



# COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

**Forty-fourth Session**  
***"Making a Difference in Food Security and Nutrition"***

**Rome, Italy, 9-13 October 2017**

**STATEMENT BY THE CFS CHAIRPERSON**

Mr Graziano da Silva, Director-General of FAO,  
Mr Hungbo, President of IFAD,  
Mr Beasley, Executive Director of WFP,  
Honourable Ministers,  
Mr Hochschild, UN Assistant-Secretary-General,  
Dr Patrick Caron, Chair of the High-Level Panel of Experts,  
Excellencies,  
Heads of Delegations,  
Distinguished Participants and Observers,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome all of you to CFS44 Session!

I have the honor to open the 44th Session of the Committee on World Food Security and I am pleased to see so many of you here today.

I would like to welcome in particular the Principals of the three RBAs, of whom CFS represents the model of their collaboration. Thank you for the technical and financial support that your agencies provide to CFS!

This year has been particularly difficult on the front of food security and nutrition.

In 2017, for the first time in 6 years, famine has been declared in South Sudan. About 30 million people have been on the tip of hunger in Yemen, Somalia, and Northeastern Nigeria, because of food-crises that were all largely conflict-induced. And many have agreed that this year we have faced the worst food security and nutrition situation in at least 70 years.

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Facing this scenario, as far as SDG2 is concerned and by current trends, we are NOT on track to “end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture” by 2030.

Conflicts not only push large numbers of people into a condition of acute food insecurity, they often last a long time and evolve into a situation of protracted crisis and protracted food insecurity and malnutrition which carry long-lasting consequences on the economic growth in particular and development in general.

As Members and Participants of the Committee on World Food Security, as individuals who are committed to fight hunger and malnutrition in all forms, I think it is this Committee’s responsibility to do whatever is in its capacity to alleviate hunger and sufferings and to fulfil the Universal Right to Food.

In my view, the progressive realization of the right to adequate food is an imperative for eliminating poverty, promoting prosperity and achieving success across the whole of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and it is what I have striven for, during my term. How to get there? To me, and I hope we all agree, to end hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition requires policy coherence and coordination among different actors and sectors: what we do here at CFS.

CFS uses its inclusive multi-stakeholder platform, the solid scientific-evidence of the HLPE, and the technical expertise of the three Rome-based Agencies, to reach consensus on how to address complex issues that go directly to the root causes of hunger and malnutrition.

CFS policy instruments are critical for national efforts to advance the 2030 Agenda.

Looking back over the past years, I see major CFS policy products: the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of land, fisheries and forests; the Principles for Responsible Investments in Agriculture and Food Systems; the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises; the recommendations on connecting smallholders to markets; and the recommendations on water, climate change, social protection, food prices and sustainable agriculture.

These are all practical policy recommendations that can help our countries make fast progress on those policy areas that I have mentioned, achieve zero hunger and address malnutrition in all its forms within our lifetime.

Unfortunately, I have to say, too many people outside Rome do not even know about these policies and the tremendous impact that, if applied, they can have on food security and nutrition.

I have realized it myself, in these two years as Chair of CFS, and I have tried to change that. At least, I am happy to say that whenever I spoke about CFS and its policies, I have always found a very interested audience. But of course, that is not enough.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Achieving food security, stopping malnutrition in all forms, and leaving no one behind, in the context of achieving SDG 2, means that both national and international actions, investments and cooperation towards these goals must be stepped up.

- To achieve food security and nutrition we need:
- To increase agricultural productivity, raise smallholders’ income and secure their access to markets.
- We need to have sustainable food systems, by adopting coherent policies, establishing strong accountable institutions and promoting responsible investments.

- We need to have solid natural resources management and prioritize women's empowerment and gender equality.
- We need to give priorities to countries in protracted crises, being the result of conflicts, natural disasters or climate change.
- We need to accelerate efforts to address all forms of malnutrition to unlock the human potential that will lead to development and economic growth.
- We need to have inclusive policy processes and effective partnerships.

In the coming years CFS – and when I say CFS I mean all of you here - needs to strive to increase our impact on the ground.

The universal roadmap set by the 2030 Agenda is ambitious. Only breaking silos and working across sectors and disciplines we can succeed.

Countries must think more holistically about policies and create synergies across the range of issues addressed across the 2030 Agenda. Sustainable development, in all its dimensions – economic, social and environmental – can only be reached through integrated approaches. And this is where CFS, with its multi-sectorial approach, can support country-led efforts to adopt integrated solutions to the issues of food insecurity and malnutrition.

Breaking silos also means truly adopting a multi-stakeholder model for policy convergence, whereby all voices are heard, especially, and I repeat, especially, those of the most vulnerable.

By reaching a global consensus, not just between governments but with the private sector, civil society, international research and financial institutions and the UN system, on what policies will achieve food security and nutrition CFS can truly contribute to promoting sustainable and inclusive development.

Today, CFS has become a unique model for inclusive policy convergence on food security and nutrition issues at global level. Let us make sure our efforts are recognised and taken seriously in every one of our countries! Over the course of this week, I want to hear from each of you what you will do to end food insecurity and malnutrition in your country.

Thank you! And I wish all of us a successful CFS week!