

II. SOFI, ITS POLICY IMPLICATIONS and the SDGs

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. The Committee may appoint the chair and membership of the Drafting Committee by acclamation. **So decided.** We will now ask the VIPs to come into the room. Bear with us for a few seconds. The principals of the RBAs and Assistant Secretary-General Spatolisano and HLPE Chair, our Monsieur Caron, are in the Caribbean Room, that is next door, and they will be making their entrance momentarily. So, now we will have the High Level Session for CFS 46.

I welcome to the podium Assistant Secretary-General, Maria Francesca Spatolisano, who will deliver a message from United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres. We also have the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, Dr Qu Dongyu. We have the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, Gilbert Huongbo. We have the Executive Director of the World Food Programme, David Beasley, and we have the Chair of the Steering Committee of the High Level Panel of Experts for Food Security and Nutrition, Professor Patrick Caron.

I will ask now Ms Spatolisano, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations, to deliver a message on behalf of the Secretary-General Guterres.

Ms Maria Francesca SPATOLISANO, Assistant General for Policy Coordination, UNDESA

Good morning. The message from the Secretary-General. It is a pleasure to greet the Committee on the World Food Security on the 45th anniversary of this vital and inclusive multi-stakeholder United Nations platform. At last month's Sustainable Development Goals Summit, I called for a decade of ambitious action, to deliver the SDGs by 2030. Accelerating our efforts to end hunger and achieve food security will require transformative steps. I welcome your focus at this session on crucial areas as data, inequality, gender and youth and on innovations such as agroecology.

Agricultural and food systems are central to tackling the challenge of sustainable food production, improved nutrition and protecting the climate. The reason for action could not be more clear. Hunger is, again, on the rise. Climate emergency is an increasing threat to agriculture and two billion people are overweight or obese, undermining wealth and wellbeing.

Through the preparation of evidence-based policy guidelines, your Committee is well-placed to advance coherence in the realms of food systems, healthy diets and environmental sustainability. This would also be a key contribution to a 2021 Food Systems Summit. I commend the Rome-based United Nation agencies for their ever stronger collaboration within the Committee on Food Security. Strengthened partnerships with all stakeholders will continue to be essential to meet the challenges of climate change, malnutrition and poverty in the context of the 2030 agenda. I wish you all a successful meeting. End of the Secretary-General's statement. Thank you.

Applause

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Ms Spatolisano, and please convey to the Secretary-General our gratitude. And now, as is customary, the Chair of the CFS will speak.

Mr Mario ARVELO , CFS Chair

On 26 June 1945, 147 delegates from 50 countries assembled in San Francisco on the Pacific Coast of North America to inscribe signatures on a document titled Charter of the United Nations. Four were women.

One of them, Minerva Bernardino, represented the Dominican Republic. A coalition of likeminded ideologues had attempted to conquer the world, unleashing war in the name of racial and cultural predominance, exclusion and hate. The victorious alliance understood that stability and wellbeing, which are necessary for peace among nations, required global institutions for promoting rights-based economic and social development. Three and a half years later, on 10 December 1948, Member States adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It was Bernardino who proposed that the original formulation, Rights of Man, be changed to Human Rights.

And so it is that the international community agreed to enshrine the fundamental human right to food. This is the foundation upon which the Committee on World Food Security is built and the source of legitimacy for everything we do. We all know the causes of food insecurity. Even if the experts kept them in secret, common sense would soon reveal the reasons for the persistence of hunger and malnutrition. The main drivers are the ravages of climate change and armed conflicts and the migrations they provoke. And yet we continue generating the carbon emissions that have triggered and continued to exacerbate a climate crisis that is already upon us, as every food producer knows too well.

Family farmers are the engine of food production, responsible of 80% of global output. Instead of investing in them by developing seeds, fertilisers, pesticides and other inputs as public goods, the trading weapons promotes perverse incentives. Then, in the face of war and weather extremes, the most vulnerable are forced to make a choice, either succumb to hunger or migrate to seek survival somewhere else.

Enter the demagogues, peddling fear to conceal that they can offer no solutions. It is here, in this unique space, where we find the proven manner for building a better world, agreeing on common goals and advancing together steadily. This week we will bring forward a set of guidelines on nutrition and food systems, promoting healthy diets from a holistic perspective. The science is clear. Overconsumption of sugar, salt and trans fats are poisoning us. Legislators must intervene so that consumers can make informed choices. We will discuss the 2009 report on the state of food security and nutrition in the world, which is populated with cold statistics, reveals alarming trends and poses formidable challenges. The SOFI Report also presents ways forward.

We will commemorate the International Day of Rural Women in a special session I have asked CFS Vice-Chair, Valentina Savastano, to conduct. We will tackle the challenges of urbanization as the world cities come up with pioneering approaches for sustainability. We will promote multi-stakeholder partnerships that mirror the inclusiveness of CFS. We will also commence working on innovative approaches such as agroecology. We will showcase the pillars of the Decade of Action on Family Farming.

We will take stock of how CFS policy recommendations are succeeding at country level as they improve the livelihoods of smallholders by expanding their access to markets, and we will debate a truly ambitious four-year programme of work for CFS to address gender, youth, data systems and inequalities.

We have just over ten years for achieving zero hunger and the other goals. It has been said that 2030 will constitute the most consequential turning point in history as the full potential of humanity is redirected from the struggle to eliminate hunger and all forms of malnutrition.

When the history of this coming decade is told, the things we are about to do here this week will resound much like what others before us did 74 years ago. Thank you.

Applause

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. And now for the speech by the Director-General of FAO, Dr Qu Dongyu.

Mr Qu DONGYU, DIRECTOR-GENERAL (FAO)

Honourable ministers and vice ministers, ambassadors, head of delegations, distinguished participants and observers, excellencies, good morning, ladies and gentlemen, it is a pleasure for me to welcome all of you to the 46th Session of the Committee on World Food Security, my very first CFS as FAO Director-General.

