the challenges of food security and nutrition”. It places the fight against hunger where it should be: at the center of the political agenda of the countries that are part of this community.

I would also like to congratulate you for approving the "Regional CPLP Strategy for Food and Nutrition Security" and for the creation of the Food Security and Nutrition Council (CONSAN), which are important institutional frameworks to achieve the goal of a world without hunger.

I am convinced that the strategy created by you will contribute to the strengthening of national and regional food and nutrition security plans and could become an example for other countries and regional organizations.

The establishment of a Council that includes representatives from the civil society and private sector gives further legitimacy and support to the government-led efforts to fight hunger and promote food security.

The Committee on Food Security (CFS) shows how the participation and inclusion of all stakeholders can transform and legitimize our debates and decisions. After being reformed to include the private sector and the civil society, the Council has become the main reference of the new system of governance of global food security we are building.

Last May, CFS gave definitive proof of its value by leading the negotiations that resulted in the adoption of "The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security.”

It was the first time that an international consensus was reached on this issue. Governments now have the challenge of implementing them at the national level. FAO is ready to support them.



Today, FAO carries out projects totaling 200 million dollars in CPLP countries. At first glance, it seems as a significant amount, but it represents less than a dollar for each person of the CPLP. We can do much more with the support of the Community. At the end of this month, we will inaugurate a FAO liaison office in Lisbon with the CPLP and the Portuguese Government, which will enhance our dialogue and cooperation.

And, with the Flemish and German cooperation, we are preparing projects to support the eradication of hunger and promote the right to food in Africa. These projects represent an investment of three million dollars and are efforts to complement and reinforce actions already underway.

The fight against hunger also requires greater commitment among countries in the region. The Twenty-Seventh FAO Regional Conference for Africa, held in Brazzaville, Congo, last April, endorsed the "Declaration of Solidarity" amongst African countries and supported the creation of an African Fund for Food Security for the continent, financed by Africans, for Africans.

This is a proposal that will allow African countries in better economic and financial conditions to support their neighbors in implementing regional food security programs, thus preventing the impact of food insecurity crises – resulting from droughts, for example – from spreading throughout the region in the form of uncontrolled migration, which could eventually destabilize all countries in that area.

A special event to launch the Trust Fund for Africa will be held next November. We have already confirmed the participation of former Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and will provide more details soon. The active participation and possible financial contribution of African countries from CPLP will surely give a strong impetus and high visibility to the fight against hunger and poverty in the region.



Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the Rio +20 Conference, the UN Secretary General launched the “Zero Hunger Challenge”. This is also the challenge of FAO.

I believe we can overcome this challenge, but only if we work together.

If hunger is at the center of the agendas of governments and this translates into concrete commitments, we have all the conditions to eradicate hunger within this generation.

To end, I want to thank the CPLP support to my candidacy as FAO Director-General and say that FAO will always be at its side in the fight to guarantee food security.

Thank you for your attention.