



COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

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

Rome, Italy, 14-18 October 2019

STATEMENT BY THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL
(delivered by Ms Maria Francesca Spatolisano, Assistant Secretary-General
for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs)

1. It is a pleasure to greet the Committee on Food Security on the 45th anniversary of this vital and inclusive multi-stakeholder UN platform.
2. At last month's Sustainable Development Goals Summit, I called for a decade of ambitious action to deliver the SDGs by 2030. Accelerating our efforts to end hunger and achieve food security will require transformative steps. I welcome your focus at this session on crucial areas such as data, inequality, gender and youth, and on innovations such as agroecology.
3. Agriculture and food systems are central to tackling the triple challenge of sustainable food production, improved nutrition and protecting the climate. The reason for action could not be more clear: hunger is again on the rise, the climate emergency is an increasing threat to agriculture, and 2 billion people are overweight or obese, undermining health and well-being.
4. Through the preparation of evidence-based policy guidelines, your Committee is well placed to advance coherence in the realms of food systems, healthy diets and environmental sustainability. This would also be a key contribution to a 2021 Food Systems Summit.
5. I commend the Rome-based United Nations Agencies for their ever-stronger collaboration within the Committee on Food Security. Strengthened partnerships with all stakeholders will continue to be essential to meet the challenges of climate change, malnutrition and poverty in the context of the 2030 Agenda.
6. I wish you all a successful meeting.

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