

**Director-General,**

(Qu Dongyu, FAO)

**Ministers,**

**Colleagues,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am sure it will come as no surprise to you that at the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture we were delighted to see that this year's World Food Day was dedicated to the Right to Food.

- Germany is a keen supporter of rights-based approaches in agriculture and food systems.
- Especially as hunger, malnutrition and nutritional deficiencies have once again been on the rise around the globe over the last ten years.

But we are convinced that fighting hunger in the world is not a case of certain countries being benevolent.

- It is instead a legal obligation that is binding for all states.
- It is article 11 of the UN Social Covenant that makes it mandatory for the international community to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition and undernourishment.
- With this article, the contracting states recognise everyone's right to adequate food.
- The establishment as a human right shows that adequate food is not merely a moral requirement, which can be interpreted as one pleases.

20 years ago, in 2004, the FAO adopted specific recommendations on how the right to adequate food could be progressively realised.

- The *Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realisation of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security* – this is the full title – were developed by the Committee on World Food Security, the CFS.
- These guidelines have a transformative power, if we apply them!
- We all should rely on them as a basis for working together in our endeavour to achieve *SDG 2, Zero Hunger*.

- Especially in these times, we need to be aware that all conflicts, wars and multiple crises are human-made and affect the state of food security in the world.
- It is our responsibility to foster multilateral cooperation to overcome these times of crises.
- Only together will we be able to achieve our common goal.
- Humanity has already shown that it is capable of doing so.
- Thank you.