



# COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

## **Forty-third Session**

***"Making a Difference in Food Security and Nutrition"***

**Rome, Italy, 17-21 October 2016**

**STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND  
FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (IFAD)**

Madame Chairman, Honorable Ministers,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates, my fellow UN Rome-based Agency heads,

Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is the last annual meeting of the Committee for Food Security that I will attend as president of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), so this is a moment to think about achievements – and what remains to be done.

The CFS and IFAD were both established forty years ago with only a few months between them. For almost 40 years IFAD has been actively engaged in the fight to end under-nutrition.

We have always worked with smallholder farmers. And over the years, development efforts by IFAD and others have results in many smallholders becoming more productive, more integrated into food value chains, and more prosperous.

Remarkable progress has been achieved. The Rural Development Report published by IFAD last month showed that in 1990 44 per cent of people in developing regions were living on less than

---

*This document can be accessed using the Quick Response Code on this page;  
an FAO initiative to minimize its environmental impact and promote greener communications.  
Other documents can be consulted at [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)*



mr 978

US\$1.90 a day. By 2012, that had fallen to 14.9 per cent. And many developing countries are gaining middle income status.

But money alone doesn't buy health. We've learned that under-nutrition can persist even when output and incomes rise. And the catastrophic consequences pass from generation to generation.

That's why we have striven so hard to make the CFS a place where the international food agencies headquartered in Rome can work together to solve the global scourge of under-nutrition.

We were among the prime movers in the 2009 CFS reforms. We doubled our funding. We enthusiastically supported the development of the VGGTs – the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the context of national food security, the RAI, the Principles for the Responsible Investment in Agriculture and food security in protracted crises. We have also supported policy recommendations on a range of topics including smallholders' access to markets, climate change, nutrition, gender equality and women's empowerment.

We had hoped that our support to the CFS would accelerate progress towards a world without hunger; and that a reformed CFS would play an active role in the development of a global food hub centred here in Rome.

Certainly, there has been progress. And we applaud the efforts of the CFS to remain accountable, and we are also appreciative of the major evaluation of the CFS that is currently underway. IFAD has always supported the CFS and will continue to do so.

Yet, here we are, SEVEN years on, still preoccupied by policy, while hundreds of millions of people around the globe go to bed hungry.

For me the lesson is already clear. We need to go beyond making global policies. Do we have the institutional framework and instruments for their implementation? What are the institutional arrangements? Do we have the national and regional capacities to move beyond policies on paper to concrete action on the ground? We need to do more, to do it better, faster, and to do it together.

Rural women, men and children – not turf-wars - must be at the centre of the drive to achieve global food security and Agenda 2030. We need to strengthen and build on our competences. We need to work in synergy and complementarity – not competition and intrusion into mandates and erosion of trust.

Our JOINT task is to help rural women, children and men live the lives they want for themselves just as we want for ourselves. We need to transform rural areas into places where people can live fulfilling lives, and plan for a bright future.

Where every one of the world's 3 billion rural people has a secure base, and is able to adapt to climate change. And where each day starts and ends with access to food that is nutritious and plentiful.

We need to work together, in unity, to DELIVER this vision. This is my last wish for the CFS and for all of us!

Thank you.