We are here today because we are committed to end hunger for the insecurity and malnutrition. The food security and nutrition in the world, as the SOFI Report released, gives us some discouraging news. The 2019 edition of this report shows more than 820 million people are hungry in 2018. It revealed that the global food insecurity is actually a more alarming problem than we all thought. Two billion people in the world experience moderate or severe food insecurity because they do not have regular access to nutrition, sufficient food throughout the year. The globally obese number and trend amongst others are also a worry. That is even more serious.

What is increasingly obvious is that our collective efforts to achieve the sustainable development goal to zero hunger and perhaps others are coming short. We cannot expose this situation, continue doing business as usual. We need to look critical at what we are doing with our organization. As a member of the CFS we must come up with a new idea and innovative bold action. Through the last two and a half months we had an informal consultation with the member countries here and colleagues of other international organizations in New York, in DC and in Geneva and others.

We initiate, through the hand to hand initiative effort to have more impact where it is most needed, in countries, especially in the poorest countries, the least developed countries, small islands, developed states and countries affected by the conflict and internal pressures.

We promised during my campaign to offer a timely service, to have people in the vulnerable regions. FAO has intensified efforts in countries. FAO has given priority to the provision of policies, technical support to the countries on key issues of food security, nutrition within a sustainable development perspective.

FAO has established a partnership with all key players for greater synergy, effective and inclusive. FAO will continue to facilitate the cooperation and the exchange of resources and the knowledge between the developing countries.

As the Secretary of CFS, FAO strongly commit and believe that this Committee is a unique, global platform to collectively address the concerns identified by the SOFI Report and to catalyse our perspective agency work on these priorities. It has been ten years since the CFS was reformed and we need to really revisit and restart.

It is time to consider how CFS can unleash its full potential and have us reach our SDG goals and with a proper way and complementary functions. We can all sit and do better at deploying CFS products. We can also look at the pilot in future and learn from other countries' experiences and we can have the Secretary communicate with our colleagues back home. Especially FAO systems, regional office, country office can offer the concrete support to the CFS activities.

However, CFS will succeed if, and only if, you member countries, with the support from other stakeholders, take the step of policy framework as appropriate into your national dialogue, legislation and your country and regional plan. CFS's work should continue to be guided by vulnerable countries and the needs of those most affected by the food insecurity and malnutrition, the poorest, women, youth, smallholders and other voluntary groups.

So, I would like to take this opportunity, with tomorrow being United Nations Women's Day, to launch an FAO Women's Committee officially, as promised. Because I already established a Youth Committee last month and tomorrow I will establish a Women's Committee to take care of the women's rights politically, economically, culturally and biologically.

CFS work will continue to be guided by the demands of countries and needs of those who most need it. Presuming you will approve the draft multi-year programme of work this week, CFS will focus on four very important areas where the ideas of CFS can be put into practice jointly with FAO support and ongoing work to produce a guideline of food assessment and nutrition could not be more relevant to both our joint efforts to organize a Food Summit in 2021.

Excellencies, FAO will continue to support CFS together with IFAD and WFP as a priority for RBAs collaboration. It is a big platform for RBAs to make influential impact jointly, collectively, synergetically. We have other small platforms but I consider this one is the big one. FAO will continue to ensure that CFS pilot framework will be a central part of its own work here in Rome and in the field network where we support the application at a national, regional and global levels.

Excellencies, we have a huge challenge in front of us to eradicate hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition. We can achieve this challenge if we work together hand in hand, including within the FAO and CFS. FAO will play its part and devote all its resources to support the countries to achieve the sustainability development goals.

I reaffirm FAO's commitment to a strong CFS, has impact added value to achieve the SDGs. We need to design bigger, do concrete and aim at good. I wish you all to have a fruitful debate and some serious concrete solutions come out. I am waiting for that, to work with you for my term. Thank you.

Applause

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Dr Qu, for your inspiring words. We will now listen from the President of IFAD, Mr Hougbo. Please.

Mr Gilbert HOUNGBO, President, IFAD

Excellencies, delegates, chairperson of the High Level Committee of Experts, ministers and dear ambassadors, ladies and gentlemen, please allow me, first of all, to congratulate the Committee on World Food Security on the celebration of its 45th anniversary, which actually coincides with the tenth anniversary of its reform, a reform which, in our humble opinion, really does deserve being pursued in order for it to be even more effective as a Committee.

Today we are here to discuss a need to step up progress under the sustainable development goal. In order for this to happen, however, each one of us has a prominent role to play in the transformation of food systems. At the same time, however, we need to continue to improve the impact of our action. It is clear that in this pursuit we must all stand together in our engagement towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

Just a few weeks ago in New York, the high level political forum drew the attention of the whole world on the crucial importance of food security and nutrition. This week in Rome, the 46th Session of CFS is an opportunity to really build upon this élan. We all know that the progress towards SDG2 is stagnant right now. Equally, we understand that to the inclusive and sustainable nature of food systems is at the very heart of many sustainable development goals, especially that which seeks to end poverty, gender, good health and wellbeing, gender equality, clear water and sanitation, climate action and many more.

Consequently, the fact that we are falling behind with regard to the achievement of SDG, actually is challenging the fulfilment of the whole of the 2030 Agenda and we simply cannot allow for this to happen. What is it that we can do or, I should say, what is it that we must do. First of all, it would seem to me that we need to further invest in the resilience of smallholder farmers and family farmers.

If we take target three of SDG2 as a priority, then we will be able to double the agriculture productivity and the incomes of small-scale food producers. Smallholder farms already produce over 50% of the total of food calories on 30% of the agricultural land on the planet and we can only, therefore, imagine the impact on food security if we were capable of doubling this productivity and this level of production.

Secondly, we can continue and continuously increase the quality and the impact of our action in the ground and, thirdly, we can commit, both individually as well as collectively, to build momentum for change. This momentum should lead to a decisive mobilisation at the political level and it should also encourage the scientific community to embark on further agricultural research and actually make it a priority. It is for all of these reasons, ladies and gentlemen, that I am truly convinced that in order to achieve the zero hunger goal and all the other goals, for that matter, we absolutely need to transform our food systems and place smallholder farmers at the very centre of our action.

