



COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

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

Rome, Italy, 9-13 2017

Statement by the Executive Director of WFP

Madame Chairperson. My friends, Graziano and Gilbert.

Ministers. Excellencies. Ladies and gentlemen.

It's a pleasure to attend my first annual meeting of the Committee on World Food Security.

This week is a chance to discuss new ways to partner together to achieve Zero Hunger and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The 2017 State of Food Security [SOFI] report shows we still have a mountain to climb. As Graziano said, hunger is on the rise again because of conflict.

At WFP, we know this all too well. Ten of our 13 biggest hunger emergencies are fueled by violence. Sixty percent of the world's hungry live in war zones. This means 489 million people are suffering man-made, preventable hunger.

And the SOFI report revealed another heart-breaking statistic: of the 155 million stunted children in the world, 75 percent of them live in conflict zones. That's 122 million children with stolen futures.

I call upon world leaders to come together to heal the conflicts and divisions. To break this cycle of despair and build peace.

Because right now the world faces an unparalleled migration crisis. Sixty-five million people have fled their homes – the highest number since World War Two.

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WFP data shows that a one percent rise in food insecurity fuels an almost two percent increase in migration. So if we are serious about making hunger a thing of the past, we have to tackle these root causes of food insecurity.

But in the meantime, Graziano, Gilbert and I understand the Rome Based Agencies must collaborate even more effectively.

SDG 2 calls for investment in livelihoods and sustainable economic development.

Working together, our agencies will harness our respective strengths to support communities to become more self-sufficient and resilient.

So the families we serve have nourishment today and fresh hope for tomorrow.

Thank you.