



# COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

## Fortieth Session

Rome, Italy, 7-11 October 2013

### STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

Good Morning Ministers, Excellencies, Colleagues, dear friends, ladies and gentlemen.

It is an honour for me to welcome all of you to the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on World Food Security. Four years since the reform, the Committee continues to strengthen our collective efforts towards realising the objectives of the reform. As we grow in both participation and stature, representing all sectors of society, we create the opportunity to truly make a difference collectively.

We are charged with a mandate to provide an inclusive forum for review and follow-up on policies affecting food security and nutrition, with the overall objective to eliminate hunger and malnutrition and the reduction of poverty.

The multi-faceted, multi-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder nature of the CFS certainly poses challenges. However, this is also an opportunity to enhance awareness; increase understanding and help us to pool our thoughts, resources and expertise in an integrated, focused manner.

It's been two years since I was elected to chair this committee and my assignment has been challenging, yet rewarding, and wholly satisfying. Throughout my tenure, I have enjoyed your unwavering support. Over the last 12 months, in an effort to continue promoting the principles of CFS, I participated in over 20 events and exchanges around the globe.

For instance, in April, the results of our informal consultations were presented at the High Level Consultation on Hunger, Food Security and Nutrition in context of the post-2015 development agenda, Madrid. In May, in an effort to solidify trans-Atlantic relations, I attended a meeting between the NGO Working Group and the President of ECOSOC. In June, it was my privilege to re-count our successes at the 38<sup>th</sup> FAO Conference in Rome and to the Economic and Social Council in Geneva.

More recently, I attended the Secretary-General's Millennium Development Goals Success; the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement's Global Gathering; and I also visited the International Food Policy Research Institute in Washington D.C. to discuss the theme Transforming Agriculture in Africa and the possible role of CFS.

*This document can be accessed using the Quick Response Code on this page;  
a FAO initiative to minimize its environmental impact and promote greener communications.  
Other documents can be consulted at [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)*



mi050e

These interactions have been educational and have ensured a better understanding of the complex nature of our resolve to succeed in our assignment. 850 million hungry and malnourished people are living in our world today. Whether we come together internationally or locally, strong political will is required. I believe that this generation has the collective knowledge and technology to address the many challenges.

The CFS model is evidenced-based with scientific support of the highest calibre through the high level panel of experts. Their exemplary reports on land tenure, price volatility, climate change and social protection have influenced food security debates and policy recommendations, thus shaping the international dialogue on food security. CFS recommendations on food security and climate change, for example, were presented to the UNFCCC, a step forward in intergovernmental coordination around food security after Rio+20.

My dear brothers and sisters, we have the capacity and the capability to achieve our goals especially if we come together in adopting comprehensive, multi-dimensional, rights-based approaches which in the past have had significant impact in strengthening and sustaining political commitment.

CFS has one singular advantage, which is the backing of all Member States, UN Agencies, Private Sector, Academia and the Civil Society.

In conclusion, it has been my utmost pleasure to have walked together with you all to get this far. Allow me to remind us of a Latin American saying that “success is a series of small victories but it requires patience” and finally remember the Chinese adage that a journey of thousand miles starts with a first step. We can thankfully say that CFS has stepped in the right direction because we dare to walk together! It is my hope that our joint efforts at CFS 40 will provide a stronger platform for progress.

May the Lord bless us all!

**ANNEX**  
**Conferences, high level meetings and exchanges attended by the  
Chair of the Committee on World Food Security  
November 2012 to December 2013**

**Observer**, Food Security in Dry Lands Conference, hosted by Food Security in Dry Lands, Qatar National Food Security Programme, 14-15 November 2013, Qatar, Doha.

**Co-Chair**, Global Soil Week 2012, hosted by Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies Potsdam, 18-22 November 2012, Berlin, Germany.

**Participant**, Global Forum for Food and Agriculture: “Responsible investment in the food and agriculture sectors – Key factor for food security and rural development”, hosted by Germany Ministry of Food and Agriculture, 19 January 2013, Berlin, Germany

**Presenter of CFS and Chair of Round Table on partnerships**: private sector, High Level Regional Consultation on “Integrating Nutrition into ASEAN Food Security Framework and its Strategic Plan of Action”, hosted by Food and Agriculture Organization and ASEAN, 29-30 January 2013, Bangkok, Thailand.

**Panellist: CFS Consultations**, High Level Consultation on Hunger, Food Security and Nutrition in the Post-2015 Development Framework, hosted by Governments of Spain and Colombia, 4 April 2013, Madrid, Spain.

**Speaker**, Meeting between the NGO Working Group and ECOSOC President, hosted by NGO Working Group on Food and Hunger at the United Nations, 6 May 2013, New York, USA

**Statement at Closing Ceremony**, International Conference for Forests and Food Security, hosted by Food and Agriculture Organization, 13-15 May, Rome, Italy

**Chair**, Supporting Implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on Governance of Tenure, hosted by Food and Agriculture Organization, 28 May 2013, Rome, Italy

**Attendee**, Tokyo International Conference on Development, V Ministerial Preparatory Meeting: “Trade and Investment in Africa”, hosted by Government of Japan, the African Union Commission, the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank, 1-3 June 2013, Yokohama, Japan

**Attendee**, Nutrition for Growth: A New Alliance G8 side event: “Beating Hunger through Business and Science”, hosted by New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, DFID, 8 June 2013, London, UK

**Panellist**, Policies Against Hunger conference, hosted by German Ministry for Agriculture, 10-12 June 2013, Berlin, Germany

**Presenter**, CFS report to 38th FAO Conference, 15 June 2013, Rome, Italy

**Panellist**, International symposium on “Climate change and food security with the technical approach and the human performance approach”, hosted by Assilah Forum Foundation, 21-23 June 2013, Tigere, Morocco.

**Presenter**, “Thematic debate on the contribution of ECOSOC to the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda”, High-level segment, hosted by Economic and Social Council, 4 July 2013, Geneva, Switzerland

**Attendee**, Ministerial briefing on Realizing the Potential of African Agriculture: “Catalytic Innovations for Growth”, hosted by Rockefeller Foundation, 8-9 July September, Abuja, Nigeria

**Presentation of CFS report** to Economic and Social Council, 18 July 2013, Geneva, Switzerland

**CFS Chair and CFS Secretary**, networking with Gates Foundation, August, 27-28 August 2013, Seattle, USA

**Observer**, 2013 International BiodiverCities Conference, hosted by the City of Joondalup, in collaboration with ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center, ICLEI Oceania and the Western Australian Local Government Association, 9-11 September 2013, Perth, Australia.

**Observer**, Secretary-General's MDG Success, United Nations, 23-24 September 2013, United Nations, New York, USA

**Participant**, SUN Movement Global Gathering, hosted by Scaling Up Nutrition, 23-24 September 2013, Asia Society, New York, USA

**Observer**, "Women's and Children's Health: The Unfinished Agenda of the MDGs, In Support of Every Woman and Every Child", hosted by the governments of the United Republic of Tanzania and Canada and the World Health Organization, 25 September 2013, UN Headquarters, New York, USA

**Guest speaker** at food policy roundtable event, "Transforming Agriculture in Africa: The Insiders' Perspective", hosted by International Food Policy Research Institute, 26 September 2013, Washington, USA