We are very glad to be able to cooperate with all of you attending this event here so that this plan of transformation can become a sustainable reality for us all. Thank you.

Applause

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, President Hounbo. We will now listen to the intervention by Executive Director Beasley. Please, sir.

Mr David BEASLEY, Executive Director, WFP

Thank you, and it is always great to follow my tremendous working colleagues here in Rome and, Mario, thank you for all the hard work these past couple of years and it seems like we have been making so much progress all over the world. It is hard to believe that actually in the last 40 years we have reduced the number of people per day, 137,000 people per day, have been reduced from poverty. Now, that should be a headline in every newspaper on earth but, unfortunately, in the last couple of years we have slid backwards, from 777 million people on earth that are chronically hungry are up to 821 million. So much progress was being made - 200 years ago a billion people at 85% extreme poverty to today, with 7.5 billion, less than 10% in extreme poverty.

So, we have built systems because of the work of many men and women like you who understand systems and understand institutions and understand technology and understand the poverty that impacts any nation and the pain and suffering for any individual. So, yes, progress has been made but now we are sliding backwards. Although progress has been made, try explaining that to the 821 million who are not quite getting the help they need. Obviously, the question of why we are going backwards is not so complicated. Manmade conflict. Compound that with cyclones, weather patterns changing, flash flooding, droughts, coupled with extremism, particularly in certain sections of the world, like in the Sahel, then you have got problems that we have not faced in the past.

But I have absolute confidence that this team, when I see many of you coming from all over the world, different colour skin, different cultures coming together with one common dream and that is to end hunger all across planet earth.

But sometimes we get too much into the weeds of division and we need to stay focussed, as we would say, with regard to the Titanic on the icebergs. How do we end hunger? How do we come together? I know many of you were very concerned when you had a Chinese head of FAO and you had an American head of WFP. I can assure you, you do not need to worry about that.

Applause

We are friends. We, together, the three Rome-based agencies will lay aside our cultural differences, our political differences, and yet take advantage of our experiences bringing together the success stories from all over the world, from Africa, yes, from Asia, yes, from the Americas, and how can we together work to solve problems. Because we have got problems. When you look at the amount of waste in the world today, 1.3 billion metric tons of waste, a value of US\$750 billion at least, maybe US\$1 trillion worth of waste, that can save two billion people as we concern ourselves with growing populations in the future. Waste alone is a major solution. What are we doing about women? I think it is fantastic we have a day committed to women. Because why? At the World Food Programme we understand of a world where women get the same access to credit and finance, just as men do. It would lift 150 million people out of poverty. But they don't get the same financing. That must change.

At the World Food Programme we are working directly with women all over the world. In fact, in our cash-based transfer system women alone now 51%. That's US\$2 billion. Women who normally did not handle finances or oppressed in cultures. Women now are involved in the financial decision-making of their family all over the world and that, my friends, is not just a small number of people. That alone is 12.5 million women that are impacted by the World Food Programme because of your support of understanding in the past when we just did commodities, now we are changing modalities to empower communities. Yes, we are working with women in many other different ways but the cash-based transfer system that many of you have been pushing and working with us, US\$2 billion now, in the world today, that we working with you because donors are saying we want to empower communities.

So, we are buying now more of our food inside Africa, for example. US\$1.2 billion alone, just inside Africa. So many of you donor countries understand that, yes, while we are bringing food in from developed nations, we are now buying so much more inside the developing nations, empowering communities, opening up markets. But that alone will not solve all of the problems. Africa, 60% of our operations are in Africa. 65% of the uncultivated arable land left in the world is in Africa. Africa imports US\$35 billion inside when it should be, by 2030, a US\$1 trillion food industry. If it has happened in the West, if it has happened in Asia, there is no reason it cannot happen in Africa.

We have got a lot of work to do but we have the answers. We have got to end these wars, we have got to take advantage of the technology that is available to us today and, last but not least, we have got to

engage the private sector in ways we never have before. The private sector must be involved at the smallholder farmer level which is critical to the future, middle-sized businesses and big companies as well. For so long we have shunned the private sector in the United Nations but I think those days are long past. I believe we now understand how and why we should integrate that entrepreneurial spirit.

When the three Rome-based agencies together, when we go out in the field with no longer just handing out food but truly changing the dynamics, where it is no longer just humanitarian but it is also a humanitarian piece in so many of the countries where literally we have over ten million people involved for food for asset programmes.

I have seen women stand on a hillside and say before we were just receiving your food and we appreciate that but we do not want just a helping hand, we want a hand up. We want you to help us. And I see them stand there and say, we no longer need your support because you work with us on a food for asset programme, went from humanitarian to development, no longer needing our assistance. You see, this is where we must go.

Where are the success stories? How do we scale up? You must provide the attention to country by country. For so long, from the World Food Programme, because of conflict and destabilisation, we have been spending so much time on the countries at conflict or war and neglecting the countries that need development.

And if we do not give attention to those countries that need development, they will be countries at war one day. We must address root causes across the planet. My friends, the young people in the world, they need our experience and expertise. We need to inspire and encourage them and we need to come together in ways we have never come together before.

So, Mario, thank you for all the hard work. I think there is a lot more work that needs to be done. I appreciate each and every one of you. Hold us accountable for higher standards. Hold us accountable for better success and productivity as we march together to end hunger by 2030. And if we end the wars, I have no doubt we can end hunger on every single planet, every single country on this wonderful planet we call earth. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, executive Director Beasley. We will now listen to the intervention by Patrick Caron, the Chair of the HLPE. Monsieur Caron, s'il vous plait.

Mr Patrick CARON, Chair of HLPE Steering Committee

Mr Chairman, Director-General of FAO, President of IFAD, Executive Director of WFP, ministers, excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, alas, hunger remains a major concern, as also stressed in the SOFI Report, and the triple burden of malnutrition has now turned it into the main world problem when it comes to public health. No society, no country can escape it, whatever its level of development, and if nothing is done, the current trends, in particular the explosion of obesity, will lead us to a true catastrophe.

