

The Madrid High Level Consultation on Hunger, Food Security and Nutrition In the Post-2015 Development Framework

Madrid, 4th of April 2013

Food Security and Nutrition for All A Vision and Building Blocks for a Global Agenda

Introduction. During earlier stages of consultation¹, five themes received broad support; these have shaped the vision statement and building blocks for a universal agenda outlined below:

- We can end hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition within a generation
- Successful strategies for a durable end to hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition will also contribute to sustainable economic growth and human development
- Strategies must be based on gender equality and the realization of the right to food within a human rights-based framework, to ensure inclusiveness and accountability
- Food security and good nutrition – especially in the first 1000 days (start of pregnancy until the child’s 2nd birthday) – is essential for all people’s health, productivity, or ability to earn an income
- A comprehensive approach is needed to improving people’s food security and nutrition globally – covering availability, access, utilization and stability

A Vision: Food Security and Adequate Nutrition for All

1. ***Freedom from want, hunger and malnutrition.*** The consultations call on the world community to commit to a compelling vision that will guarantee freedom from want for all human beings, that is, their essential right to a life free from the most elemental deprivations, including freedom from hunger and malnutrition.
2. ***A call for bold action.*** Food security and nutrition are part of this vision, as increasingly urgent priorities throughout the world requiring bold action to eliminate hunger, and the progressive and accelerated realization of the right to food. Bold and effective action is both a moral and political imperative.
3. ***A call for transformational change.*** Eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition requires a step-change in ambition and new ways of working. Achievement of increased productivity and higher incomes, sustainable agriculture with reduced waste and loss of food, more resilient livelihoods, better access to nutritious foods among poorer people, and the elimination of chronic malnutrition – especially in children under 2 years of age - requires transformational change in all aspects of food production and consumption.

¹ Background documents include: (1) An “Issues Paper” prepared for a consultation with key stakeholders of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) held on 11 February 2013; (2) A Summary of the FAO and WFP Co-Chairs of the CFS consultation; and (3) the Agenda and Background document for the Madrid Consultation.

4. *Origins of a holistic vision.* The vision draws from the ongoing global and inclusive consultations, as well as past statements, including the declaration of the 2009 World Summit on Food Security, the 2012 Global Strategic Framework of the CFS, and the Zero Hunger Challenge. It is holistic in its perspective, adapted to emerging realities and opportunities, and builds on the principle that gains in poverty and hunger eradication must be definitive and irreversible. Hence, this vision calls for transformational changes that go beyond a minimalist agenda to create the structural conditions to ensure that people have dignified lives, and are empowered to achieve their own food and nutrition security, and other critical areas of well-being, including health and productivity.

5. *For the environment, mutual accountability is key.* The environmental impact of different productive sectors, including agriculture, and the degradation of natural capital, including soils, forests, fisheries, water and genetic resources must be minimized to help slow down climate change, to assure inclusive and equitable development, and to improve resilience. The poorest and most vulnerable have suffered most from the despoilment of our natural environment and resources; increased public and private investment in sustainable food and agricultural systems are necessary to help reverse this state of affairs.

6. *The vision comes to life.* Building blocks for this vision are found in every community and country, and at global level. They represent a set of universal principles relevant to all nations in their pursuit of more sustainable growth, and a more inclusive equitable society. They seek transformational change that will reduce hunger irreversibly. This cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary new agenda should:

- a) Prioritize equitable development - especially empowerment of women;
- b) Ensure access to nutritious food through comprehensive approaches to food security and nutrition,;
- c) Recognize the key role of agriculture and rural development in eliminating poverty, hunger and malnutrition;
- d) Make agricultural and food systems sustainable and climate sensitive, and focus on food safety and waste along value chains;
- e) Reinforce people's resilience to shocks, both from natural and man-made causes, in rural and in urban areas;
- f) Increase responsible investment in agriculture and food systems, especially among smallholders; and
- g) Ensure inclusive and transparent governance at local, national, regional and global levels.
- h) Foster an inclusive macroeconomic approach that recognizes the interdependence of urban, rural and peri-urban communities

7. *Coordination and accountability across sectors is essential.* Because of the cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary nature of the new agenda, which emphasizes the linkages between food security and nutrition, appropriate coordination and coherence among many stakeholders and agents at all levels is critical. This calls for improved monitoring and impact evaluation. As the world undertakes to meet this decisive challenge, continuous policy dialogue is needed to capture new knowledge, experiences and lessons learned.

Building Blocks for a Global Agenda

Earlier consultations identified the following nine policy priorities as possible building blocks for the new post-2015 global development agenda:

8. *Prioritizing equitable development - especially the empowerment of women.* Women hold the key: they are the drivers of change in ensuring nutrition and food security. If women had the same access to productive resources as men, agricultural yields and output would increase and there would be a significant reduction in the number of hungry people. Key elements are (a) enhancing women's access to and control over land and other productive resources; (b) empowerment of women small producers, which enables them to overcome institutional, social, and economic bottlenecks, (c) investing in the nutrition of women and their young children, and (d) participation of both women and men in decision-making at all levels: from the household level to public policy and development planning. By focusing on equity of access or opportunity, decision makers emphasize the interests of vulnerable people: they pursue interventions that are designed to empower and economically integrate marginalized groups - such as indigenous peoples, who represent less than 5 percent of the world's population, but 15 percent of the world's poor.

