



## FAO 41st Conference Concept Note for a Side Event

### Zero Hunger in Africa

#### Progress towards meeting the Malabo Goal of Hunger Eradication by 2025: prospects and challenges in the Africa Region

**Date: Monday, 24 June 2019**

**Time: 12.30 – 13.30 hrs**

**Venue: Sheikh Zayed Center, FAO, Rome**

#### 1. Introduction

In June 2014, the African Union adopted the Malabo Declaration on “*Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods*”. Among the seven areas of commitment, the Declaration called for the intensification of collective efforts towards the eradication of hunger and malnutrition by 2025. This commitment stemmed from a substantive FAO support specifically in mobilizing relevant partners<sup>1</sup>. In addition, the AU Member States made important commitments towards improved nutrition, by endorsing the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action in 2014. The commitment to end hunger in Africa was amplified by the adoption, in September 2015, of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 2030 Agenda laid out an ambitious roadmap to end poverty and hunger and achieve sustainable development in the social, economic and environmental dimensions. In essence, through the Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG2), the UN Member States committed to “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture” by 2030.

Nearly four years on, available evidences indicate that the African continent is not on track to meet the Zero Hunger target under the SDGs, much less under the more ambitious target set in the Malabo Declaration for 2025. The Biennial Review report presented to AU Heads of State and Government in January 2018 reveals that commitment on “Ending hunger by 2025” is not on track. This report is in line with the UN Report of 2017, which recognized that despite a prolonged decline, world hunger appears to be on the rise again. A staggering 257 million individuals in Africa are undernourished. Other forms of malnutrition are also on the rise such as micronutrient deficiency, overweight and obesity, increasing the risk of exposure to diet related non-communicable diseases.

Climate related shocks, drought, disease and pest outbreaks and other factors have been threatening to reduce food and agriculture production and productivity in Africa. Conflicts and the recent economic downturn are compounding the challenges of achieving Zero Hunger in Africa, particularly SDG2 on access by all, to safe and nutritious food and end of all forms of malnutrition by 2030.

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<sup>1</sup> In 2013 the High Level Meeting (HLM) on the theme “*Toward African Renaissance: Renewed Partnership for Unified Approach to End Hunger in Africa by 2015 within the CAADP Framework*” was jointly organised by FAO, the African Union, and the Lula Institute together with a broad range of non-state actors. The outcome of that meeting became the precursor to the 2014 Malabo Declaration on “*Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods*”.



Stepped up and concerted actions are absolutely necessary to meet the Zero Hunger goal in Africa. In this respect, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) has identified '*Africa's Commitment to End Hunger by 2025*' as one of its three Regional Initiatives in Africa. The initiative is aligned with and seeks to achieve the AU commitment to 'Ending Hunger in Africa by 2025', and reinforces partnerships and resources for coordinated and harmonized policies and interventions in support of countries and regional efforts towards delivery of results. It complements and adds value to regional and country efforts through capacity strengthening, multi-stakeholders engagement and inter-sectoral coordination for policy and strategy development and implementation, for coherent and harmonized programme delivery and strengthening mutual accountability.

The proposed side-event aims to provide platform for key stakeholders to take stock of the progress made and facilitate dialogue on the prospects and challenges in the implementation of the commitment to Ending Hunger in Africa by 2025, which is itself aligned to the Agenda 2030.

## **2. Objectives**

The specific objectives of the event are to take stock of the progress made towards the goal of ending hunger and malnutrition in Africa since the adoption of the Malabo Declaration and the SDGs, discuss prospects and challenges and identify key actions to deliver results and impacts on the ground, and share experiences on regional and country levels approaches to accelerate the elimination of hunger and malnutrition in Africa.

## **3. Expected outcomes**

The side-event is expected to create greater awareness among participants regarding the prospects and challenges of ending hunger and malnutrition in Africa, and enhance opportunities for enhanced advocacy and partnerships and collaboration for stepped up and concerted actions.

## **4. Structure**

The event will be opened by the FAO Director-General followed by remarks by FAO's Special Goodwill Ambassador for Zero Hunger in Africa. This is followed by a High Level Panel discussion among Ministers who would share experiences and lessons from country highlights, and a brief general discussion to identify key issues for particular focus for action, which will be captured in the closing remarks.

## **5. Participants and targeted audience**

Approximately 50-60 participants are expected to attend the side-event including FAO Director-General, ADG/RR-RAF, FAO Special Goodwill Ambassador for Zero Hunger in Africa, Ministers and Permanent Representatives of Member States participating in the 41st FAO Conference, partners and FAO Staff.