I am therefore extremely happy that you have considered the critical and emerging issues identified by HLPE in the four-year programme of work of CFS for 2020/2023, and I also rejoice about the fact that its 2017 report on food systems and nutrition has led to the development of voluntary guidelines that will be implemented by 2020.

I am eager to participate in the session that is going to be devoted to this and to find out what the outcome is going to be. I am here this week for the last time in my capacity as chair of HLPE. Allow me, therefore, today and the days to come to share with you, one, my awe when faced with the amazing

innovative richness of HLPE, which makes it a gem; two, some lessons learned over the past four years; and, three, my vision of the role that it should play in the years to come.

We shall celebrate soon the tenth anniversary of HLPE, which was explicitly created with regard or in reference to IPPC on food security. How can science and understanding and knowledge help us to make policy decisions in our world, which is so uncertain today? This is truly a major challenge.

Actually, without a very deep transformation of food systems, we are not going to be able to solve the scourge of malnutrition. We are not going to be able to rise to the challenges of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, because food and human health and that of ecosystems, climate change, health of the economy, social justice and peace are so closely related to each other and I really do urge those that are not yet convinced of this to listen to what our children have to say.

HLPE showed last year that the participation of all is absolutely necessary. The public sector, the private sector, civil society united to build a common future at the level of each country but also locally. Of course, not in any condition and this report will contribute to reflections this week on how everything is related and the role played by livestock breeding or investments in family farming.

The report of the HLPE on agroecology and other innovative approaches that was published in July and that is today available in several languages is interesting because it can be adapted to each situation. We will talk about it on Wednesday but I am already happy to see the process of convergence of policies announced by the Chair of CFS.

We therefore, of course, need to undertake bold measures because inaction not only would transmit a terrible legacy to the future generations but it would also have a very high cost. I would not be able, and I cannot sit back and just listen to the prophets of doom and remain inactive because I am truly convinced about the utility of the contribution provided by science. We have to go beyond rhetoric and that is why the scientific community has to do the same and guide the way forward in the world through a critical analysis of facts and debates and through the understanding of uncertainties and through the drawing of possible trajectories, understanding the main factors that have caused controversies, conflicts of interest and asymmetries.

Other groups of experts, and notably the IPPC and IPBS today are dealing with issues that have to do with food and nutrition and we are happy to see that. We need to work together and if the perspective of the World Food Summit is confirmed, we will have to try to build a key. And what we have learned and what we see in the present, indeed the synthesis report for the tenth anniversary should nourish and feed our debate in order to build a common vision for food security and nutrition by 2030.

Let us do this and on behalf of HLPE I would like to thank you for your kind support and I wish us all a very fruitful meeting and fruitful discussions this week. Thank you.

Applause

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Mr Caron. Again, I, for everybody, thank the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General, the FAO Director-General, the IFAD President, the WFP Executive Director and the HLPE Chair for their statements. I invite all of them to remain, if they can. I am sure that they have a full agenda. As we move on to item II of the CFS Agenda, I guess that probably you need to go back to your offices. You have a very full agenda, yes, I know. So, we thank them with applause.

Applause

As the Assistant Secretary-General and the principals of the RBAs take their leave, Monsieur Caron remains with us because his agenda includes remaining here with us. We also welcome to the podium Maximo Torero, Assistant Director-General for the Social and Economic Department here at FAO, as we move to item II of our agenda.

CHAIRPERSON

Item II is state of food security and nutrition in the world 2019. This is the SOFI Report. Under this agenda item we will examine the policy implications of the SOFI Report in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Five agencies prepared this report: FAO, IFAD, WFP jointly with the UN Children's Fund, UNICEF, and the World Health Organization. The 2019 version was launched in July, at the High Level Political Forum in New York, and the SOFI, I will very briefly say, measures progress toward achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2 of Zero Hunger, and it estimates how many people suffer from hunger and malnutrition and where they are located. This is the famous 821 million number that we keep listening to. That is one in every nine persons on this earth being food-insecure.

The 2019 report conveys bad news. SOFI has found, for the third consecutive year, that this number I just mentioned has been consistently on the rise and most of those suffering from hunger and malnutrition are women and children across the so-called global south. The report also points to the drivers of hunger and malnutrition which are mostly man-made - climate change, armed conflicts and the migrations they provoke. I referred to that in my speech a few minutes ago.

So, I will ask Mr Torero, the ADG for Economic and Social Development, to make a presentation on the SOFI Report. Mr Torero, please.

Mr Maximo TORERO, Assistant Director-General for Economic and Social Development

Thank you very much, all excellencies and ministers. It is a pleasure to be here. What we are going to do today is to present the state of food security and nutrition report in the world for 2019. This report, as all of you are aware, was launched already in New York in the High Level Political Reform in New York. We decided to launch it in New York because we wanted to influence that decisions that were going to be made there as part of this report.

The report shows that we are not on track, as it was mentioned before and it was mentioned by the principals on the 2030 SDG2 indicators of ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition and provides us several sets of policy recommendations that will allow us to change and to move forward to try to achieve this goal.

The presentation today will highlight some of these issues and will especially try to bring what we need to do to be able to improve. So, it will be different to the presentation of the launch because we will go in more detail in many of the aspects that we believe are really important and want to take into account. So, let me first start by summarising what the report says in terms of numbers. First, world hunger is still not going down, after three years. It is around 11% and this has not changed in the last three years.

And the absolute number, because, of course, the population growth is 120 million people which are still hungry today. But clearly hungry is more than just the count of how many people are undernourished. It also needs to account the quality of the food that we are eating and how good access to food we have and how much sufficient food we have. So, in this year we went a little bit beyond

hunger and we were able to measure what we call the food insecurity experiences scale, not only in the severe but also in the moderate level, which brings these other elements which are especially important in terms of access to safe nutritious and sufficiently quality of food.

