



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Virtual parliamentary dialogues: food security and nutrition in the time of COVID-19

March-September 2021



Parliamentarians from around 50 countries and nine parliamentary networks gathered in the context of the Virtual Parliamentary Dialogues on Food Security and Nutrition in the time of COVID-19. From March to September 2021, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in collaboration with the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), pledged to put food security and nutrition at the forefront of national, regional, and global agendas and to take proactive steps to address the consequences of the pandemic.

In their legislative, budgetary, and oversight responsibilities, parliaments are strategically positioned to strengthen food security, nutrition, and inclusion initiatives to combat COVID-19. Therefore, they must get involved in these unprecedented times.

Based on the commitments made at the **Global Parliamentary Summit** in Madrid in October 2018, and building on today's Global Parliamentary Dialogue, the lawmakers who gathered virtually in the regional dialogues leading up to this one reaffirm their commitment to advocating for the right to adequate food, including freedom from hunger as well as access to healthy diets. Furthermore, members of Parliament recognise the need for a more robust international, regional, and national level of cooperation to promote legislative, policy, and budgetary measures in COVID-19. To protect these rights for all people and achieve SDG2, Zero Hunger, by 2030, leave no one behind.

Parliamentarians showed their readiness to generate, nurture, and strengthen the political will needed to build back better in their role as custodians of political commitments. And ensure that **COVID-19 recovery** sets all countries on a path to meeting the SDGs by 2030.

During the previous dialogues and today, Parliamentarians have reiterated their commitment to learning from each other's experiences, building on meaningful progress made and strengthening their collaboration within and across countries and regions.

Parliamentarians will continue their efforts to stimulate the adoption of legislation, policies and programmes, and in budgetary allocation and oversight, to improve and ensure **sustainable access to healthy diets** through support to **family farming** and the **sustainable production of food**, as well as **gender-sensitive poverty reduction, decent employment, Responsible investments in agriculture** and flexible **social protection** measures aimed at empowering the most vulnerable, as means to achieve Zero Hunger and the SDGs.

They expressed their disposition to work in non-partisan collaborations towards legislative frameworks, including international organisations, scientists, academics, consumer organisations, the private sector, family farmers and civil society. To come together to exchange and discuss best practices and legislative initiatives towards accessible and affordable healthy diets, optimum food labelling and related incentives in the post-COVID recovery.

FAO will continue to support parliamentarians through facilitating the sharing of technical expertise and good practices, supporting the development of legislation and public policies, providing technical information and capacity building, and facilitating linkages amongst Parliamentarians and Parliamentary bodies by creating spaces for dialogue and exchanges.

During one of the most challenging periods in our generation, parliamentarians and parliamentary networks came together virtually during a series of dialogues. Despite their differences, they built political will to address the impact of the pandemic on agri-food systems and protect the most vulnerable in our society. Additionally, they reaffirmed their commitment to continue these efforts after COVID. Thus, it will be possible to consolidate their work and further advance the achievement of the SDGs and leave no one behind by highlighting the relevance of bringing these experiences for further discussion at a Second Global Parliamentary Summit.

