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4th REGIONAL MULTI-STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP ON FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

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Jointly organized by,

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Committee on World Food Security
World Food Programme Regional Bureau for Middle East, North Africa, Eastern Europe,
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In partnership with,

**United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
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Head table during the opening remarks, Kempinski Hotel, Amman, Jordan, April 28th, 2015

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Introduction

The Near East and North Africa (NENA) region continues to face numerous challenges in achieving food security and nutrition (FSN) while preserving its fragile natural resources base. Collaboration, partnerships, and joint commitments (political, financial, and institutional) are needed more than ever to be able to overcome the challenges faced by countries and the region as a whole; among them, rapidly shrinking freshwater resources, climate change, low agricultural productivity, high dependence on imports and exposure to the volatility of international markets, and a deepening triple burden of malnutrition. Though remarkable progress has been made by some countries, the NENA region as a whole has neither achieved the World Food Summit target of halving the number of under-nourished nor the MDG target of halving the proportion of undernourishment by 2015. The region has experienced a setback in the fight against hunger as the number of hungry people doubled from 16.5 million people in 1990–1992 to 33 million in 2014–2016.

Moreover, conflict, civil insecurity, and protracted crises have emerged as the most significant factors affecting FSN in the region. The conflicts affect social, economic, political, and environmental dimensions, and will have a lasting impact on regional FSN and the region's long-term development. Regional instability or conflict and protracted crises set the stage for discussions at the 4th Regional Multi-Stakeholder Workshop (RMSW) as one of the most important drivers of food insecurity in the region.

Building on the experiences of the first, second and third RMSW, which took place in Cairo, Khartoum and Tunis, respectively, the RMSW has become an important platform for policy dialogue that provides opportunity to member countries, donors, financial institutions, regional organizations, civil society organizations (CSOs), private sector, UN System, academia and research institutions, and other participants to discuss FSN challenges in the region, propose solutions, and feed into the global processes through the annual sessions of Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

The 2015 RMSW was jointly organized by FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa (FAO/RNE), CFS and the World Food Programme Regional Bureau for Middle East, North Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia (WFP), and was held under the patronage of His Excellency Dr Abdullah Ensour, The Prime Minister of Jordan. Important partners to the workshop were the members of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM), Thematic Working Group on Food Security and Nutrition¹ (TWG) and particularly the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), and the League of Arab States (LAS). With new partners on board, and the critical balance of views from governments, Civil Society Organization, and private sector, the overarching goal of the forum was to contribute to more effective food security and nutrition governance at regional and national levels.

Workshop Structure

Key topics of relevance to regional FSN and to the CFS were discussed through a participatory process in order to ensure that a consolidated view from the region's stakeholders is shared with the next CFS Plenary sessions in Rome.

Main topics discussed:

- i) Improving FSN in the Near East and North Africa through Regional Collaboration and Partnership;

The status of FSN in the region was discussed from the perspectives of TWG organizations, civil society, and government, under a backdrop of conflict and protracted crises. Issues discussed

¹ The Thematic Working Group (TWG) on Food Security and Nutrition is a network of organizations advancing food security as part of the League of Arab States (LAS) and UN's Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) in the region.

include the implications on FSN of regional instability, population displacement, impacts on host communities, and role of social protection.

ii) Towards a framework for action for food security and nutrition in protracted crises;

Policies, programming, monitoring and trade implications for FSN were discussed in the context of negotiations for a “Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises”, leading towards endorsement at CFS 42 in October 2015.

iii) The FAO/WHO Second International Conference on Nutrition: From Commitments to Actions;

An overview of the ICN2 Declaration and Plan of Action endorsed in November 2014 was given and discussed from the perspectives of regional institutions and NENA countries moving towards implementation.

iv) Implementing the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems;

Following its approval in October 2014, the Principles for Responsible Investment are now being translated into actions. The views of investors, investees, regional financial institutions and organizations were brought to light in applying the principles to all types of FSN investment among stakeholders in the NENA region.

v) Food Losses and Waste Reduction;

The implementation of the Regional Strategic Framework was discussed, with examples of emerging initiatives drawn from Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt, and other countries. There is a need to continue progress on food losses and waste reduction, specifically plans and programmes at the national level.

Participants

The workshop brought together a wide range of stakeholders with representation from 13 countries (Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia, UAE, Yemen) consisting of Governments, Permanent Representatives to the Rome-Based Agencies, UN agencies, regional organisations, regional financial institutions, agricultural research institutions, universities, NGOs, civil societies, and the private sector.

Background Documents and Presentations

Each session was accompanied by a background paper, draft document, and/or policy guidance tool to guide and give context to the discussions. Panellist presentations were prepared to support or offer contributory comments into the aforementioned documents. All the background documents, presentations and reference materials are available at <http://www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-home/cfsevents/cfsne2015/en/>.

Format of the Workshop

Each session had a Chair and a good mix of panellists representing member countries, international organisations, civil society and the private sector. The Chair opened the session and invited panellists to make their presentations. The floor was then opened for an interactive dialogue with a view to contribute to the consultative process and/or identify the main challenges for the region. The facilitators and a drafting committee worked closely with the rapporteur selected by the Member countries to draft policy recommendations, which were presented to the participants in the closing session.

Regional Perspectives

Summary of Speeches

Abdessalam OuldAhmed, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative, FAO/RNE opened the 4th RMSW by expressing gratitude to His Excellency Dr Abdullah Ensour, Prime Minister of Jordan for lending his patronage to the workshop, to Dr Akef Al Zubi, Minister of Agriculture for his presence, and to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for hosting the event. The RMSW has become a unique partnership between FAO/RNE and the CFS, and several recommendations from past workshop were highlighted as having been implemented. This year's workshop brings WFP as co-organizer, and collaboration with LAS, ESCWA, and the RCM TWG – a welcome addition given that, more than ever, partnership and joint action are needed to strengthen FSN in the NENA region. Food availability and access are still a great challenge in the region, but the most pressing challenges are conflict and protracted crises which are having long-lasting impacts on the social, economic, and environmental bases for FSN. Regional collaboration can help counter these challenges, and within the context of the RMSW, the various stakeholders, state and non-state actors, have an opportunity to exchange views on the situation and come up with actionable recommendations.

Carlo Scaramella, Acting Regional Director, Regional Bureau for Middle East, North Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, WFP noted the irreversible transformation underway in the region, which presents the development and humanitarian community, regional governments, the private sector and other interlocutors with one of the most complex and challenging social, political and economic environments to be faced in decades. WFP itself plans to reach and assist 24 million people in the region this year, an extraordinary upscale in assistance from the 6.8 million targeted in 2010. This will require the adoption of new and innovative tools, and demands strong and coherent partnerships. Platforms such as the RMSW help strengthen long-lasting partnerships and a spirit of collaboration with all stakeholders in the aim of enhancing FSN in the short and long-term.

Wadid Erian's remarks on behalf of His Excellency Mohamed Altwegry, Assistant Secretary General and Chief of Economic Affairs Division, LAS gave focus to the problem of natural resource scarcity and climate change as a long-term reality for agriculture in the region, and closely related to instability and conflict, economic development, and FSN. Regional institutions such as LAS and other members of the RCM TWG on FSN can play a catalytic role in generating the knowledge and information to stimulate investment in FSN. Greater collaboration is needed, and examples of initiatives were given that are successfully bringing stakeholders together and jointly implementing programmes, such as the FAO-led Water Scarcity Initiative.

Abla Malik Osman Malik delivered a statement on behalf of Her Excellency Amira Daoud Hassan Gornass, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Sudan to FAO, and Chair of the Near East Group of Permanent Representatives to the Rome-based Agencies. Ms Malik reiterated the need for sustainable agricultural development in the NENA region, and highlighted that FSN can be strengthened by optimizing the resources available among the different countries. The example of Sudan was given as a resource-rich country where investment could be directed to meet several food needs of the Arab world. The remarks ended by reaffirming the commitment of the Near East Group of Permanent Representatives in support of the RMSW, and encouraging regional dialogue on FSN to continue.

Her Excellency Gerda Verburg, Chair of CFS, made three key points in her opening remarks. Firstly, invest in cooperation and dialogue, and actively seek to bring out the voices of multiple stakeholders in the region on the most pressing issues for FSN. This will not only enrich the discussion and exchange of ideas, but generate recommendations and actions that are more effective on the ground. Secondly, engage in the global processes that lead to the guidelines, principles and frameworks which are endorsed and taken up by countries all over the world. The guidance these

documents provide are tools for the benefit of the region and directly relate to the most pressing issues of FSN. Thirdly, take the opportunity of this workshop to not only generate recommendations, but commit to a plan of work that can be implemented, monitored, and reported on in subsequent workshops. The dialogue and exchanges are essential, but actions are what will lead to effectively improving the situation on the ground.

His Excellency Dr Akef Al-Zoubi, Minister of Agriculture launched the 4th RMSW with a statement on behalf of His Excellency Dr Abdullah Ensour, Prime Minister of Jordan, who has lent his patronage to the event. FSN in Jordan is shaped more than ever by crises in neighbouring countries, Syria and Palestine notably, which have an immense impact on Jordan by the influx of displaced people, the strain on host communities, greater demand for food and shifts in food access and availability. Jordan, as a developing state, has doubled its efforts to meet FSN targets for its own people and citizens, but has also maintained its humanitarian and international role. Attention was called to the roles and responsibilities of the international community in light of such crises, and the setbacks to FSN and hunger reduction over the past few years. Dr Al-Zoubi reiterated his support for the RMSW, and wished all participants a successful meeting and warm welcome to Jordan.