And when we look at that, our number goes up to two billion people which do not have regular access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food. Again, this is taking into account all these multiple dimensions of availability of food and quality of food that we are trying to eat. We also look at the indicators of childhood stunting which are decreasing, which is positive, but still they are not decreasing at the rate we need them to decrease to be able to achieve the 2030 target of the SDGs.

And, finally, we look at a very important topic, which is central, which is the global epidemic of overweight and obesity, which creates a significant effect and potential effect which is another form of malnutrition which is increasing at extreme rates and we need to work to try to control this epidemic as soon as possible. It's important that all these dimensions are taken into account to be able to assess the situation we have.

Now, the report also looks at the regional differences and what we find in the regional differences is that African nations share the greatest burden of child malnutrition and hunger especially. Importantly, the largest numbers of undernourished people, 60% or more than 500 million out of the 820 million, live in Asia. 30% of all undernourished people in the world live in Africa. The situation is most alarming in Africa as hunger is on the rise in almost all sub-regions, making Africa the region with the highest prevalence of undernourishment in the world at almost 20%.

Together Africa and Asia bear the greatest share of all forms of child malnutrition by accounting for more than nine out of ten of all stunted children and nine out of ten of all the world's children are nearly three-quarters of all overweight children worldwide. So, all the multiple forms of malnutrition are present in this continent.

The prevalence of overweight is the highest in North America, Oceania, Latin America and the Caribbean and Europe, between 67% And 59%. However, no region is exempt from the overweight crisis. All regions have experienced an increase of roughly ten percentage points in the prevalence of overweight among adults since 2000. Among school age children it is particularly steep in Africa and appears to be accelerating. So, the sub-regional differences are extremely important.

Now, what are the drivers behind this? And I think many of these have already been mentioned by our principals. So, progress has slowed down in many countries because of three major drivers that will look consequently in the different three SOFIs - 2019, 2018 and 2017. Conflict has been increasing. Climate variability, cyclones and extreme situations which create and put people in severe situations. And economic downturns and slowdowns, which was the second in-depth topic of the SOFI of 2019.

In the last two years we have reported that there are three key drivers, as I mentioned before. Now, on conflict and violence, it is a key driver because it increased in several parts of the world and especially because over the past decades conflict has been increasing substantially. And climate and variability is something that will keep going, as we know.

We just came from the Climate Change Summit in the United Nations, but this is something extremely important especially because of the extreme events and the variability and volatility that they will create and what we found in this report is that economic slowdowns and downturns in countries is also central and especially it is extremely important in countries which are highly dependent on non-primary commodity export revenues and, for example, any potential conflict in trade could affect substantially these countries and could increase the numbers we are facing today.

In the last two SOFI reports we looked closely, as I mentioned before, to the drivers of conflict and climate change and extremes. Today, in this SOFI, we are looking at economic slowdowns and downturns.

Now, hunger is increasing in many countries where the economics are lagging and that is where we mentioned were the slowdowns and lagging in these economies. Particularly middle-income countries, for countries that rely heavily on international trade for primary commodities and where inequalities are greater, the economic slowdowns and downturns undermine food security and nutrition.

Again, let me emphasise the importance of being able to move commodities from one location to the other and if we are depending on these specific commodities, the effects will be larger and the level or the size of effects are significant and that is nothing we need to improve and avoid in the future to have problems of lack in the mobility of goods from one location to the other.

Now, what needs to be done and how we can start fast-tracking the way to be able to achieve the 2030 SDGs for SDG2? First, economic resilience must be strengthened to safeguard food security and nutrition against economic adversity. We require multi-sectoral approaches to address the burden of overweight and obesity globally. We require transforming our culture and food systems to live a sustainable and healthy diets. We need to be concentrated, look a lot into equality and all forms of malnutrition and equality of our diets and we have to look at double-duty actions that address both problems of undernutrition and obesity simultaneously.

Economic resilience must strengthen to safeguard food security and nutrition against economic adversity. There are short-term actions that we need to take in place. Countries need to protect incomes and purchasing power and this can be done in extreme situations, through social protection programmes, through public works programmes, through health sector policies and through policies to reduce excessive volatility of food prices. All of them needs to happen at the same time.

The long-term actions are countries need to reduce economic vulnerabilities and inequalities and for this we need to build capacities to withstand shocks, create healthier food environments, inclusive transformation to get away from commodity dependence and fostering poverty reduction. All these measures require investments and require savings, and that is substantial, but we need to improve also the effectiveness of the measures that we are doing today to be able to achieve the goals that we want to achieve.

Now, how to safeguard food security and nutrition? We need to tackle inequalities. One of the topics that we do not look too much when we touch the pro-poor policies and multi-sectoral policies is the importance of inequalities. To be able to move a household out of poverty sustainable, we need around US\$7 PPP a day, and we are looking at extreme poverty, which is around US\$1.9. So, to be able to achieve that, we need to reduce inequalities and there is an SDG on inequalities that we need to tackle.

And let me bring up an important issue that this SOFI brings, that the SDGs cannot be taken alone. They are interactive to each other, they are related to each other and there is no way we can achieve SDG2 if we do not achieve SDG1 and especially if we do not look at inequalities. So, for us tackling inequalities is central to be able to achieve the goals that we want to achieve. If not, we will not be able to be sustainable.

It could be that we could move a household out of hunger or undernutrition but the next year, because of hard shocks, it will come back. So, we need to find ways to really tackle inequalities, reducing gender inequalities and social exclusion of population groups and we need to bring them as part of the development of our economies.

Now, the crisis of overweight and obesity is a central topic and the numbers are big, as you can see here. We are facing a growing epidemic of global overweight and obesity. This problem has important policy implications. Food insecurity is often associated with overweight and obesity, particularly in the middle and high-income countries.

