



COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

Thirty-seventh Session

Rome, 17-22 October 2011

STATEMENT BY MR D. NABARRO, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION, ON BEHALF OF THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL

1. Chairman Mr. Noel de Luna, Members of the Committee on World Food Security, Distinguished Ministers, Honourable Delegates and Observers, Excellencies, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am pleased to send my greetings to the 37th Session of the Committee on World Food Security.

2. Today, in the Horn of Africa, more than 13 million people are affected by one of the region's worst droughts in 60 years. Famine grips swathes of southern Somalia. Yet, drought does not need to become famine – nor should it ever be allowed to, either through system failure or through the kind of deliberate deprivation we are seeing in areas controlled by Al-Shabaab.

3. The hunger in the Horn of Africa is but a fraction of a needless global menace. There is more than enough food on the planet to feed everyone, yet today nearly one billion people will go hungry because food is unavailable or unaffordable. This is the context in which you meet.

4. Every child, woman and man has a right to enough nutritious food for an active and healthy life. We need to break the links between poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition. This requires the full engagement of many sectors and actors. It means: pursuing comprehensive approaches; responding to the needs of the most vulnerable; listening to the concerns of rural women; working for resilient and sustainable food systems; empowering themselves to Scale Up Nutrition; ensuring strong political commitment, predictable finance and a focus on results.

5. We should all be encouraged by the renewed political interest in the work of this Committee, including the prominence that food and nutrition security was given by the G20 this year.

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6. You are the responsible international body for food and nutrition security. In this meeting you will be discussing how to better engage farmers' organizations, businesses and governments. You will examine links between gender, food security and efforts to Scale Up Nutrition. You are developing guidelines on responsible governance of land, fisheries and forests. You are exploring options for sustainable agriculture. You are reviewing the first two reports from your High Level Panel of Experts.

7. In all this work you are tackling important and challenging issues. Your efforts will be particularly valuable as we prepare for next year's crucially important Rio+20 conference on sustainable development.

8. As you take forward your deliberations, I urge you to sustain your focus on the most critical issues which affect food and nutrition security. They are often difficult to resolve. Please do all you can to reach meaningful agreement, and to help countries to build capacity and mobilize investment.

9. Working for the elimination of hunger and ensuring food and nutrition security are at the foundation of our efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and truly sustainable development.

10. I thank you for taking on this vital work and wish you a successful meeting.