Summary of the Sessions

Improving FSN in the Near East through Regional Collaboration and Partnership

Chair: Wadid Erian, LAS

Introduction: Structure and processes of the Regional Coordination Mechanism, Thematic Working Group on FSN, Mohamed Aw-Dahir, FAO RNE and Chair of the TWG

The NENA region as a whole has neither achieved the World Food Summit target of halving the number of under-nourished nor the Millennium Development Goals' (MDGs) target of halving the proportion of undernourishment by 2015, despite the achievement of some countries. The number of hungry people in the region has actually doubled from 16.5 million in 1990-1992 to 33 million in 2014-2016. These setbacks are mainly due to structural problems of land and water scarcity, high rates of population growth, and climate change that limits production increases and widens the gap between domestic production and consumption requirements. The increasing food insecurity in the region is aggravated by regional instabilities, civil insecurity, conflict and population movements. The multi-faceted nature of FSN calls for collaborative efforts, partnership and networking among key stakeholders. There exist mechanisms for this purpose such as the RCM TWG on FSN, a partnership between UN agencies and LAS. FAO is committed to continue playing a lead role in the RCM TWG on FSN and will continue to support collaboration and partnership efforts to produce knowledge and policy relevant documents. The TWG on FSN will continue raising awareness among policy makers through side events which will bring attention to the thematic and most relevant issues, and strengthening its linkage to the CFS Secretariat to facilitate an annual multi-stakeholder platform for policy dialogue.

Socio-economic Implications of Conflict, Vito Intini, ESCWA

Conflict can affect food insecurity through the dimensions of availability, access and utilization. The negative relationship between conflict and food insecurity has long established. The underlying causes of armed conflict such as political and social inequalities, grief and grievance among others need to be better understood. Conflict is associated with reduced provision of public goods and services and public investment in sectors such as health, education, and technological infrastructure which are prerequisites for human development. The impact of conflict on per capita GDP in conflict-affected countries of the region is huge, and military spending per GDP is higher than the share of education or health in GDP. Political cooperation and institution building are the most promising strategies for peacebuilding. Encouraging public and private investment, stimulating regional investment projects, intensifying regional and inter-regional cooperation and agricultural trade, providing support to the most vulnerable countries and maintaining awareness on FSN in the NENA region are needed for sustainable agricultural development and food security. The 'Riyadh Declaration to Enhance Arab Cooperation to Face World Food Crises' by the Arab Organization for the Agricultural Development (AOAD) of LAS is a good example that suggests a framework through which support for agricultural development and food security can be coordinated.

Population Migration, Displacements and Refugees, Tayyar Sukru Cansizoglu, UNHCR

In recent years, crises in different parts of the NENA region have caused a dramatic rise in the number of refugees and cross border population movement. The civil war in Syria is the most serious humanitarian crisis in recent history leading to one of the greatest flow of refugees of the century, affecting the entire NENA region. By April 16, the total number of registered refugees and those waiting for registration was estimated at over 3.9 million in the region by the UNHCR. In addition to refugees, more than 7.6 million Syrians are internally displaced. Neighbouring Turkey hosts over 1.7 million, Lebanon hosts over 1.1 million, and Jordan hosts over 0.6 million Syrian refugees. In Yemen, the humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate as conflict spreads further throughout the country, affecting many refugees from Somalia in Yemen. Conflict reached another turning point in

Libya; a total of 0.5 million internally displaced people are recorded, and the loss of life reached 1,776 individuals in the central and eastern Mediterranean Sea. The Regional Refugee and Resilience plan (3RP) was developed for increased coordination, to be implemented from 2015 to 2016. The 3RP is an evidence-based framework built upon a broad regional partnership strategy with about 200 partners in Syria and Iraq and is a platform to promote advocacy, fundraising, information and monitoring. The majority of refugees in the region rely on humanitarian assistance as their primary source of food and without such assistance, vulnerabilities would increase. As part of the solution, gender equality and empowerment of woman and youth should be encouraged. The capacity of the impacted communities to increase their agricultural production and incomes should be strengthened through sustained livelihood support and context-specific resilience building. The response to the humanitarian crises should consider working both with displaced and host communities, understanding the dynamic circumstances and opportunities to promote sustainable economic growth.

FSN Implications of Conflict on Host Nations, *Naji Haddad, Ministry of Agriculture, Jordan*

Jordan is a net food importing developing country as classified by the FAO and World Trade Organization (WTO). Water scarcity is a prominent feature of the country. Jordan is one of the driest countries in the world, and hence can only produce 8 - 10% of its domestic cereal requirements and remains dependent on imports. The overall economic situation and the situation of the country's poor are further stretched by the influx of refugees from neighbouring countries. The 0.3% of the population is food insecure and 2.1% is vulnerable to food insecurity, according to the food security assessment conducted in 2012 by the Jordan's Department of Statistics. In response to these emerging challenges, Ministry of Agriculture has developed a five-year National FSN Strategy in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and various other relevant agencies to food security. The national FSN strategy aims at improving the analyses of the current and future policy trends of FSN, and prioritizes interventions to improve social protection and poverty alleviation for vulnerable population including Jordanians and refugees in Jordan. Provision of education, energy, and health services to the displaced populations from Syria along with the Jordan's own population has heavily impacted public finances, increasing government expenditures. There is an urgent need to address over-crowding in schools; the health sector requires the continuation of the assistance to cope with immediate health needs of refugees; the domestic needs for housing, transportation, municipal services, water and sanitation and energy has increased further as compounded by the needs of the refugees. The crisis in Syria has negative consequences on the agricultural livelihood of the Jordanian population, annual growth in agriculture sector decreased from 13% to 9% between 2010 and 2012, trans-boundary animal and crop diseases and pests on the up rise. As Syria was a major trading partner to its neighbour countries, the crisis has disrupted agriculture and food trade. Agricultural exports to Syria and agricultural imports from Syria have declined by 25 and 30%, respectively between 2011 and 2012 as reported by FAO. Increasing support is needed for the surveillance and control of the trans-boundary animal and crop diseases; capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture and other institutions needs to be strengthened to be able to cope with food and agricultural aspects of the Syrian crisis in Jordan. Enhancing food security calls for a collective approach that brings together different stakeholders in implementing the national FSN plan and other medium/longer term interventions along with providing emergency assistance.

CSO Perspectives from Conflicts in the region, *Razan Zuayter, Arab Group for the Protection of Nature*

Food security and the growing global role of civil society has been the focus of the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty, a role that was also highlighted in the 2010 FAO SOFI. Four key points were shared on FSN in conflict or protracted crisis; firstly, the need to reconcile humanitarian approaches in the shorter term and developmental approaches in the longer run. Secondly, any approach should be built on human rights; without focusing on human rights, the approach will not fully address the situation. Thirdly is emphasis on the principle of sustainability, as a principle or a final goal. Fourthly,

a more comprehensive insight is needed to address causes of food insecurity under crises situations to find better ways to address the issue. The return of refugees to their own countries should be supported, rather than employing them as economic sources in the host countries. Local production systems including farming and related activities should be encouraged instead. Small holders need to be linked with financial resources, sufficient infrastructure, as well as improved technology and storage capabilities. Regional collaboration is needed to end the fragmentation and to transform the region, which is rich in natural resources, into a territory of peace. Real political commitment and appropriate strategies and partnership among relevant stakeholders, including farmers, is needed to eradicate hunger and food insecurity and malnutrition.

The role of social protection in reducing vulnerability and building resilience, Carlo Scaramella, WFP

Social protection and safety nets help protect the most vulnerable from shocks (socio-economic, natural) and provide a platform for enhancing resilience. NENA region's engagement in social protection and safety nets is not a new one, and food and fuel subsidies are the prevailing forms of safety nets subsidies. Currently, close to 220 million people across NENA have access to food subsidies. These subsidies are generally benefitting the poor however their sustainability is increasingly at risk due to inefficient targeting and shrinking fiscal space. WFP is working with national governments and other actors to provide capacity-development support on FSN- focused safety nets. Examples include, assistance for strengthening the subsidy systems in Libya and Iraq; including food security parameters in household safety nets targeting methodologies (Palestine); developing food voucher (including e-vouchers) and cash-based safety nets in several countries in the region, including Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon and Egypt; strengthening school feeding programs in Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Jordan, Syria, Sudan and Yemen, among others; and enhancing the capacity of public systems and services. Due to its high food import dependency, the region is highly vulnerable to price spikes, with FSN related and social impacts (Arab Spring). In relation to this, in collaboration with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and other partners, WFP is developing a regional food price monitoring system that will function as a safety nets alert platform to enhance food security early warning, risk management and social protection. Since 2011, a new dimension to vulnerability has developed in the form of massive population displacements and new humanitarian needs of local communities resulting from the spread of conflict across several countries in the region. This translated in a demand for safety nets and social protection that transcended the capacity of individual national systems and services to respond, requiring a massive injection of humanitarian assistance to the needs of local communities, IDPs and refugees in critical circumstances. The number of people requiring WFP's food security assistance reached 24 million from 6 million in 2010, representing a four-fold increase occurring in the lapse of 5 years. Looking ahead, there will be a need to enhance the ability of national and regional actors to develop and manage scalable safety nets in anticipation of and response to future crises. More analytical research is required on social safety nets and social protection to ensure that all opportunities are seized to link such services to midterm resilience objectives.

SUMMARY OF PLENARY DISCUSSION:

FSN is of great concern to the NENA region. The challenges of water scarcity, enhancing resource efficiency, high dependency on food imports, growing population rate, increasing number and length of conflicts and insecurity, and as a result, increased displacement of populations are particularly heightened in the NENA region, making achieving FSN more difficult.

Conflict and protracted crisis in the region add to the challenges to FSN, and are beginning to reverse the development gains made over the past decades in many countries. The negative correlation between conflict and food security and nutrition has been empirically established. The large

displacement of IDPs and refugees throughout the region has created a humanitarian crisis that, in many cases, is becoming a long-term development concern.

