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COUNCIL

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Concept Note - High-level Event on FAO's Role in Food Security Matters – 16 October 2018

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I. Introduction

1. At its Session of May 2018, the Joint Meeting of the Programme Committee and Finance Committee (21 May 2018), "welcomed the proposal for a high-level event on FAO's role in food security matters at World Food Day" and "requested that a Concept Note be prepared by the Secretariat setting out the expected objectives and outcomes of the high-level event, as well as how the CFS would be involved"

2. This document presents the expected objectives and outcomes of the high-level event, as well as how the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) would be involved in the event.

II. Interaction with the 45th Session of the Committee on World Food Security

3. The World Food Week 2018 will present a number of opportunities to highlight FAO's vision of food and agriculture as key to sustainable development, and comprehensive and ambitious policy perspectives: tackling the root causes of poverty and hunger, building a fairer society and leaving no one behind.

4. The activities planned include presentations, interactive exchanges and round-tables in collaboration with the 45th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). These events, organized jointly by FAO and the CFS secretariat, will be part of the Provisional Agenda for the 45th Session of the CFS.

5. On Monday 15 October, the CFS will open with the participation of the Director-General, along with representatives of the other RBAs. This will be followed by a Panel discussion on SOFI 2018. This edition of SOFI will focus on the impacts of Climate Variability and Extremes on Food Security and Nutrition.

6. A presentation of SOFI 2018 to the CFS will highlight aspects of relevance to the Committee, in particular the nexus between migration and agricultural and rural development and its implications on food security and nutrition. This tailored presentation will be followed by an interactive discussion with the CFS participants, thereby benefitting from the diverse perspectives and experiences of CFS stakeholders.

7. The participants of the 45th Session of the CFS will also be attending the High-Level event described further down.

III. The High-Level Event

8. On Tuesday 16 October, the traditional World Food Day Celebration will be held in the morning with Nutrition as its special theme. The World Food Day Celebration will be followed by the High-Level Event.

A. Rationale, objectives and expected outcomes

9. The current global agenda for sustainable development fully endorses FAO's vision of food and agriculture as key to sustainable development, and comprehensive and ambitious policy perspectives: tackling the root causes of poverty and hunger, building a fairer society and leaving no one behind. Investing in this Zero Hunger Vision can catalyse achievement right across the 2030 Agenda. The ambition of SDGs 1 and 2 - and FAO's - amounts to ensuring people are able to access sufficient nourishing food, sustaining natural resources and safeguarding biodiversity, transforming food systems and the rural sector while increasing the productivity and income of smallholder farmers, fishers, foresters and pastoralists.

10. This Zero Hunger Vision can be summarized as follows: despite a recent growth in the number of the poor and food insecure, ending poverty and hunger by 2030 is feasible, if we join forces and act on evidence. In other words:

B. Our Actions are our Future. A Zero Hunger world by 2030 is possible.

11. The High-Level Event will provide an excellent opportunity - within the sequence of events of the World Food Week - to ensure the set objective of celebrating, disseminating and reaffirming the Zero Hunger Vision that has been built over the past years, and which has been embraced and internalized through the 2030 Agenda.

12. The event will also raise awareness concerning the necessity for policy agendas to include measures aimed at tackling root causes of malnutrition by targeting rural populations, providing access to social protection programmes, committing to pro-poor investment and growth, and promoting nutrition, sustainable food and food systems.

C. Format

13. The Event will consist of two round table discussions (moderated panels). The Panels will consist of Ministers and other high-level guests, such as leaders of civil society organizations, the private sector, mayors and parliamentarians.

14. As per usual practice at FAO events, special attention will be given to maintaining gender and geographic balance and a participatory approach will be followed in order to include all key stakeholders.

D. Content

15. The high-level event's two round tables will address the following topics:

Round Table 1: Emerging Challenges: Nutrition/Obesity, Climate Change, Conflict and Migration (11:30 - 13:30, Green Room)

Rationale and Outcomes:

16. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) 2018 report (forthcoming) will reconfirm that, after more than a decade of steady decline, global hunger continues to increase for the second consecutive year. Furthermore, nutrition indicators, such as stunting, are declining but way too slow, and obesity is rising way too fast, to meet the Sustainable Development Goals. There is therefore an increased urgency to address the key drivers behind this reversal and to scale-up actions to get back on track towards ending hunger and malnutrition by 2030. This will not be easy, as some of the key drivers behind this reversal, such as climate and conflict, continue to pose immense challenges on a global and regional scale with no easy and quick solutions.

