



COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

Forty-second Session

"Making a Difference in Food Security and Nutrition"

Rome, Italy, 12-15 October 2015

STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF FAO

Madam Gerda Verburg, Chair of the CFS
Madam Ertharin Cousin, Executive Director of WFP
Mr Kanayo F. Nwanze, President of IFAD
Mr David Nabarro, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Food Security and Nutrition
Mr Per Pinstrup-Andersen, Chair of the Steering Committee of the High-Level Panel of Experts
Members of the Advisory Group of the CFS
Distinguished Ministers
Honourable Delegates and Observers
Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me start by welcoming all of you to the 42nd session of the Committee on World Food Security.

This session takes place right after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. I am looking forward to your discussions on the Committee's engagement with the SDGs.

I have no doubt that the reformed CFS will rise to the challenge, and find how best it can contribute to the 2030 Agenda. FAO is also part of this effort.

At least 14 of the 17 new Goals are related to FAO's mandate. And our five Strategic Objectives fully reflect the ambition and purpose of the SDGs.

For example, FAO has the expertise to contribute to SDG14, on oceans and marine resources; SDG15, on ecosystems, biodiversity, forests and land; SDGs 6 & 7 on water and energy; SDG5, on gender equality; SDG13 on climate change, or SDG12 on sustainable consumption and production.

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But our work will be particularly relevant in the achievement of SDGs 1 and 2: eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, and promoting food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture.

Without rapid progress in eliminating hunger and malnutrition, the full range of the 2030 Agenda cannot be achieved. At the same time, reaching the other SDGs will pave the way for ending hunger and extreme poverty.

We can advance faster if we work together – building partnerships upon a shared vision and goals, as SDG17 requires.

Let me add that FAO welcomes the CFS decision to step up its work on nutrition, and to contribute to the implementation of ICN2 commitments

It has become increasingly clear that we cannot separate food security from nutrition.

The CFS multi-stakeholder engagement is an important asset to advance the nutrition agenda.

Distinguished Delegates, you have a busy week ahead of you. You will endorse the Framework for Action on Addressing Food Insecurity in Protracted Crises.

I wish to congratulate all of you for reaching consensus on this complex issue.

As I always say, building consensus takes time, but it helps moving everything faster afterwards.

FAO is already putting the Framework principles into action in our resilience work, working closely with IFAD and WFP.

And you will discuss water and food security based on the report of the High Level Panel of Experts.

Let me take this opportunity to acknowledge the outgoing Chair of the High Level Panel of Experts, Professor Per Pinstrup-Andersen, and Ambassador Gerda Verburg, who concludes her term as CFS Chairperson.

Over the last two years the CFS has continued to consolidate itself as the cornerstone of global governance in food security.

My sincere thanks to both of you.

I look forward to working with your successors to make the CFS even more relevant.

Ladies and gentlemen, this year's World Food Day is a celebration on how social protection and agriculture can help break the cycle of rural poverty.

As you all know, the observance, which also marks the 70th anniversary of FAO, will take place in Milan on Friday.

I'm grateful to the Committee for agreeing to end your meeting earlier this week. I hope that many of you will be able to join us in Milan for the celebrations.

Distinguished delegates, the 2030 Agenda brings new momentum to our efforts. Now the world has a set date to end hunger, to achieve food security and to end malnutrition in all its forms.

FAO and our sister RBAs share with CFS a common commitment to eradicating hunger and malnutrition.

Let's embrace this challenge together.

It is ambitious, but realistic. I do not doubt that we can become the first Zero Hunger generation.