The multi-faceted, multi-dimensional impact of conflict on food security and nutrition requires collaborative efforts, partnership and networking among key players. Innovative means should be explored to build resilience for vulnerable communities and smallholder farmers, including local procurement and the use of local organizations in the implementation of humanitarian food assistance and livelihood programmes. There is a greater role for science and technology and academia to play in identifying such innovative solutions. Greater focus on anticipating shocks is needed in order to target interventions more efficiently which could be achieved through better data, early warning systems, and national and regional mechanisms to communicate the necessary information. The issues and changing roles of women should be brought to the forefront, especially as they relate to the dynamics of displaced populations and host communities. There are two interlinked streams which require strengthening national social protection systems while creating scalable safety nets that expand and contract in response to emergencies. This requires a new vision of social protection and predictable social assistance for resilient livelihoods which necessitates partnerships and government leadership.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SESSION ON IMPROVING FSN IN THE NEAR EAST THROUGH REGIONAL COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP

1. Given the complexity of the challenges to regional food security, the multi-faceted and long-lasting implications of conflicts that spill across borders calls for coordinated effort that fosters partnership, networking and broader consultation, and links national strategies and initiatives into a regional action plan.
2. Policy-makers and development actors should aim for better analysis and depth of understanding of the complexity and triggers of ongoing conflicts and associated FSN problems, as a crucial element of policy and strategic decision-making. Research and academia need to be better engaged to the process of understanding the underlying causes of conflict.
3. A human rights approach to intervention is required not only to address FSN and livelihood needs and concerns of affected populations, but to empower local communities, smallholder farmers and producers, herders, and fishermen, and preserve the rights of people living in situations of conflict and occupation.
4. Governments are advised to establish regional information systems that have the capacity to collect FSN data, conduct analysis and disseminate information on vulnerabilities and emergencies in a timely manner.
5. Developing social protection mechanisms and safety nets and improving the existing ones to better target vulnerable populations is also advised. Improvement in the distribution mechanisms, (i.e. electronic stamps, in-kind transfers instead of in-cash transfers) are also needed.

Towards a framework for action for food security and nutrition in protracted crises

Chair: Vito Intini, ESCWA

Introduction: Status of the CFS-FFA, Julius Jackson, CFS Secretariat

Many countries have failed to reach the international hunger targets as natural and human-made disasters or political instability have resulted in protracted crisis situations characterized by increased vulnerability and persistent, severe food insecurity and under-nutrition. Furthermore, measures to protect vulnerable population groups and improve livelihoods have been difficult to implement, or have been ineffective.

The NENA region is at heightened risk, the incidence of conflict, and the associated risk of human displacement directly impact upon FSN. This presents a significant challenge for the development and humanitarian communities in terms of rising needs and increasing complexity. The CFS-FFA helps to mobilize political commitment and promote shared understanding of key principles to guide policies and actions. It underlines the importance of coherent approaches and combined efforts, without which the FSN impacts of protracted crises on the most vulnerable will continue to deepen, and the burden on governments will continue to increase.

Following an extensive multi-stakeholder process, a third draft of the CFS-FFA was circulated in March 2015, as the basis for a second round of negotiations during May 2015. The CFS-FFA is a set of principles, with two core principles addressing the critical manifestations of severe food insecurity and under-nutrition in protracted crises, through meeting immediate humanitarian needs and building resilient livelihoods (Principle 1); and focusing on nutritional needs (Principle 2). The remaining principles outline how addressing these critical manifestations needs to be sensitive to the specific challenges of protracted crises, and should, where possible, help contribute to resolving the underlying causes of food insecurity and under-nutrition. Following formal endorsement at CFS 42 in October 2015, next steps are the dissemination and application of FFA, monitoring the application of its principles, integration into improved policies and actions, and documenting lessons learned.

FSN in Emergencies, Rasmus Egendal, WFP

There is often a complex, causal relationship between conflict or crisis and food and nutrition insecurity, and most of these crises have links to geopolitical issues with economic and political repercussions that extend beyond the region. The growing and overwhelming challenges in the region were flagged – Yemen, Sudan, Libya, and Syria becoming protracted. Currently, Syria is in the 5th year of conflict, and the needs of Syrian refugees are not completely met; for example, more sophisticated and well governed banking and regulating structures in Jordan and Lebanon are needed to be able to deliver cash support to refugees in these countries. The economic support offered to displaced persons as well as the hosting communities needs to be supported by a policy framework. It is already hard to get access and assess the needs of the displaced and their hosts, such information is necessary to plan, sign and implement effective operations. In this respect, new and better models, policy instruments that allow remote access to the vulnerable, accelerated ways of implementation needs to be developed. The CFS-FFA, therefore, is a critical framework to promote common perspective and collaboration to respond to immediate and long-term programming. Key points noted were; the importance of ensuring that humanitarian interventions maximise impact beyond immediate needs; the role of predictable and reliable safety-nets; and that 97 % of WFP food assistance is delivered through local markets, which, when implemented the right way, can generate significant local and national benefits.

Support to FSN policies and programing: The role of Food Security Information Systems, Suleiman Mohamed, FSIS Yemen

Yemen has one of the highest population growth rates in the world and half its current population is below 15 years of age. The unemployment rate is also very high, about 40% on average and 52.9% among 25-29 age group. It is one of the poorest countries in the region. The country imports over 90% of its staple food, thus heavily dependent on global markets for food access. Yemen faces serious levels of water scarcity and heavily dependent on oil exports for foreign exchange, which is mostly spent on food imports. Yemen has institutional weaknesses in planning capacity, data collection, systematic policy making, and utilization of information. The EU funded Yemen Food Security Information Systems (FSIS) Development Programme was introduced by FAO, supported by Food Security Technical Secretariat (FSTS), and Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC) Yemen, covering six governorates for 36 months (2014 - 2016). The Programme was designed to assist the efforts of the Government in establishing institutional mechanisms for food security decision making supported by a relevant, effective and sustainable information system. Food security information systems often lack adequate institutional and governance structures; food security data collection, organization of the data and coordination among different databases are often insufficient; lack of systematic policy formulation processes and inadequate stakeholder participation; inadequate level of information sharing even among ministries and between national and governorate levels. The presentation highlighted the contribution of FSIS to the Government of Yemen's policy development and programme support, to improve policy decision-making. The FSIS project aims to strengthen linkages between government departments at various levels for better information flow, strengthen joint analysis and consensus building, and strengthen capacity within the various related government departments. The FSIS has continued to collect data and disseminate reports widely during times of crisis, enabled by strong national team involvement.

Monitoring Food Security and Nutrition: Arab Spatial Initiative, Perrihan Al-Riffai and Clemens Breisinger, IFPRI

The Arab region is the most under-researched region in the world due to difficulties in data access and sharing, and there exists scope for improvement in monitoring and evaluation of socio-economic performance indicators. IFAD and CGIAR PIM developed and launched (in 2013) a monitoring tool named as 'Arab Spatial' to address these issues. The updated Arab Spatial 3.0 development and food security information tool, the Arab FSN blog, and country specific 'spatials' for Iraq, Yemen and Palestine were introduced (www.arabspatial.org). The Arab Spatial Policy Analyser was also introduced, noting that this policy monitoring tool will be launched by October 2015. Preliminary findings were presented for nine countries for 2006-2015 data, based on a growing database. The findings showed that in time of crises, policy activity tends to increase. However those policies are expensive, not well coordinated and not well-targeted. The Analyser aims to close the policy information gap by gathering and analysing indicators on policies, the economy, households, and shocks.

Markets and Supply Chains in Times of Conflict, Perspective of cross-border trader, Maher Al-Mahrouq, Jordan Industry Chamber

The crisis in Syria has disrupted agriculture and food trade in the region, as Syria is a crossing point connecting its neighbouring countries to Europe, Russia, and Turkey. Most of the trading in agricultural commodities with and through Syria and Jordan was made through land routes. Land routes through Syria were also the main outlet for agricultural trade with Turkey and Eastern European countries. The crisis in Syria has affected food trade volumes through blockages in regular trade routes and has increased costs of transportation as alternative routes are used. For example, the cost of transporting goods from Jordan to Iraq has tripled, often at the expense of profit margin which is inherently low. The total amount of agricultural trade in Jordan has declined, as well as its

bilateral agricultural trade with Syria as Syria was a main trading partner for Jordan. Farmers, intermediaries and traders have decreased their exports and imports if not stopped altogether. Exports from Jordan will continue to decrease if the conflict continues. The only port available for trade in Jordan is the port of Aqaba. One area of support from governments is to enact policies that simplify and facilitate cross-border trade.

SUMMARY OF PLENARY DISCUSSION:

Participants reflected on the complexity of dealing with food insecurity and under nutrition in protracted crises, and welcomed the fact that this was being addressed by the CFS. Protracted crises require special attention as appropriate responses differ from those required in the short term and non-crisis contexts. Protracted crises are complex, volatile and long-running situations which need specific frameworks to guide policies and actions. These situations are increasingly becoming the norm rather than the exception, with more crises considered to be protracted today than in the recent past.

Some of the key points raised include:

The need to build on household and communities' existing capacities when building resilience; on understanding individual contexts, particularly the need for conflict and political economy analyses; and recognizing the importance of social protection programmes, including predictable, reliable, rapidly scalable safety nets, to mitigate and manage FSN risks in protracted crises. Providing emergency assistance to the conflict-affected population is crucial - a balance of emergency assistance and medium and longer-term interventions is needed to build resilience and capabilities of communities and household to withstand future shocks.

The role of the private sector, civil society organization and other stakeholders at national and regional levels need to be enhanced to improve data collection, integration and utilization; strengthen food security information and monitoring systems which are designed to provide prompt and accurate early warnings to potential shocks including price swings or supply shocks.

Livelihood strengthening and resilience starts from early childhood development and is complemented by strengthening sustainable local food systems and integrating market-enhancing and well-targeted, scalable safety nets integrated into programs.

Conflicts emerge from complex interacting factors, and support provided to regions in conflict should focus behind the immediate needs, supporting the opportunities and evaluating the medium and longer-term needs.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SESSION ON FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN PROTRACTED CRISES

1. Workshop participants from the RNE member countries were encouraged to liaise with their Rome representatives to contribute to the negotiations on the final version of the CFS-FFA, taking place during May 2015, or to submit contributions in writing to the CFS Secretariat.
2. CSM (Civil Society Mechanism) representatives encouraged the development of capacity among government delegations and Rome-based agency staff on the norms of international human rights and general principles of international law that apply in the implementation of CFS guidance, including the RTF, VGGTs, RAI and the FFA.
3. Noting the links between CFS-FFA and FAO's Regional Initiative on 'Building Resilience for enhanced food security and nutrition'; an action plan for the region could be developed in close collaboration among the key partners including CFS, FAO and WFP.

