



# 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 ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME**

Madame Chairperson  
Director-General  
President  
Ministers  
Your Excellencies  
Colleagues

It is a pleasure to be here today, representing the World Food Programme at this opening ceremony. Our Executive Director has asked me to offer her sincere regrets that she is unable to attend.

Madame Chairperson, I would like to start by thanking you for your commitment and leadership of the Committee on World Food Security. Under your guidance, the CFS has continued to be a truly inclusive forum working to support food security and nutrition for everyone.

The theme of today's Opening Ceremony - "Sustainable Food Systems, Nutrition and Climate Change" – could not be more relevant.

Climate change seriously threatens our ability to meet the Sustainable Development Goals and deliver on our promise to eradicate hunger by 2030. Indeed, we have just witnessed the devastating impact of another weather-related disaster, after Hurricane Matthew tore through Southern Haiti destroying homes, crops and food reserves.

Climate change is already stretching the humanitarian system financially and operationally. In 2013, over 90% of natural disasters were climate related. And more than 80% of the world's hungry people live in countries prone to natural disasters and environmental degradation.

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So, as we begin the Committee's 43rd plenary session, we must renew our efforts to build more sustainable food systems, which are better able to withstand changing weather patterns and extreme events - and respond to nutritional needs. Building resilience into our food systems, mitigating the risks, and ensuring we are more prepared for climate shocks in the future. These efforts require action from diverse stakeholders working along the value chain.

We also need to be innovative about meeting the growing demand for food, as the global population reaches 9.5 billion people by 2050. Global food production will need to increase by 60 per cent, and nearly double in developing countries, to keep pace with population growth over this period. We know that smallholder farmers have great potential to help meet this increased demand, if they receive the right support, so we need to start putting in place those systems right now.

In addition to forward planning, social protection systems have a vital role to play, ensuring that the poorest and most vulnerable people have access to nutritious food in difficult circumstances.

To give one example: school meals programmes, which are the most common social safety net around the world, provide millions of children with the only nutritious food they eat. In 2015, WFP school meals programmes gave 17.4 million children in 62 countries a chance to learn and grow.

These are the kinds of solutions that we need to implement if we are going to fulfil our ambition of a Zero Hunger world by 2030.

Ladies and gentlemen, CFS 43 is an opportunity for us all, collectively, to examine and identify what more we can do to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. It is important that we all make a real difference, not just in terms of approving policies, but also in delivering meaningful change on the ground.

This Committee, in particular, is well placed to contribute to achieving Goal number 17 - strengthening the means of implementation, and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development. As an inter-governmental body, it enjoys broad legitimacy and is supported by strong technical expertise. CFS therefore offers a forum for Member States and stakeholders to come together and track progress, as we work to eradicate hunger and boost nutrition for all.

It also offers a forum for partnership, which will be the key to success or failure as we work towards our 2030 targets. Collaboration is critical - between the Rome-Based Agencies, governments, international organizations, the private sector, and civil society. Because, as we all recognize, ending hunger and achieving food security is beyond the capacity of any single stakeholder in this room.

So WFP is fully committed to supporting the work of the Committee on World Food Security. And we stand ready, at this 43rd plenary session, to explore and discuss how all of us, together, can reach our common goal of Zero Hunger.

Achieving sustainable food systems and good nutrition, while dealing with the effects of climate change, are not separate challenges – they are different facets of the same challenge. So let us step up our efforts and work together, in partnership, to find the solutions that will finally consign hunger to our collective global history.

Thank you.