And this may appear to be a paradox, however, the higher cost of nutrition foods, the stress of living with food insecurity and physiological adaptation to food restrictions also help to explain why food-

insecure families may be at higher risk of overweight and obesity. In many countries there is a persistence of undernutrition coupled with rising overweight and obesity and, as I mentioned before, this is specifically the case in sub-Saharan Africa. So, these are issues that we need to tackle together and we need to find policies to resolve this.

Now, how do we tackle overweight and obesity? We think that we need to bring a multi-faceted and multi-sectoral approach. This cannot be only one sector. This cannot be the Ministry of Agriculture, it has to be the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Nutrition and especially the Ministry of Finance because they are the ones that will be approving the resources to be able to implement things. We need to transform agricultural and food systems. We need to be sure that we have the equality and the standards of food that we need to put in place. The standards are extremely important. Food safety is extremely important but the quality of food that we eat is extremely important.

And we need to safeguard the nutritional equality of our diets and there is whereby the university also could play an extremely important role in all these actions. So, again, it is important to forget the siloes of each sector and to work together and linking all the different sectors to be able to achieve a solution. And that is complex. Many countries are trying to do this but that is an area where we need to improve and we need to put strong work.

What are the policies that we can put in place? So, we have divided, in the SOFI report this year, in three types of policies. The first one is availability of food and what policies we can put in place to bring the availability of food. For example, regulate levels of salt, sugar and fat in products; standards for healthy school meals; provision of free access of safe, piped drinking water, an element which is central in all our diets and we normally do not talk too much about water and water quality; accessible fresh food markets; banned/restricted sugar-sweetened beverages in schools. There are many policies that will help to improve the quality of the food that is available and we need to take those into account.

The second group is linked to policies that will bring restrictions, like fiscal and pricing policies. For examples, taxes on sugar and sweetened beverages or food high in salt and fat and sugar. Food coupons for vulnerable groups for fresh produce markets. Grants/tax breaks for vendors to provide healthier options. The idea, again, is to find a best practice on what works well and what doesn't work well. So, these are options of policies but all of them require evaluation and require to be adjusted to their own context to be able to see what are the best practices that can bring them up. And that is a main role that all the United Nations agencies, of course including the RBOs, can play because we learn from different realities and from different countries, so we can bring up policies that will be best practice in our locations and try to transfer to locations with a proper adjustment and proper validation.

And, finally, we have policies on information, education and marketing, and these policies are essential because it will help to change behaviour of the consumers. We have been very successful in fostering promotion but there are many other policies of information-sharing that we need to bring up to be able to reduce this image of information that we face as consumers. For example, in the case of Chile there has been this policy of improving the way food is being labelled which has been successful. There has been an impact evaluation and we know it is successful. Just that information helps consumers to make better decisions. So, we need to find ways in which we can assure that there is better information to consumers to be able to come up with potential solutions into this.

Now, as I mentioned, we have double-duty actions that we need to put in place because we are facing situations in which we have both overweight and obesity and also undernutrition and we need to find solutions to both problems at the same time which occur in the same country, in the same village and in some cases even within the same household. You can have a parent which is suffering overweight and a kid which is undernourished. So, imagine the complexity of changing that behaviour to be able to achieve the goals we want to achieve.

And, for example, school food and nutrition programmes can help to provide this and also can help to improve the information through kids to be able to modify the behaviour of their parents and to improve the way we do nutrition. So, let me just finalise by saying that this presentation only highlights some of the key findings and recommendations for policy and programme action from the 2019 SOFI Report but there is much more information and analysis on the food security and nutrition challenges that countries face and we will need to do an intensive amount of work to keep moving and bringing policy recommendations to allow us to change this off path that we have right now in SDG2. Because the trend is not going in the correct way and we need to change the trend to be negative again and we need to accelerate the process where we achieve the goals of 2030 SDGs.

Online you will find the full report, as many of you already have it, but also, more importantly, the data is available online now with all the quotes in case the information want to be replicated. FAO is moving into a transparency policy of data availability so that we can correct if there are mistakes and we can improve the quality of the data that we have in place. Thank you very much.

Applause

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Mr Torero, for the explanation. I have heard you giving this explanation several times and each time I can tell you that I am a bit shocked about the bad news but also optimistic about the parts in which we can look forward to grasping what's going on and how we can contribute for reversing these trends. I will now ask my special guest, European Commissioner, Neven Mimica, for his reaction to this year's SOFI report. Commissioner Mimica has held the portfolio on international cooperation and development for the past five years and his tenure will conclude with the mandate of the outgoing Juncker Commission. I bear witness to the fact that Commissioner Mimica has been a steadfast supporter of CFS and a driving force, advancing and consolidating the European Union's contributions to food security and nutrition in the world, especially through the CFS. Commissioner, please.

Mr Neven MIMICA, European Union Commissioner

Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. Excellencies, distinguished delegates, dear colleagues and friends. From the very start of my mandate in the European Commission, I have put sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition at the heart of our work on international cooperation and development because it is absolutely clear that solving the hunger question is decisive for our work on all 17 sustainable development goals. However, this year's SOFI Report is a stark reminder that we are not making progress and that we have to change course. There are too many people still going hungry, too many people without access to safe and nutrition food and too many stunted children. Having adequate food for all demands an integrated outlook on agriculture, food security and nutrition and a true transformation of food systems is of utmost importance.

Over the past few years we have been moving in this direction. I have made it a priority to drive an inclusive sustainable and climate-relevant agenda and in this context, let me mention three recent European initiatives which I firmly believe are helping to transform agriculture and food systems. One such initiative is DSIRA, Development of Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture. The European Union is mobilising EUR270 million to boost development-smart innovations in the context of climate change, working in close cooperation with the EU Member States and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Actions range from agroforestry to planned breeding and from water management to agroecological intensification. Many of the DSIRA draw a crucial link between climate-relevant research and

innovation and development initiatives. Secondly, by revolutionising our way of working with the private sector, we are raising more investment for smallholders and rural agriculture businesses.