The FAO/WHO Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2): From Commitments to Actions

Chair: Gerda Verburg, CFS Chair

The outcomes of ICN2, Fatima Hachem, FAO/RNE

The presentation focused on the outcomes of the FAO/WHO Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) that was held in Rome from 19 to 21 November, 2014. The ICN2, which was a very high-level political and inter-governmental event attended by over 2200 people, from 162 member states at the ministerial or vice-ministerial level, by UN agencies as well as by observers from civil society organizations and the private sector, endorsed two major documents: The Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action. The presentation highlighted the highly participatory and inclusive nature of the preparations leading to the Conference and the adoption of these two documents including meetings at regional and sub-regional levels, technical meetings, and online consultations. As a background to this Conference, the presentation showed that a review of the current global nutrition situation in comparison to what it was in 1992 when the first ICN was held shows that the progress in reducing hunger and malnutrition has been very slow. The data show that the number of the under-nourished was 868 million in 2010, number of early child deaths almost 7 million, number of stunted children 160 million, while the number of underweight children was 99 million. In addition, the numbers of people suffering from micronutrient deficiencies have been estimated at 2 billion while over half a billion adults are suffering from obesity. Against such a background the Conference was called for with the objectives being: (i) to review of progress made in improving nutrition since the first ICN in 1992; (ii) to reflect on problems that remain, as well as on new challenges and opportunities presented by global changes; and (iii) to identify policy and institutional options for enhancing nutrition worldwide.

While the Rome Declaration on Nutrition was a political commitment for more effective and coordinated actions, the Framework for Action (FFA) was a voluntary technical guide for the implementation of the Rome Declaration. The FFA includes 60 recommendations addressed directly to governments for improving nutrition. These recommendations call for collaboration among different stakeholders such as Ministries of Health, Agriculture, and Education as well as NGOs and private industry. The recommendations also highlight the importance of setting up coordination mechanisms and integrated policies. The themes that are addressed by the recommendations of the FFA, and under which many actions were suggested, include: Sustainable environment and food systems for promoting healthy diets, nutrition enhancement through investment and trade, nutrition education, social protection for better nutrition, resilient health systems, water hygiene and sanitation, and food safety. The FFA addressed also a recommendation to the UN General Assembly to consider declaring 2016-2025 as the decade for nutrition with the purpose of translating the commitments of countries into tangible results. To assist this process, the presentation explained that within FAO, post ICN2 actions included the setting up of a Trust Fund for Nutrition, mainstreaming nutrition into FAO's strategic objectives in addition to accelerating the technical support provided to member countries to improve nutrition, especially in areas that are directly relevant to the mandate of FAO.

Multi-sectoral interventions to address malnutrition, Michele Doura, WFP

The possibility of stakeholder involvement for nutritional objectives is not exhaustive; from government ministries including health, agriculture and fisheries, social development, finance and education to global/regional institutions, such as WFP, CFS, FAO, WHO, among all other stakeholders. The involvement of different stakeholders is essential, as the factors affecting nutritional well-being comes from different sources. Nutrition specific interventions can be combined with programs that targets early childhood and school children's development. WFP has acted in the steering committee for ICN2 and suggests better linking regions which are lagging in terms of nutrition to already existing and successful international systems, based on its experience

and learning by doing. The example was given of a WFP-led joint project on resilience in Kassala State in Eastern Sudan. Kassala State was initially characterized by less than world average calories intake, high mortality rates, and acute malnutrition. In this example, WFP designed community owned action plans with various partners (Ministry of Agriculture, Health, communities, NGOs, and CBOs) to build resilience; UNICEF supported access to maternal and child health and nutrition and the availability of improved water and sanitation; FAO worked on increasing resilience to shocks on agriculture, food, nutrition, and overall economic sustainability. The Kassala Project of 2014 is representative of what could be achieved when strong coordination among stakeholders exists; joint efforts have shown to be working for nutrition improvement and future projects can be designed and implemented for the same end. The need for multisectoral, multi partner involvement to effectively implement policies targeting malnutrition should be emphasized, and partners should engage in participatory dialogue with communities. Nutrition is multi-dimensional and every country is affected in one or another form, and should be accepted as a foundation to sustainable development and intergenerational health.

Sustainable Production and Sustainable Consumption, *Najib Saab, Secretary General, AFED*

AFED (Arab Forum for Environment and Development)'s 2014 Report on Food Security points to the need to change consumption and production patterns in order to solve problems pertaining to food security. Although very scarce in land and water, Arab countries are very inefficient in water consumption, with low productivity, high post-harvest and losses, low irrigation efficiency, and poor wastewater treatment. The facts point to the possibility of inter-generational loss; Arab countries are consuming and deploying their resources two times faster than they could be regenerated, at the expense of coming generations. Still, given the discrepancy in the use of resources across the region, cooperation is limited. In some Arab Countries, domestic use of water is more than others; in others, use of retreated waste water in agriculture is refused. There are problems with subsidies in some countries, and advice on their revision is rejected as it conflicts with national priorities. All those reported facts call for a change in consumption and production patterns. Boosting productivity is essential, but not enough. Less water-intensive crops should be produced and consumed if they provide similar nutritional value; and a shift to better dietary patterns is needed, such as consuming more of the available fish than consuming imported meat.

Follow-up to ICN2: The Case of Egypt, *Akila Saleh, FSIC*

Following ICN2, the Egyptian Government developed a plan of action with the mandate to uphold each citizen's right to access healthy and nutritious food. The process began with a report covering the main items of the Rome Declaration on Nutrition of the ICN2. The report was presented to the Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation (MoALR), which named an inter-ministerial committee tasked with setting an action plan with a time table, budget and division of responsibilities of each ministry and institution involved. A ministerial decree (no. 2150) was issued in December of 2014. The action plan in the Egyptian case is truly multi-partner, as MoALR, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Supply, FAO, WFP, private sector and NGOs are all included. The first meeting of this inter-ministerial, inter-partner committee (in February 2015) concluded by selecting the most relevant and significant recommendations of the ICN2 FFA, considering the situation and priorities in Egypt. Some of the recommendations of ICN2 are already in legislation in Egypt and are currently being implemented. The latest meeting of the committee was held in April 2015, where it was agreed to formulate different working groups for the implementation of the action plan and nominate a coordinator for each group. Cooperation is encouraged between international organizations, especially FAO, WFP, WHO, and UNICEF, with central agency for public mobilization and statistics (CAPMAS) and National Population Council (NPC). A detailed report from the committee responsible for reducing food losses is expected in the coming months.

SUMMARY OF PLENARY DISCUSSION:

ICN2 was held in November 2014 as an inter-governmental event, in the context of unacceptably slow progress in reducing hunger and malnutrition. ICN2 reflected on problems that remain, as well as on new challenges and opportunities presented by global changes, and identified policy and institutional options for enhancing nutrition worldwide. The consultations during the conference which involved ministers and vice ministers, other high level political actors, attendees from UN agencies, private stakeholders, and other relevant actors, resulted in ten main commitments to be converted into concrete actions post-ICN2. Responsibility for implementing the FFA lies with governments; FAO, WFP and other actors are ready to support, but momentum comes from the national level.

Ten ICN2 commitments include eradicating hunger and preventing all forms of malnutrition, increasing investments, enhancing sustainable food systems, raising the profiles of nutrition, strengthening human and institutional capacities, ensuring healthy diets throughout the course of human life, among others. The purpose was set for the next decade to translate the agreed commitments of the ICN2 into sustained and coherent actions by governments and the UN System with overall coordination jointly provided by FAO and WHO.

Addressing nutrition is a multi-sectorial and multi-stakeholder process - initial examples of efforts to achieve the translation from commitments to actions in the NENA region is shown by Egypt, WFP, UNICEF and FAO, and proved considerable success, for instance in Eastern Sudan, working jointly towards better nutrition.

The focus of nutrition interventions should be given to vulnerable groups, lactating mothers, youth and children, and in providing emergency support for nutrition. Similarly, a balance needs to be found reached for short-term emergency related objectives and medium term objectives for increasing nutrition security.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SESSION ON THE FAO/WHO ICN2: FROM COMMITMENTS TO ACTIONS

1. Implementation of ICN2 commitments is the duty of governments. Egypt is a good example in this regard; a plan of action, based on the commitments of ICN2 was prepared and approved by several ministries in Egypt, with contributions from NGOs, UN agencies, private sector, and academia. These implementation efforts need to be extended to other countries in the region.
2. Governments should involve all the relevant ministries needed for joint implementation of ICN2 commitments, which may include the ministries of Agriculture, Health, Planning, and Education, among others.
3. Education for nutrition should be provided by governments, with the support of international institutions and development actors, not only to consumers and producers but particularly for children through school meals, and necessary steps should be taken to make children aware of healthy and nutritious food.
4. A steering committee or regional programme was proposed under the leadership of FAO as a mechanism to facilitate concrete policy actions, track progress in the implementation of the actions specified in the framework of this committee, and discuss in next sessions of the RMSW workshop.

Implementing the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems

Chair: Tariq Al Zadjali, Director General, AOAD

Brief overview of the Principles, and outcomes of the kick-start event in Rome, Elizabeth Beall, CFS Secretariat

While the overall number of food insecure and under-nourished people is decreasing, over 1 billion people are still living in extreme poverty, including many in the NENA region where the majority of the countries in the region have serious to alarming risks to food security, and which is the only region where food insecurity is increasing. In order to feed the more than 9 billion people expected by 2050, an estimated \$83 billion per year will be required to increase agricultural productivity by the 70% needed. At the same time, investing in agriculture is four times more effective at reducing poverty than in other sectors, so there can be win-win benefits. There is need for not only more investment, but also more targeted investment - both regionally and thematically – to benefit those that need it most such as youth, women, and smallholders overall. Greater investment in research and development, and science and technology can help to foster investment that uses resources more efficiently.

The Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems represent the first global agreement on what constitutes responsible investment in agriculture and food systems and how to invest in order to maximize benefits to food security and nutrition. The ten Principles represent a holistic approach to investment where the natural environment, economic growth, and human health are all seen as integral to each other. Investing responsibly to achieve food security and nutrition is not the role of one stakeholder but will take action and partnership among all stakeholders including governments, private sector, civil society, and especially communities; and action at all stages of the value chain. An enabling environment is the starting point for fostering more responsible investment, particularly in the NENA region. Investors will not invest where risks are too high as a result of conflict or insecurity, or where there is a lack of rural infrastructure such as roads and energy.

