

**Statement delivered by  
His Excellency Ulrich Seidenberger  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to FAO  
on the occasion of the  
41<sup>st</sup> Session of the FAO Conference, Rome, Italy (22-29 June 2019)  
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Distinguished Delegates,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Germany congratulates Dr QU Dongyu, once again, on his election as new Director-General and wishes him all the best for his forthcoming task.

We would also like to take this opportunity to commend and applaud the outgoing Director-General José Graziano da Silva, for all the hard work and commitment to fight hunger throughout his tenure in the last 8 years.

We hope that the new Director-General will take up the huge global responsibility for strengthening the multilateral system for which Germany is highly committed and we are looking forward to working closely with him.

We need a strong FAO. An FAO that is fit for a purpose and a complementary in a synergistic UN system, in order to end world hunger, achieve the SDGs, in particular the SDGs 2 and 1, realizing the right to the food globally, and to ensure peace and stability.

To this end, Germany strongly advocates that FAO's unique core mandate as a knowledge Organization and a provider of global public good, such as policy advice, standard setting and knowledge transfer, is strengthened. The main means for FAO to achieve this, is a highly qualified workforce. Therefore, we expect the new leadership to reintroduce a transparent and merit-based human resources policy.

As one of the most important donor countries, we stand ready to actively support the FAO's new leadership to live up to these expectations.

We are willing to intensify and expand the strategic partnership we already entertain with FAO.

Now turning more specifically to the topic of our debate, when have to acknowledge that ensuring security in today's world is complex: A lack of food is one of the triggers of global conflicts and migration. Thus, the link between food insecurity and conflicts will become even more important in the future. In order to maintain or restore security, we have to think beyond traditional concepts.

A strong agricultural sector ensures food security and improves the living conditions of the local population. Strong agriculture sector ensures growth, and opens up prospects for local people to stay - especially in rural areas.

Strong agriculture is therefore an important part of civil crisis prevention. Agriculture is the key for food security and serves as an anchor of stability in fragile states and crisis areas. Therefore today's debate is Key! Germany welcomes FAO's commitment to further explore root causes of migration as well as analyzing the role of agriculture and food security as key for stabilizing living conditions around the world.

In the report 2018 on the State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA), FAO already focused on the important issue of migration, agriculture and rural development and provides a comprehensive overview of the complexity of the topic. The report shows that a major challenge lies in making migration a factor for successfully influencing social and economic development. It highlights especially the link between migration and agricultural and rural development.

Germany is willing to support further engagement in this regard through our bilateral project cooperation and thereby strengthening FAO's capacity as a knowledge based organization. Finally, we have to bear in mind that ending hunger is not all, the nutritional status of the people is equally important. Therefore, Germany welcomes the Biennial theme 2020-2021 of FAO that is "Promoting healthy diets and prevention of obesity".

Thank you very much for your attention.