

SE17: Catalyzing Parliamentary Action through CFS Policy Products and the Global Parliamentary Pact for Food System Transformation

Organized by: FAO Parliamentary Networks Team; RLC FAO-Spain Programme; Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID); Parliamentary Front against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean (PFH-LAC).

Summary of the side event

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) 52 side event, "Catalyzing Parliamentary Action through CFS Policy Products and the Global Parliamentary Pact for Food System Transformation," showcased the transformative potential of the newly established Global Parliamentary Pact against Hunger and Malnutrition (2023), emphasizing the relevance of CFS policy products.

The Global Parliamentary Pact symbolizes a unified commitment among lawmakers to combat hunger and malnutrition, facilitating collaboration among over 60 parliamentary networks globally.

Fatouma Seid, Deputy Director of FAO's Partnerships and UN Collaboration Division, emphasized the crucial role of parliaments in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), highlighting the collective effort demonstrated in the Global Parliamentary Pact and FAO's development of over 100 food security laws and two Global Parliamentary Summits.

Her Excellency Nosipho Jezile, Chairperson of the CFS, addressed the need for CFS policy products tailored to national contexts, and for actionable outreach plans to ensure that food security recommendations resonate locally. Jezile articulated the vital role of parliamentary networks in aligning global commitments with local implementation, urging collaborative approaches.

Parliamentarians offered valuable insights during the session. Brazilian Senator, Alessandro Vieira, discussed Brazil's constitutional protections for

food rights and successful social programmes. Hon. Sonia Rojas, Regional Coordinator of the Parliamentary Front Against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean, emphasized the significant role of parliamentary networks in amplifying CFS initiatives and driving transformative changes in agrifood systems. Spanish Senator, Gonzalo Robles, President of the Cooperation Committee of the Senate of Spain, articulated the increased importance of parliamentary commitment during conflicts, stressing the urgency of accelerating efforts to meet SDG2 (Zero Hunger) through stable, multi-year planning in cooperation initiatives. A video message from H.E. Ar. Siti Rozaimeriyanty Dato Haji Abdul Rahman highlighted ASEAN's regional food security priorities, particularly through the ASEAN Guidelines for Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture and Forestry. Hon. Françoise Uwumukiza, Chair of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism, and Natural Resources of the East African Legislative Assembly, underlined the ongoing projects to enhance institutional frameworks for agro-ecological practices in East Africa, building on the CFS Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches, demonstrating the need for localized adaptations of internationally agreed norms and principles.

From the floor, Lilian dos Santos Rahal, National Secretary of Food and Nutrition Security in Brazil, reviewed the trajectory of building policies against hunger anchored in the human right to food and announced the upcoming launch of the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty. Spanish Senator, Hon. Elena Diego, noted the potential of the Ibero-American Parliamentary Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition in creating sustainable solutions for food insecurity.

Miriam Ciscar, from the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation, concluded by reiterating support for FAO initiatives, emphasizing the significance of comprehensive policy implementation, budget allocations and accountability, and advocating for a gender-inclusive perspective.

The event catalyzed renewed commitments from parliamentarians as key stakeholders in addressing food insecurity. By utilizing the Global Parliamentary Pact and CFS policy products, lawmakers can drive meaningful reforms and ensure accountability for global food security commitments, especially amid ongoing crises.