Experience from Sudan, Salih Hussein, National Agricultural Investment Plan

Agriculture is an extremely important sector of the Sudanese economy, contributing more than one third of GDP and employing more than 80% of the labour force. The government's primary objective is to enhance agricultural performance to drive social and economic development. The National Agricultural Investment Plan (NAIP) is aligned with the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems in that it, emphasizes the importance of creating an enabling environment through revised policies and improved infrastructure and support services; prioritizes community participation; calls for greater public and private partnerships; and highlights the importance of the sustainable use of natural resources and efficient production. The Sudanese government has already established many key partnerships with other governments, the private sector, and local community actors.

Ms. Leila Farrah Mokaddem, Resident Representative Egypt, African Development Bank,

Ms. Leila Farrah Mokaddem discussed lessons learned from investments, and stressed the need to ensure that local communities are partners in investment. The increase in investment in Africa is primarily due to land expansion and not productivity growth, which will not be sustainable long-term. The African Development Bank is supporting responsible investment by focusing on creating an enabling environment through better infrastructure, reliable energy provision, and policy based lending to support agricultural policy reform.

SUMMARY OF PLENARY DISCUSSION:

The Chair of the session, Mr Tariq Al Zadjali, Director General of the AOAD, facilitated a question and answer session with participants to discuss the presentations and how to move towards more responsible investment in agriculture and food systems in the region.

It was noted in the plenary discussion that the Principles and all investments need to balance economic, environmental, and social concerns in order to have a positive impact on food security and nutrition.

Farmers and communities are some of the largest investors and are key players in advancing more responsible investment. They have often been marginalized and their rights have not always been respected, particularly in situations of occupation.

Food safety and quality standards are concerns across the region and the issues related to contamination and the impacts on regional market need to be addressed.

Responsible investment is a cross-sectoral issue and requires engagement and awareness-raising by a range of technical Ministries and Agencies in order to ensure that the objectives set out in the Principles are achieved.

It is important to address the links between investment and risk and uncertainty caused by crises situations. The private sector will not invest in places where conflict threatens their return on investment.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SESSION ON IMPLEMENTING THE PRINCIPLES FOR RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

1. Regional governments, institutions, and stakeholders should aim to attract more investors, but also the type of investors who will work in partnership with communities and government, and invest in innovation and technology to address regional challenges. In this regard, sharing of experiences is important, and the identification of countries with financial resources, labour resources, and natural resources will help to identify regional roles and comparative advantage.
2. Governments should give priority to creating an enabling environment for responsible investment in agriculture and food systems through policy reform, public investment in infrastructure to facilitate market access, safeguarding of tenure rights, including in times of conflict and occupation, and providing incentives for investing in innovative and inclusive business models.
3. Governments should facilitate and promote responsible investment at all levels of the value chain and not just look at primary agriculture but how we can add value in processing, retail, etc. and how we can target policies and interventions that address regional challenges at each stage of the value chain
4. Technical support from FAO and IFAD was highlighted in order to implement the Principles and foster more responsible investment in the region.

Food Losses and Waste (FLW) Reduction in the Region

Chair: Anthony Bennett, FAO

Opening remarks on main findings of the CFS High Level Panel of Experts report and key policy recommendations from CFS 41, Gerda Verburg, Chair, CFS

The CFS requested the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) in 2014 to conduct a thorough review and analysis of FLW in the context of sustainable food systems. The results were shocking; a third of all food produced in the world is lost or wasted, 50% of which is lost during all the post-harvest stages (storage, processing, etc.) and 50% is wasted, primarily at the consumer level. The issue of FLW is deeply linked to sustainability and food security, as over 800 million people remain hungry. Therefore, the call to action has been made to reduce FLW. Solutions range from changing government policies to prevent FLW from occurring, to adopting better technology and infrastructure, use and reuse of food that would go wasted, or shifting consumer attitudes towards better food purchase and consumption habits. The call to action requires not only a plan based on sound analysis and evidence, but a multi-stakeholder approach to bring civil society, the private sector, research institutions, governments, and all stakeholders together for joint action.

Regional Strategy for FLW reduction in NENA: Achievements since Tunis 2013, Elhadi Yahia on behalf of Abdessalam Ould Ahmed, FAO

FLW is a global problem, but critical in NENA as it is deeply related to regional food security. As a region with scarce natural resources and growing import dependency, NENA cannot afford to lose or waste a third of its food each year. Therefore, FLW reduction is not only an objective in itself but needs to be mainstreamed in FSN policies and issues of production and consumption systems, efficiency of resource allocation, investment in agriculture and nutrition, among others. Member countries have long acknowledged this fact and, through the process of prior RMSWs, discussed a Regional Strategic Framework for FLW Reduction that was later endorsed at the 32nd NERC (2014).

The strategy sets out four pillars to guide interventions and actions to reduce FLW; undertake data gathering, research and knowledge generation; raise awareness and promote good practices among all stakeholders; develop policies and regulations, and strengthen collaboration and coordination; and stimulate the private sector and promote investment in sustainable, scale-appropriate solutions. Several new and ongoing programs are underway, namely projects in Tunisia, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and Morocco.

In a side event to the workshop, a Regional Food Loss and Waste Reduction Network was officially launched to provide a platform for knowledge, information, best practice and experience exchange on FLW reduction. In addition to kicking-off the network, countries nominated and established focal points, a steering committee was formed, an online platform presented, and an interactive discussion served to develop the basis of a biennium work plan.

FLW in NENA countries: Progress on the Regional Strategy

Experience from Morocco, Mohamed Boughlala, Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique

The background and justification for a request from Morocco to FAO for technical assistance in preparing a FLW assessment and reduction plan was presented. The agriculture sector in Morocco contributes, on average over the past three decades, 18% of GDP and currently employs over 30% of the working population, indirectly supports 60% of the population, and generates almost 25% of export revenues. Cereals are one of the most important crops in Morocco, in terms of production area and yield, household and national food expenditure (domestic production covers only 40% of demand, the rest imported), and consumption as Morocco has one of the highest consumption rates of cereals in the world. Morocco established the '*Plan Maroc Vert*' in 2008, a strategy to achieve sustainable growth in agriculture and food security resting on two pillars that address intensive agriculture and inclusive or small-scale agriculture, respectively. The problem of FLW is known to

exist in Morocco and affects both pillars; estimates of FLW range between 20 and 40% for key commodities such as fruits, vegetables and cereals. Agriculture sector and rural development plans through *Plan Maroc Vert*, therefore, will fall short of objectives unless effective measures are put in place to reduce FLW. There lacks an understanding of the extent and nature of FLW in Morocco, as existing studies are fragmented and imprecise, and insufficient to inform solutions and investments. Through FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme, a study will be conducted to identify food losses for selected agricultural products, better understand the losses, and propose an action plan for the reduction of these losses.

Experience from Tunisia: *Amira Sfaxi, Pôle de Compétitivité de Bizerte*

A Tunisian Network for FLW reduction has been established as a platform for discussion and exchange between its members for the identification and implementation of actions that can lead to FLW reduction. The network was initiated following the last RMSW in Tunis in 2013, in response to the estimated 215 kg/capita/year of FLW in Tunisia and the need for better information and more coordinated action for FLW reduction.

The network aims to preserve food availability, preserve economic value in food production and distribution, and promote the adoption of healthy and balanced consumption and nutrition practices. These objectives will be achieved through advocacy, research and study, strategy and action planning, knowledge exchange, and coordination among national and international actors. The network was inaugurated in March 2015 and already counts among its member's public institutions, private companies, civil society organizations working on issues relating to consumption, and organizations and institutions representing the actors in the food value chain. Examples were given of initiatives already underway, such as a national strategy to fight against waste of subsidized bread developed by the National Consumer Institute, and a survey on food waste in Tunisia with the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (CIHEAM-Bari).

A special briefing by Nadoua Gmir, Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries, Tunisia, was given regarding a new project on FLW reduction in collaboration with FAO and funded by the Government of Italy. Despite the lack of data on FLW in Tunisia, multiple challenges are known to underlie and exacerbate the problem; traditional farming techniques on predominantly small farms, weak infrastructure (collection, storage, etc...), lack of investment in the most remote regions, lack of processing and value addition, lack of organization among farmers, inefficient subsidy policies, among others. The project will tackle these issues in selected food subsectors in Tunisia and Egypt through a value chain development approach. The project document is currently being finalized, and will launch in summer 2015.

SUMMARY OF PLENARY DISCUSSION:

The private sector is the frontline actor in FLW reduction, but there is an important role for national governments in leading the process and building the 'business case' for private sector, civil society, and all related organizations to take coordinated action. Better research, knowledge and understanding of food losses are needed, and there is a particular role for universities and academic programs to generate a body of knowledge and cadre of professionals.

Food waste reduction in particular, takes sensitization, information and a cultural shift. Awareness-raising can start as early as primary school to teach children about food waste, along with messages about nutrition and the environment. The example of food banks in the NENA region was highlighted as a success story, with many important lessons for minimizing food waste and redistributing food to the needy.

Food losses are quantitative (as in lost volume or calories) and qualitative since food can lose nutritious or economic value before actually being consumed. Understanding the qualitative losses is

important when conducting studies or assessments, and developing potential solutions in terms of storage infrastructure, cold chain, packing, packaging, etc.

The complex situations of conflict, protracted crises, occupation, and instability in the region were brought up as impacting on FLW in terms of investment, disruption to supply chains and trade routes, access and availability of technologies, and other market distortions.

The issue of universal subsidies was highlighted as a common part of social protection schemes throughout the region, yet distort production and consumption decisions and are an underlying cause of FLW. It was noted that the percentage of losses of subsidized commodities can be higher by 10-15% as compared to non-subsidized.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SESSION ON FLW REDUCTION IN THE REGION

1. Member countries in the NENA region should actively continue progress at the policy and strategic level to implement the member countries-endorsed Regional Strategic Framework for FLW Reduction, specifically plans and programmes at the national level.
2. FAO Regional Office in Cairo to guide, provide technical support and help mobilize resources for the implementation of the regional strategy including national level capacity development and provides a platform for collaboration and coordination at regional and sub-regional levels among the different stakeholders.
3. Member countries and stakeholders should intensify regional networking as a mechanism for knowledge, experience, best practice and information exchange, and to consolidate efforts and track progress for FLW reduction.