17. The Round Table Discussion will explore policy and programme actions to address relevant challenges, including:

- a) The need for interrelated systems and inter-disciplinary, gender-sensitive and nutrition-sensitive approaches, to tackle climate, conflict, land, ecosystems and their impacts, linkages, interactions and feedbacks with food and nutrition.
- b) The need for conflict and climate sensitive policies and interventions aimed at improving food security and nutrition, given that conflict and climate change are two major drivers behind forced and voluntary migration.
- c) Building and strengthening resilience to conflict and climate-related shocks.
- d) The necessity of integrating nutrition considerations into climate resilience policies and programmes, and likewise, considering climate change, variability and extremes in nutrition policies and planning.
- e) The need to integrate siloed global policy dialogues into a coherent set of climate resilience actions that can support countries to end hunger and malnutrition by 2030.
- f) The need for prevention, preparedness, and risk reduction in areas affected by conflict and a high exposure to climate variability and extremes.
- g) The need for investment in human capital (through better investments in health, education and nutrition) as a way to help reducing climate vulnerability.

Expected outcome of the round table include:

- a) Raising awareness on the complex relationships among climate change, conflict, migration and nutrition among Members States and Stakeholders.
- b) Exploring how a food-systems approach can help facilitate elaborating policy and programme actions across these challenges of climate change, conflict and migration.
- c) Exchanging experiences on what Governments can do to address the key challenges of climate change, conflicts and migration.
- d) The event will also provide an update by FAO, with contributions from the World Health Organization (WHO), on the implementation of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition.

Participation:

- a) The Session will include participants with the following profiles:
- b) High-level representatives from governments with experience on managing conflicts and climate related events.
- c) Experts in climate and nutrition
- d) Experts in conflict and forced migration
- e) Civil society representatives with expertise in migration issues
- f) Private sector representatives with expertise in food systems innovations for climate adaptation.

Round Table 2: The Role of Partnerships to Achieve Zero Hunger: Civil Society, Private Sector, Parliaments, Cities (15:00 to 17:00, Green Room)

Rationale and expected Outcome:

18. The SDGs emphasize the role of partnerships in the achievement of Agenda 2030 and call on all actors with special mention of the private sector to contribute to development objectives. SDG2 calls for a systematic re-shaping of how food is produced, processed, transported, marketed and consumed; and calls on all actors to adopt new, multi-dimensional approaches to achieve zero hunger.

19. The WFD 2018 event on "Partnerships to Achieve Zero Hunger 2030" has the objective of raising awareness on the need to engage all partners to achieve the objective of Zero Hunger and to illustrate their specific contributions and challenges. The session will also highlight the role of vibrant local actors in guaranteeing food security, environmental sustainability and employment opportunities, recognizing small-scale family farmers as key actors for achieving effective and sustainable local food systems. It will discuss the need to transform food systems to achieve the 2030 Agenda and how partners can come together to contribute to address the root causes of hunger, inequality and poverty.

20. The Multi-Stakeholder Session is further aimed at recognizing the efforts and contributions of governments, family farmer organizations, civil society organizations, the private sector, cities and parliamentarians in facing challenges related to achieving zero hunger.

21. A round table discussion among these actors will highlight their successes and achievements in eliminating hunger, as well as the remaining gaps.

22. Special focus will be given to partnerships' role in

- a) supporting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at country level;
- b) the International Decade of Family Farming (2019-2028); and
- c) Innovations to support small-scale farmers.

Participation:

23. The Session will include participants with the following profiles:

- a) High-level government representatives from countries that have benefited from a multi-stakeholder field initiative;
- b) Representatives from private sector partners of FAO. Speakers from some of FAO's flagship partnerships will be invited to speak on the effectiveness of collaborating on common objectives such as reforestation/innovation, food safety, nutrition, climate change;

- c) Representatives from civil society partners of FAO;
- d) Representatives from FAO Parliamentary Alliances will underscore the key role of legal frameworks in achieving zero hunger;
- e) Representatives of the Private Sector Mechanism and Civil Society Mechanism may also be invited to showcase the role of non-state actors in multi-stakeholder policy dialogues for achieving zero hunger;
- f) Representatives of FAO-Nobel Laureates Alliance for Food Security and Peace; and
- g) Representatives of cities.