9. *Ensuring access to nutritious food through comprehensive approaches to food and nutrition security.* Policies, programmes and investments for strengthening food and nutrition security must aim at: (a) focusing on access as well as availability of foods, (b) recognizing the importance of diversified diets made up of nutritious foods, especially for pregnant women and young children, (c) preventing excessive food price volatility, (d) enabling poor people to access both social protection and social services, and (e) ensuring that the services contribute to adequate child care and feeding practices, and mother and child health care services, with sufficient access to clean water and sanitation. All forms of malnutrition – including nutrient deficiencies and obesity – should be addressed. This means dealing with the global transition to high energy and low nutrient diets and the shift away from healthy food consumption patterns.

10. *Recognizing the key role of agriculture and rural development in eliminating poverty, hunger and malnutrition.* Small producers and family farms are essential contributors to resolving these challenges which are most pronounced in rural areas. Key elements are (a) provision of necessary public goods and support to raise rural incomes and productive capacities, (b) enabling small producers to participate and benefit from national and international markets, and (c) pro-poor development through investing in rural economies, both farm and non-farm.

11. *Making agricultural and food systems sustainable and climate sensitive.* As demand for food increases – as a result of population growth, urbanization, and changing dietary habits – greater attention is given to the ecological footprint of agriculture and food systems. What are the options for enabling these systems to be socially, economically and environmentally sustainable, while becoming more productive and nutrition-enhancing? The dilemma is faced by all nations and is made starker by changes in climate, which may threaten agricultural production. Sustainable intensification of agriculture requires increases in productivity, while adapting to climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Climate-sensitive agriculture makes growth more sustainable, while improving the management of ecosystems, including soils, forests, water, fisheries, oceans, watersheds and biodiversity.

12. ***Reinforcing resilience to natural and man-made disasters:*** Poor rural and urban societies experience crises – such those linked to volatile food prices or climatic shocks – with increasing frequency threatening their food and nutrition security. The sustainability and resilience of their livelihoods can be reinforced by (a) developing a range of capacities and entrepreneurial skills, (b) promoting non-farm rural employment, (c) empowering small producers to diversify their on-farm and off-farm activities, (d) including the most vulnerable in sustainable development processes, and (e) investing in social protection - including food assistance, safety nets and targeted transfers.

13. ***Focusing on food safety and waste along value chains:*** Better functioning of interfaces between food and health systems will lead to reduced risks of disease, especially for food that is unsafe for humans. This is increasingly relevant as ecosystems change, due to climate change or human activity. Furthermore, there is universal concern over post-harvest processing and handling losses and food consumption waste: they undermine the sustainability of food systems.

14. ***Ensuring responsible investment in agriculture and food systems.*** Investment in agriculture and food systems can – if undertaken responsibly – contribute to major societal benefits, including reduced inequalities, inclusive growth, and creation of decent jobs. Responsible investment can be strengthened by (a) recognizing that the main investors in agriculture are the farmers themselves, (b) engaging small producers and their organizations fully in the design and implementation of national strategies for agriculture and food security, (c) ensuring their secure tenure of land and improving their access to improved technology and innovation, (d) ensuring they benefit from key public goods - market infrastructure, price stabilization instruments (for both producers and consumers), affordable financial services, and functioning extension services. This calls for a combination of public and private investment involving farmer associations, agri-businesses, government, civil society groups and sources of financing.

15. ***Ensuring efficient, equitable and stable food systems through inclusive and transparent governance at local, national, regional and global levels.*** Market-based systems function best within the context of efficient and equitable rule systems, with effective monitoring and incentives for compliance at all levels. International coordination and governance has improved, but the progress must be durable and rapid, if efforts are to be scaled up to ensure food security and nutrition for all. This calls for all stakeholders to concur with the rules, to display mutual accountability and to demonstrate commitment to shared responsibility for governance. To ensure accountability, food security and nutrition outcomes need consistent monitoring. New indicators are being developed to capture the short- and long-term impacts of policy measures on rural incomes and resilience, progress in reducing food insecurity and nutritional outcomes.

16. ***Fostering an inclusive macroeconomic approach that recognizes the interdependence of urban, rural and peri-urban communities.*** In a globalised world, food security and nutrition concerns cut across all levels of society, everywhere. Rapid urbanization is posing new challenges for food and nutrition security, while rural areas are also changing rapidly. Importantly, there are processes beyond the remit of nations that affect food security, such as the impact of persistently high and volatile commodity prices, financial and economic crises, and migration. A lack of policy coherence in these areas impacts on food security at all levels. These global issues, and their differential impacts at all levels, need to be acknowledged and incorporated into the new framework.