ANNEX 1: Agenda and Timetable

DAY 1	
9.00-09.40	Official opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Abdessalam Ould Ahmed, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative, FAO/RNE</i> - <i>Carlo Scaramella, Acting Regional Director, Regional Bureau for North Africa, Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe, WFP</i> - <i>Wadid Erian, Senior Advisor, Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction, LAS</i> - <i>Abla Malik Osman Malik, Agricultural Counsellor and Alternate Permanent Representative with a statement on behalf of Her Excellency Amira Daoud Hassan Gornass, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Sudan to FAO</i> - <i>Her Excellency Gerda Verburg, Chair, CFS</i> - <i>His Excellency Dr. Akef Al- Zoubi, Minister of Agriculture with a statement on behalf of His Excellency <i>Dr</i> Abdullah Ensour, The Prime Minister of Jordan</i> <p>Identification of Workshop Rapporteur</p>
9.40-09.50	Photo Session
9.50-10.15	Coffee break
10.15-12.15	Improving FSN in the Near East through Regional Collaboration and Partnership <p>Introduction (5'): Structure and processes of the Regional Coordination Mechanism, Thematic Working Group on FSN <i>Mohamed Aw-Dahir, FAO/RNE and Chair of the TWG</i></p> <p>Chair: <i>Wadid Erian, LAS</i></p> <p>Panellists (10' each):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Socio-economic Implications of Conflict: <i>Vito Intini, ESCWA</i> - Population Migration, Displacements and Refugees: <i>Tayyar Sukru Cansizoglu, UNHCR</i> - FSN Implications of Conflict on Host Nations: <i>Naji Haddad, Ministry of Agriculture</i> - CSO Perspectives from Conflicts in the region: <i>Razan Zuayter, Arab Group for the Protection of Nature</i> - The role of social protection in reducing vulnerability and building resilience: <i>Carlo Scaramella, WFP</i> <p>Feedback from participants <i>Background document: State of Food and Agriculture in the NENA Region</i></p>
12.15-13.30	Lunch break
13.30-15.30	Towards a framework for action for food security and nutrition in protracted crises <p>Chair: <i>Vito Intini, ESCWA</i></p> <p>Introduction (5'): Outline and status of the CFS-FFA <i>Julius Jackson, CFS Secretariat</i></p> <p>Panellists (10' each):</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FSN in Emergencies: <i>Rasmus Egendal, WFP</i> - Support to FSN policies and programming: The role of Food Security Information Systems: <i>Suleiman Mohamed, FSIS Yemen</i> - Monitoring Food Security and Nutrition: Arab Spatial Initiative, <i>Perrihan Al-Riffai and Clemens Breisinger, IFPRI</i> - Markets and Supply Chains in Times of Conflict, Perspective of cross-border trader: <i>Maher Al-Mahrouq, Jordan Industry Chamber</i> <p>Feedback from participants</p> <p><i>Latest draft of the CFS-FFA document</i></p>
15.30-16.00	Coffee break
16.00-17.00	<p>Feedback from participants</p> <p>Day 1 wrap up</p>
18:30	Welcome reception, Kempinski Hotel
DAY 2	
9:00-10:30	<p>The FAO/WHO Second International Conference on Nutrition: From Commitments to Actions</p> <p>Chair: <i>Gerda Verburg, Chair, CFS</i></p> <p>Panellists (7' each):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The outcomes of ICN2: <i>Fatima Hachem, FAO/RNE</i> - Multisectoral interventions to address malnutrition: <i>Michele Doura, WFP</i> - Sustainable Production and Sustainable Consumption: <i>Najib Saab, AFED</i> - Follow-up to ICN2: The Case of Egypt: <i>Akila Saleh, FSIC</i> <p>Feedback from participants</p> <p><i>ICN2 Framework for Action</i> <i>ICN2 Rome Declaration on Nutrition</i></p>
10.30-11.00	Coffee break
11.00-12.30	<p>Implementing the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems</p> <p>Chair: <i>Tariq Al Zadjali, Director General, AOAD</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brief overview of the Principles, and outcomes of the kick-start event in Rome (10'): <i>Elizabeth Beall, CFS Secretariat</i> - Experience from Sudan (10'): <i>Salih Hussein, National Agricultural Investment Plan</i> <p>Discussion among participants on implementation strategies and initiatives</p> <p><i>Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems</i></p>
12.30-13.30	Lunch break
13.30–15.00	<p>Food Losses and Waste Reduction in the region</p> <p>Chair: <i>Anthony Bennett, FAO</i></p> <p>Opening remarks on main findings of the CFS High Level Panel of Experts report and key policy recommendations from CFS 41 (15'): <i>Gerda Verburg, Chair, CFS</i></p>

Regional Strategy for FLW reduction in the Near East and North Africa, achievements since Tunis 2013: *Abdessalam Ould Ahmed, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative, FAO/RNE (15')*

Food Losses and Waste in RNE countries: Progress on the Regional Strategy (10' each):

- Experience from Morocco: *Mohamed Boughlala, Centre Régional de la Recherche Agronomique*
- Experience from Tunisia: *Amira Ben Mosbah Sfaxi, Pôle de Compétitivité de Bizerte*

Discussion among participants on implementation strategies and initiatives

High Level Panel of Experts Report + CFS 41st policy recommendations on "Food losses and waste in the context of sustainable food systems"
Reducing Food Losses and Waste in the Near East & North Africa Region

15.00-15.30 Coffee break

15.30-16.30 Discussion and reflection on past RMSW recommendations and the way forward (Facilitated by FAO RNE and CFS Secretariat)

16.30–17.00 Final wrap up by Workshop Rapporteur

Closing Statements

ANNEX 2: Speeches

Abdessalam Ould Ahmed, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative, FAO/RNE

His Excellency Dr Akef Al Zubi, Minister of Agriculture in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and on behalf of His Excellency Dr Abdullah Ensour, The Prime Minister of Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Her Excellency Gerda Verburg, Chair, Committee on World Food Security, CFS
Ms Abla Malik Osman Malik, Agricultural Counsellor and Alternate Permanent Representative with a statement on behalf of Her Excellency Amira Daoud Hassan Gornass, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Sudan to FAO,
Dr Wadid Erian, Senior Advisor, Representative of League of Arab States, LAS,
Mr Carlo Scaramella Acting Regional Director, Regional Bureau for North Africa, Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe, WFP,

Honourable Representatives, Guests and UN Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), I would like to express our gratitude to the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for hosting this fourth session of the Near East and North Africa *“Regional Multi-stakeholder Workshop on Food Security and Nutrition”*, to H.E the Prime Minister of Jordan for his patronage of this event and to H.E Mr Akef ElZubi the Minister of Agriculture for his presence among us today.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, dear participants,

I would like to welcome you all to the fourth multi-stakeholders workshop and to thank you for your presence. Allow me to give a warm welcome to Her Excellency Ms Gerda Verburg, Ambassador of Netherlands, and Chairperson of CFS and Her Excellency Mariem Aouffa, Ambassador of Mauritania and His Excellency Mahmud ElTellisi, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Libya to FAO in Rome and Ms Abla Malik, representing H.E the ambassador of Sudan to FAO.

The main feature of this event is to bring together representatives from Governments, the civil society, private sector and academia to exchange information, views and analysis of food security and nutrition in the Near East and North Africa region. Our sincere appreciation is also extended to the representative of the League of Arab States (LAS). I would also like to thank the representative of African Development Bank, AOAD, OIC, Saudi Fund for Development, ICARDA, CSOs and the private sector representatives for participating in this event.

As most of you are aware, this Multi Stakeholder workshop represents a unique partnership with the Committee on World Food Security. The results of the workshop are reported each year to the CFS as well as the FAO Regional Conference for the Near East on its biennial sessions. I am grateful to my colleagues from WFP who have joined us this year as a co-organizer, as well as to ESCWA and to the other members of the UN regional coordination mechanism on food security and nutrition for their collaboration, without which this workshop will not have taken place.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The NENA region faces unprecedented challenges to its food security and nutrition. The old challenge stemming from the scarcity of water and the growing demand for food is becoming each year more stringent, with the increasing population and the changes in the climate. Three figures can help put this challenge in perspective: our region is already using more than 80% of the fresh available water for agriculture but imports more than 50% of its the calorie consumption except in few countries, there are limited possibilities to allocate more water for agricultural production. The likely outcome of this situation, if no major policy changes are introduced, is that the NENA region

will grow increasingly dependent on international market for its food needs with the consequences of high exposure to price and market shocks.

Because our region does not produce enough to feed itself, our countries have generally given high priority to food security and to ensure that food is both available and affordable. Large and often expensive food and fuel subsidy systems have been put in place in almost all the countries of the region. The safety net systems have undoubtedly contributed to reduce poverty and food insecurity, but have done little to improve nutrition status in particular of the children. In addition, questions have been raised regarding the cost effectiveness and the sustainability of the food security and safety net system in the region.

I would like to highlight here that a number of recommendations from the third Multi Stakeholder workshop in Tunisia have been implemented, that include:

- The formulation of a food security and nutrition policy framework for the Near East and North Africa that was approved by FAO regional conference for the Near East.
- The formulation of food losses and waste reduction strategy that was also approved in the conference and the effective start and implementation of food losses and wastes projects in some countries in the region.
- The support investment plan in agriculture in few countries in the region including Sudan and Egypt.
- Support to the implementation of the voluntary guidelines for tenure system
- Support to food security information systems in several countries including Sudan Yemen, Iraq and Syria.
- The strengthening of the advocacy of food security through policy documents and side events (NERC, CFS)

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The most pressing challenge to food security and nutrition in the region today is coming not from the availability or even the access to food but from conflicts and protracted crisis and their devastating consequences. According to FAO-WFP-IFAD State of Food Insecurity 2014, the number of food insecure in the region has reached 33 million in 2014. It is a little more than double what it was in 2012. Most of the food insecure population lives in Syria, Yemen, Iraq, Gaza and West Bank and Sudan.

In Syria alone 14.6 million people - 9.8 million inside Syria and 3.8 million refugees - are in need of food assistance and in Yemen at 12 million. Protracted crisis if left unaddressed can have long lasting intergenerational consequences on poverty, child nutrition, health, productivity and growth.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This fourth Regional Multi-stakeholder Workshop on Food Security and Nutrition is an opportunity for the various stakeholders, state and non-state actors, to review the food security situation in the region, exchange views and come up with actionable policy recommendations. It is encouraging to have among us this year the largest number of member countries represented, the largest number of regional organizations in attendance of the civil society and private sector representatives.