As we are here in the ancient of Rome, let me say how proud I was to launch earlier this year in this city the RV Business Capital Fund with IFAD, AGRA and Luxembourg. The Fund is a unique way of leveraging financing for small investments, making it accessible to farm organizations and cooperatives.

Finally, the third initiative I would like to mention is a subject I hold dear. At the start of my mandate I pledged to be the most vocal male feminist in the European Commission because I firmly believe that empowering women and girls will determine our success in eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development for all. This is why I have made it my mission to mainstream gender equality in as many development programmes and projects as possible. By doing so, we are tackling deeply entrenched social norms and behaviours lying at the heart of gender inequality.

In the areas of agriculture, food security and nutrition, the share of EU programmes and projects focussing on gender increased from 37% in 2014 to 57% in 2018. With that said, let me end on this note. When looking at the global picture on agriculture, food security and nutrition, huge challenges remain. However, we have opened a new chapter in how we look and deal with the problems. By pursuing and scaling up the initiatives, like those I mentioned on research and innovation, on private sector engagement in development partnerships and on gender-relevant programmes, then by investing in resilience of rural women, rural youths and rural communities, by continuing to draw those important links between food systems and a wider sustainability and climate-relevant agenda, we can make progress in the years ahead.

We can do more than dream about a world free from hunger. Together, we can make it a reality. Thank you very much indeed.

Applause

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Commissioner. Let us now move to delegation statements for which our time is very limited. If you click the bottom of your microphone, the Secretary will receive the information here and can compile a list of speakers. I would remind everyone of the Bureau decision that speaking time be limited to three minutes, with a maximum of five for ministers, vice ministers, delegates speaking for regional groups and the civil society and the private sector mechanisms.

We have made every effort to communicate the procedures regarding speaking times and have arranged to post statements online and to offer video recording for those with longer statements. When 30 seconds of speaking time remains, the Chair will sound the bell you already heard, to alert the speaker. Although the Chair has been extremely reluctant to cut anyone's microphone, the Bureau has spent a whole year insisting that the Chair must prevent a repetition of what happened at CFS last year when speeches beyond the allotted time forced the convening of an evening session for which, to make matters worse, we came short of a working quorum.

Consequently the Chair has no option but to enforce the expiration of the allotted time. And please remember to dispense with pleasantries. We will, the Secretary has already compiled a speaker's list. We will listen first from the Ministers from the United Arab Emirates, Nicaragua, the Sudan, Venezuela, Mali, Libya, and yes, United Arab Emirates please.

United Arab Emirates

Thank you Chairperson. Friends, just ten days ago, the UAE celebrated a historic moment. Our first Emiratis astronaut completed his scientific mission to the ISS and returned to Earth safely with his fellow astronauts. The whole nation, families, children, everyone was watching their screens and holding their breath as the shuttle touched down.

An ambition, our founding father the late Sheikh Zayed was achieved. A dream he had in the 1970s when many thought the idea was crazy or not achievable. Yes we are ambitious in the UAE, and yes, our aspirations are high. And we will work hard to overcome challenges and take our role seriously.

We are taking our role seriously in food security too. Our country has put food security as a national priority and a minister in charge. Being here with you today shows our commitment and we are here to share our experiences and step up our efforts.

So, we have challenges in the UAE. We are a relatively wealthy country. We are located in a part of the world with a harsh and arid climate that makes crop growing and animal rearing particularly difficult. But as said, we take up our challenges head on.

Up until recently the UAEs policy to ensure food security for its citizens was predominantly one of food trade which effectively delivers 90 percent of the country's food. Over the years it had become increasingly apparent that the UAE needs to find ways to boost its domestic food production and to reduce its dependency on food imports. And so we developed the UAEs first national food security strategy to ensure increased level of food security for its citizens through boosting domestic food production sustainably and also change the behaviour of its citizens.

See, the country also takes its role seriously on an international level and wants to be globally recognised as a contributor to meeting the UNs SDGs. Now since we do not have much time, I want to focus on three fundamental aspects of our strategy and show you explicit examples of what we have done.

Number one is technology. So, the food security strategy has a target of increasing domestic food supply through technology enabled production by 30 percent by 2121 with research and development as a key.

We have also been able to remove barriers to the introduction of agtech to the UAE by establishing a number of initiatives. For example, a unified agtech licence, building codes for closed system farming, a database for potential agtech investors, a sustainable national agriculture label. This concerted effort to create an ecosystem to innovate for innovative food production is already bearing fruit. We are already home of a food market which is boosted by the produce from many climate controlled greenhouses, sustainable fish farms, and soon to the largest vertical farm operated by our famous Emirates Airlines.

Internationally the UAEs growing expertise in R&D has seen a number of projects. I want to focus on one very unique and new project which is the most recent agreement between the UAE government, the FAO and private sector that will be future energy company Masdar. This is the first agreement of its kind as FAO/government/private sector partnership. The project will see a network of solar powered irrigated systems providing 1,500 women in Liberia with sustainable resources for the production of poultry and vegetables providing both food security and nutrition. So please, those of you who are interested in this partnership we are happy to share our experiences.

The second point is the youth. The UAE has a Minister of Youth and has setup many youth circles. This is how we get our youth to be incorporated or have conversation in the policies. So, empowering the youth is the key, and also we just launched three weeks ago, a global foodtech challenge. It aims to find

innovative solutions to challenges across the whole food supply chain for climates such as the one that we have in the UAE.

The challenge is open for all. We invite you all to take part, get the youth involved. It will run over five months. And basically four teams will be finalists at the end and there is a one million prize dollar for this global foodtech challenge.

Third is partnerships. Let me give you some examples. We are working hand in hand with the World Food programme just to get a food waste movement going in the UAE. Also with the support from the FAO our office has introduced the nutrition labelling policy. The Cabinet just approved this last month. We also have a sugar tax that is going to come up in December.

So we have a lot to share and I want to say to the Chairperson and to everybody here at the CFS, we are committed. We want to share our experiences with you, and we want to work hand in hand with you to make sure that we achieve the UN SDG 2. Thank you very much.