We have also a varied and rich agenda that covers some of the most crucial topics related to food security in the region as well as some major uptake of the Committee on Food Security Policy Guidance tools that were developed through multi-stakeholder consultations at Global level. During the next two days, we will discuss several important topics including food security and nutrition in Protracted Crises, Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems, ways to

implement recommendations from the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) and National perspectives on food losses and waste among others. It is my sincere hope that the workshop will create increased awareness about the food security challenges in the Member countries and will enhance collaboration between the countries of this region to hedge forthcoming risks and ensure food security for the people in this region.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

The food security challenges facing the region are enormous and require enhanced regional collaboration. I hope that our meeting will be an important step in that direction. Before closing my remarks, allow me on behalf of all of us, to pay tribute to the commitment of Her Excellency Gerda Verburg the chair of the CFS towards our partnership and towards our region.

Carlo Scaramella, Acting Regional Director, Regional Bureau for North Africa, Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe, WFP

Your Excellencies,

Dr Akef Al Zoubi, Minister of Agriculture of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan,
Her Excellency Amira Daouda Hassan Gornass, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Sudan to FAO,
Her Excellency Gerda Verburg, Chair of CFS,
Dr Wadid Erian, Senior Adviser, League of Arab States,
Dr Abdessalam Ould Ahmed, Assistant DG and Regional Representative of FAO

Delegates, representatives of the civil society and private sector, colleagues and friends,

I wish to express WFP's appreciation to the esteemed Government of the Kingdom of Jordan for hosting this important workshop, which is organized at a time when the region and the world at large is facing multi-faced and complex challenges. Building on the experience of the past RNE Regional Multi-stakeholder Workshops on Food Security and Nutrition, WFP together with FAO and CFS are seeking to strengthen regional and global linkages around key food security and nutrition policy issues of relevance to the Near East and North African region. We look forward to exchanging information and learning from all our stakeholders regarding ways to effectively addressing food and nutrition insecurity in the region building on national and regional capacities.

Distinguished Guests and Colleagues,

The region is undergoing an irreversible transformation presenting the development, humanitarian community, regional governments, the private sector and other interlocutors with one of the most complex and challenging social, political and economic environments to be faced in decades.

The Syrian Crisis, in which 7.6 million people have been displaced, is having a dramatic knock-on effect on region, affecting hard won development gains and posing new challenges in terms of livelihoods and sustainability of humanitarian and development efforts. Those countries currently so generously hosting large numbers of displaced people are heavily taxing their public services and systems and placing pressure on host communities. Additionally, displacement is affecting several other countries in the region, most recently Libya, Iraq and Yemen.

These developments occur in light of several intersecting trends and contributory factors and mega-drivers of instability, including structural poverty and growing inequality, demographic trends and increased urbanization, resource scarcity and factors such as the increasing eroding impact of climate change, also affecting domestic agricultural production and food security.

In addition, the region is subject to multiple forms of malnutrition from obesity to micronutrient deficiencies and chronic malnutrition.

Prior to the recent conflicts, the region was already highly dependent on food imports. On average, more than 50 percent of the population's daily caloric intake comes from foreign imports. This percentage is much higher for some countries, such as Yemen which relies on imports for 90 percent of its total wheat consumption.

We still have to fully understand and quantify the consequences of these broad intersecting trends and risk drivers on regional food security.

By virtue of its mandate, WFP seeks to work through development and humanitarian channels to reach to and assist the most vulnerable and food insecure populations as well as address food and nutrition security challenges and objectives on the longer-term.

In 2015, WFP plans to reach and assist 24 million people in the region, this represent an extraordinary upscale in assistance from the 6.8 million targeted in 2010. Undoubtedly, this will require the adoption of new and innovative tools, and demands strong and coherent partnerships.

In addition, a key priority is to expand and consolidate partnerships with a view to:

- Address food security and nutrition holistically, using an array of approaches. Long term commitments to mainstream food security and nutrition in public policies and programmes, with an emphasis on social safety nets for the most vulnerable groups and communities,
- Broaden food and nutrition security capacity development initiatives and action to ensure the setting of common standards in FNS across the region.
- Widen our reach and establish better linkages to resilience-based strategies, policies, and opportunities.
- Strengthen national and regional risk management capacities through the enhancement of multi-hazard early warning services and the integration of food and nutrition security monitoring systems.

Ladies and gentlemen, we look forward to our consultations over the next days and hope that we can together strengthen our understanding, capacities and commitments necessary to address the extraordinary challenges faced by the mothers, fathers and children – the people of the MENA region. Also, we look forward to strengthening our long-lasting partnerships and the spirit of collaboration with all stakeholders with the aim of enhancing food and nutrition security in the short and long-term.

I wish you all a successful meeting,

Thank you.

Wadid Erian, Senior Advisor, Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction, LAS

Good morning,

Your Excellency Akef Al Zoubi, Minister of Agriculture of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and representative to His Excellency Dr Abdullah Ensour, The Prime Minister of Jordan,
Her Excellency Gerda Verburg, Chair of CFS,
Her Excellency Amira Daouda Hassan Gornass, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Sudan to FAO,
Mr Carlo Scaramella Acting Regional Director, Regional Bureau for North Africa, Middle East, Central

Asia and Eastern Europe, WFP,
Dr Abdessalam Ould Ahmed, Assistant Director General and Regional Representative of FAO

Allow me first to render your Excellencies the salutations of Dr Nabil AlAraby, Secretary General of the League of Arab States, and his wishes for you to succeed in this important meeting. Actually, this meeting tackles a very important issue. There were high expectations at the beginning of the century that the international community would reduce the percentage of hungry people by half by the year 2015. This was the first goal of the MDGs. Nevertheless, now we realize that the world is suffering from increasing rates of hunger due to the high prices of food items, and many countries are still talking about self-sufficiency at a time that food security is the main challenge.

Climate change in the Arab region plays a role in deteriorating the quality of tracts of lands, at a rate of about 1.1% annually, which means additional desertification and increasing rate of extreme climate phenomenon such as floods and droughts, in terms of frequency and severity, noting that sandstorms are also increasing in among Arab countries.

Communities are pressured by displacements and migration, and struggle to accommodate the increasing numbers. Human and animal diseases are also increasing as a result.

While the Arab region represents 10% of the total area of the world, and the number of inhabitants of the Arab region constitute 5% of the world's population, our water resources represent less than 1%. The deterioration of the quality of tracts of lands occupies more than 40% of the Arab region. In other words, there is additional pressure on water resources, 60% of which comes from outside the region. So that water deficit amounts to 25% of the needed amounts this year, resorting to increasing extraction of unrenewable groundwater resources.

The deterioration of agricultural production, particularly in cereals and storage of cereals, leads to Arab countries needing to import at least 50% of their cereals.

Moreover, the availability of traditional fuel at international prices in the Arab region is shifting, particularly amongst countries whose agricultural income is a major component of their GDP. Many countries are resorting to use of biofuel which has a level of impact on food security all over the world.

Arab countries need better technologies to counter agricultural deterioration. They need a viewpoint of economic development to address changes in patterns of consumption, volatility of prices and exchange rates, and reliance on international markets. All these elements force us into a vicious circle, and we need to focus on the science of our natural resources to know how to manage them and use sustainably and efficiently. Also, we need to look more closely at the nexus of water security, food security, and energy. All available information points to the Arab countries being the most negatively affected by a crisis of any of these.

Following the Riyadh declaration for enhancing Arab cooperation and the Strategy for Arab Agriculture Development, we see many ways to engage Arab investors in projects that will help boost food security in the region. While President AlBasheer is working on realizing food security, we see the significance of managing natural resources sustainably in Sudan in order to bridge the yield gap, and we also see different initiatives in the Arab region dealing on maximizing knowledge on the effects of climate change such as a current study on estimating the impact on water resources that is soon coming to an end.

Studies like these can be joint efforts of regional institutions and the Arab League, in order to generate knowledge and information on climate risks, and the impacts on communities and the most marginalized areas. We welcome and praise the role played by FAO in this regard. In the

project on nationalizing better agriculture policies and raising the level of agriculture production by reviewing food security strategies and water security strategies, better application of irrigation and better production patterns are being explored to improve and place farmers at the centre of the issue. Another initiative of FAO is creating a web platform for managing information and knowledge on various initiatives across the Arab region, a significant resource for people working in the field, in academia, and regional organizations.

These initiatives call on us to adopt an Arab food security program in a coordinated manner, considering the needs of the most vulnerable countries, and the region's vulnerability to food price fluctuations. As well, to address the impact of conflict and turmoil and the needs of refugee and host communities for food security and good nutrition. Those initiatives shall stress international cooperation for fulfilling immediate needs for food, but also the political will to encourage investment and engage the private sector to develop agricultural capacities in the future. As for agriculture aid programs used by advanced countries to support their farmers, such as customs and duties that are imposed, they should be decreased in order to open up market access.

The League of Arab States coordinates significantly on food security with its field partners in the Arab region for better decisions and policies to strengthen regional food security.

Ladies and gentleman, I would like to indicate that the United Nations has designated this year as renewing its work on sustainable development, taking the discussions from Sendai last year going towards Addis Ababa. This is the year in which we will target sustainable development for Arab countries through different initiatives. Finally, I would like to say securing sustainable economic development is the main pillar for countries to realize food security and eradicate poverty. Thank you.

Abla Malik Osman Malik, Agricultural Counsellor and Alternate Permanent Representative with a statement on behalf of Her Excellency Amira Daoud Hassan Gornass, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Sudan to FAO

In the name of God, peace is upon you.

Your Excellency the Minister of Agriculture, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Dr Akef Al Zubi,
Your Excellency the Ambassador Gerda Verburg, Chair of the Committee on World Food Security,
Representative of the Arab League, Mr Wadid Erian,
Regional Director for the Food Programme, Mr Carlo Scaramella
Mr Abdessalam OuldAhmed, Assistant Director General and Regional Representative of FAO
Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa,
Representatives of local and international organizations, dear participants, dear audience, peace by upon you all.

First of all, I would like to apologize on behalf of the Ambassador who could not take part in this meeting. It such an honour for me to represent the member countries considering that Sudan is Chair of the Near East Group of Permanent Representatives to the Rome-based agencies, and to take part in these important meetings that tackle critical issues for all countries. As food security is a regional priority, it is very important to discuss the different knowledge and aspects by involving different concerned relevant partners.

The sudden increase in the prices of food items during the years 2007-2008 led to a climax of food insecurity in most countries of the world. The lack of food security is not a characteristic of poor and developing countries only, but spread worldwide with consequences felt by developing and rich countries both. If we talk about food security in the Near East, we need to acknowledge that this region has historically has an abundance of food items and provided food for themselves and for

other countries. We start to wonder why countries that were rich and abundant in food and agriculture started now to import their food items.

The Near East is one of the fastest growing regions in the world. The recent situation in region has led increasingly to a lack of food security, for example; growing birth rates and population growth, migration from countryside to urban areas, whereby urban areas have become more developed and rural areas are being ignored. Natural resources are lacking which in turn has led to a great deficit in producing food items locally and to depend more on imports. The region imports more than 50% of the cereals consumed and it is expected that the Near East and the North of Africa would be the only region unable to fulfil their own food needs, according to reports from FAO.

Amongst the problems the region suffers is the dual burden of malnutrition. About 25% of children suffer under-nutrition, a worrying statistic as the number has increased from 16 million during the 1992 to 33 million currently. Lack nutrients and anaemia is widespread among children, even up to 50% in some of the countries.

The Near East and North Africa will witness a crisis in lack of water resources. The share per capita of water will decrease by 50% by the year 2050 due to the population expansion and climate change. Land for agriculture will deteriorate due expansion of buildings, bad practices in land management, poor irrigation technologies.

The current situation of food security is worsened by continuous conflicts within some countries of the region, and the indirect impacts on many others. The influxes of refugees to host countries is exceeding their capacity to accommodate and increasing demand for food items, and consequently the increasing rates of price levels, poverty, unemployment and mal-nutrition.

The region needs to move towards sustainable agricultural systems and protect water by using more effective irrigation methods, reclaim and rehabilitate deteriorated lands, conduct reforestation, and strengthen food production. This needs to coincide with transforming food consumption patterns in a way that reduces food losses and waste all along the food chain, which over the long term can contribute to filling the gap between consumption and production.

Moreover, cooperation amongst countries with differing characteristics and availability of resources is an option to enhance food security across the region. In order to have this, we need to harmonize national agriculture strategies with common objectives and work on realizing sustainable agricultural development that takes into account the potential capacities and availability of fertile land, water resources, and expertise in agriculture.

In this regard, we need to jointly call for agriculture improvement in the region. We need to harness the initiative of the President of the Republic of Sudan, Al-Basheer during the Arab Economic Summit held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia two years ago regarding Arab food security and specifically investing to bridge the gap of food deficit by expanding agricultural production. For example, Sudan has doubled from 4 million acres to 8 million acres of land under cultivation. Funding from Arab financial institutions is needed to increase available capital. The initiative of Sudan has been well received by Arab countries and League of Arab States, who will allocate 25% of their developmental funds to adopt and implement the Sudan Initiative.

The results of a recent study confirmed that Sudan could fulfil the food needs of the Arab world in terms of oil, seeds, cereals, and will contribute highly to cover the need for sugar. In terms of supporting the food security across the region, positive results emerged from the donor conference on Syria.

In conclusion, we hope that regional work and dialogue with the Committee on World Food Security and the FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa will give a clear vision on solving the food security problem in a region that has been blessed by God with many good resources. Coordinating efforts amongst ourselves is the only means towards realizing our objectives. The Near

East Group in Rome will continue supporting the efforts exerted by FAO to find solutions for the food security problems in the region.

Thank you very much.

Her Excellency Gerda Verburg, Chair, CFS

Your Excellency the Minister of Agriculture, Your excellencies, distinguished heads of delegations, thank you for inviting me to participate in this workshop for regional Multi-Stakeholders in the Near East and North Africa, as I felt in several occasions that it is very important to have such workshops to bring together multiple stakeholders. I will be present during the coming two days and join the discussions on different subjects.

Please allow me to mention three topics in this opening session.

Firstly, we need to invest in cooperation among the multi-stakeholders, as this is a very important role. This forum has been on-going for years, and the reason behind that is that you can listen to the voices of many. By listening to the voices of academics, researchers, private sector, civil society, companies and governments you can gather all the relevant parties and the multi-stakeholders in order to find solutions that could work effectively on the ground. However, during discussions, negotiations and writing of papers, you do not solve the problems in the region.

Invest in the cooperation among the different multi-stakeholders and send to the people in Rome to participate in the Committee on World Food Security. There are a lot of stakeholders in this region and if they start to cooperate on the international level they can start the cooperation on the ground. This is the place where we improve cooperation to find solutions to enhance the situation in this region.

Secondly, communicate and work together and with Rome more than before. We have not only FAO, but we have the WFP and a lot of other different partners. We have representatives such as Ms Abba Malik. Send them information and give them your recommendations, in order to contribute to writing the guidelines and taking greater responsibility in agricultural investment and in the food systems as the present time.

We are now working with the food security and nutrition framework in the region where there is protracted crises. We are currently dealing with this subject. If there is any region in the world that is in need of support and if there is a neutral area to make their voices reachable and to contribute in negotiations, so this is the neediest area.

Send these issues to Rome and make use of the developments and the guidelines made for the coming 10 years, including also the principles for responsible investment in agriculture and recommendations on reducing food losses and waste. There are a lot of other important issues such as water for food security and nutrition. Information on these issues in the region need to be sent to people in Rome, so that the guidance is best developed and provided for the use of this region.

Thirdly, do not depart this workshop without reaching a practical tangible workplan. The recommendations are one thing, but they are not enough. The recommendations need a comprehensive workplan to reach the results. If you come the next year to this workshop or even after two years from now, you can present the tangible results based on what you have reached during these two days of this workshop.

I will be happy to meet with you all, but please proceed with putting in place a workplan and tangible results, as in this way you can help improve the situation in the whole region.

Thank you.

His Excellency Dr Akef Al- Zoubi, Minister of Agriculture with a statement on behalf of His Excellency Dr Abdullah Ensour, The Prime Minister of Jordan

Her Excellency Gerda Verburg, Chair, Committee on World Food Security,
Her Excellency, Abla Malik Osman Malik, Agricultural Counsellor Embassy of Sudan in Rome,
His Excellency, Mr Wadid Erian, Representative of the Arab League,
Mr Carlo Scaramella, Acting Regional Director, Regional Bureau for North Africa, Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe, WFP
Mr Abdessalam OuldAhmed, FAO Assistant Director General/Regional Representative for the Near East & North Africa

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, good morning to all of you.

I salute and welcome you all, and wish all guests a good stay in Jordan in our country. It is a pleasure for me to be here with you today as a representative of H.E. the Prime Minister who offered his patronage to this workshop. I am also glad to be with you in launching and opening this 4th Regional Multi-stakeholder Workshop on food security and nutrition which is held in Amman, the capital of our country and organized by the FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa and the Committee on World Food Security with help of the Regional Coordination Mechanism, the Regional Office of the World Food Programme for North Africa and Middle East and Central Asia and East of Europe and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the UN Economical and Social Commission for West Asia, and the League of Arab States.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This workshop which is organized by this collection of institutions interested in food security and nutrition has become a significant forum of dialogue on policies for food security and nutrition, and a unique forum for experts, policymakers, representatives of UN agencies and regional organizations, civil society organizations, research centres, the private sector and media. We hope that this workshop, and I quote from the speeches of the Chair of the Committee on World Food Security and the Regional Representative of the FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa, will encourage bringing policies closer together, with better coordination between the international and regional and even national levels, and to discuss the principles of the responsible investment in the food systems and agriculture, the recommendations and policies pertaining to food losses and waste in the context of sustainable food systems, food security and nutrition in protracted crisis, and at the end of the day to have a regional perspective during the international negotiations which will lead to the 42nd session of the Committee on World Food Security to be held in October.

Ladies and gentlemen,

While you are meeting today, the region is witnessing violence and chaos, and millions have lost their social peace and national security and their right to food, and it is difficult for them to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

This increases the responsibilities of the rich and developed countries, the international organizations and the forums that are specialized in this domain, and the experts in humanitarian and political issues. So, the millions who have lost their food security and are suffering from hunger are waiting for help.

Amidst the hunger and fear and loss of hope, Jordan stood behind its leader who has maintained the security and the social peace of country, and has played a role that exceeds its capacities and resources and has received an influx of refugees that now constitutes around 25% of the population. Jordan as a developing state is doubling its efforts and in order to provide food security for its people

and citizens, but despite that we did not give up our humanitarian and international role. The political role we play is doubled because we have to fulfil the needs of our people and participate with fellow Arabs and the region in helping our brothers in Palestine particularly Gaza strip in order to face the embargo that it is imposed on them.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Jordan has always been concerned with achieving food security for its people, in both providing safe and sufficient food and making it available to all. To implement these policies, the Ministry of Agriculture established 10 years ago the Unit for Food Security and Rural Development which serves as a liaison and coordinator for the various official entities and private sector actors working in the issue. Jordan shares this mission with its neighbouring countries and the leading international organizations that have organized this workshop, for which we are very grateful. I would like to thank particularly FAO and the WFP who have recently supported in achieving the National Strategy for Food Security in Jordan.

Ladies and Gentlemen, with your efforts and your experience, you will work towards food security and combating poverty in your countries because the food gap nationally and internationally is widening. With your efforts and your experience, you will double the actions of the states and the international organizations to combat poverty and hunger. So, I wish you all success in your missions and in your tasks as organizations and as individuals and I hope for this workshop all success to realize its missions and objectives.

Once again, I would like to welcome you here in Jordan. We are proud of our leadership and proud of our people, and we hope to be proud of our security and future.

Thanks again to all entities who organized this workshop and who are participating in it. Thank you again and again and wish you all success.

Peace be upon you.

ANNEX 3: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

4th Regional Multi-Stakeholder Workshop on Food Security and Nutrition

Amman, Jordan
April 28-29th, 2015

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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