Chairperson

Thank you. Thank you Minister Al Mehiri and thank you also for the substantial financial contribution that your country is making and that is currently in the pipeline from Abu Dhabi to Rome. Thank you for that.

Now we will listen to Nicaragua.

Nicaragua

Thank you very much Mr Chairperson, honourable ministers, representatives and heads of delegations. I wish to convey the fraternal greetings of the Republic of Nicaragua, Commander Daniel Ortega Severa and Rosario Murillo the Vice President, and please receive our thanks for the invitation to participate at this 46th session of the Committee on World Food Security of FAO.

Mr Chairperson, food is a gift that has become a privilege for just a few as defined by his holiness Pope Francis. We are now gathered here in this important forum, while out there over 820 million human beings are suffering from hunger. This should be a good enough reason to urge us to continue a reflection that we have reached as different nations and countries to eradicate this scourge for humankind.

This terrible figure shows us that in spite of the different breakthroughs achieved globally in the field of science, technology and communications, the world also needs to evolve to an economic system globally that is capable of expressing greater fairness, greater solidarity and more equity, more human world.

The government of Nicaragua believes that the actions that will guarantee the achievement of the objective, or the goal, to eradicate hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition, as well as promote a sustainable agriculture, requires the implementation of development policies that are geared towards the meeting of the needs of the most vulnerable. And that can be, and that enjoy the backing of partnerships and cooperation practices at the international level.

Mr Chairperson, my country is continuing its efforts because we really do believe in the importance of creating a better world. And that the government reconciliation and national unity under the leadership of our Commander Daniel Ortega has defined a model for the achievement of food sovereignty and

nutrition. Which recognises as a fundamental human right, the right of all the people in Nicaragua to food.

In this sense, Nicaragua has been recognised by FAO as a country throughout the world that has made great efforts to reduce hunger and poverty. In 2013, quite ahead of time, we were actually capable of achieving the ambitious target of the World Food Summit. Which was to halve the number of hungry people before 2015. And this has been achieved thanks to the backing or to the support of a creative and enterprising family farming which accounts for more than 70 percent of employment and 40 percent of our GDP.

We also try to include women and policies of this kind have been absolutely crucial for the transformation of the social and productive processes and Nicaragua today ranks fifth worldwide when it comes to the Gender Equality Index. Nicaragua will continue to fight against poverty and will implement all efforts that can guarantee the food security and good nutrition of our people, the strengthening of family farming and creative and enterprising economy both in the field and in the city.

We also will continue to make investments in infrastructure and guarantee the rights to health, education, security and we shall safeguard our mother Earth. This 46th session of the Committee on World Food Security is an excellent opportunity to generate synergies and the necessary consensus as countries to effectively face the causes of hunger. And we really do need a commitment on the part of countries to generate financial mechanisms to compensate especially people who are the victims of unilateral coercive polities that attack the dignity of people and the sovereignty of countries. We really do hope that a future will come when people will no longer suffer from hunger or poverty.

Chairperson, in order to fight hunger we have to undertake braver actions and certainly not indifference before these catastrophes. Thank you very much.

Chairperson

Thank you very kindly. Thank you Minister [unclear name 01:41:10] from Nicaragua. And now I would like to recognise Sudan. So, Mali you have the floor.

Mali

Thank you Chairperson. Good morning everyone. Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen it is a great honour for me to be with you today at this session in Rome to be part of this 46th session of FAOs World Food Security the theme of which is to step up the implementation of SDG 2.

In my capacity as Minister in charge of food security of my country which is heavily affected by food and security, I find that this is a very appropriate forum for me to make you aware of the difficulties we are in in Mali. Ladies and gentlemen in Mali 30 percent of households suffer from food insecurity and 70 percent of our people depend on markets to have enough food.

This year, therefore, the government of Mali through my department has engaged in a broad platform throughout the country. 21 tons of cereal has been made available, or million. And four million tons have been distributed in partnership with WFP. And I would like to thank WFP on this occasion.

Ladies and gentlemen in spite of this exceptional state mobilisation food and security in certain areas continues to be constant and this is a threat that is affecting over three million people in my country.

Ladies and gentlemen it is our common responsibility to mobilise first in order to provide sustainable food to our populations. Because for my country, this is a formidable and even vital challenge.

This is an opportunity to actually pay tribute to all the partners involved especially FAO, the European Union, IFAD, WFP, Italian Cooperation, Sweden Cooperation Agency, the Japanese Cooperation Agency and others, who have been supporting my country for a long time and have given great hope to our people. Thanks to these synergies my country has been able to adopt a policy on nutrition which is a framework of reference in this area in Mali and this means that all the actors involved in this arena respond to this common framework.

I would like to express a heartfelt thanks to the Chairperson of CFS for giving me the floor and allowing me to speak. This national policy that was adopted in my country aims to ensure food security to develop food resilience in many areas and to relaunch a sustainable agriculture in order to alleviate hunger and to achieve the goals under the 2030 agenda, which of course are perfectly in line with the theme of this session. The total budget estimated for this policy is 2.7 billion in our local currency.

Ladies and gentlemen in this platform I wish to launch an appeal to all of the partners that are active in the Sahel to support peace, food security, our fight against obscurantism and terrorism. Because all of this makes our population and others extremely vulnerable and therefore they become easy recruits for terrorism. That is why we must all get involved in order to integrate food security and nutrition in our development policies.

Ladies and gentlemen, finally, I would like to very kindly thank you for this kind of invitation which has allowed me to speak and to share with you the situation in my country as well as our hopes. Thank you ladies and gentlemen.

Chairperson

Thank you. Thank you very much Minister Nango. And now I would like to recognise Venezuela please.

Venezuela

Please receive warm greetings on the part of our legitimate President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Nicolás Maduro. Venezuela is a country with a population of over 32 million people, of 7,492,000 families that require food amounting to 38,663 tons each day. We have millions of food which is produced every day and we have food which is imported as well. Each day 13,222,000 tons of food each year which generates a deficit at the moment of 782,904 tons for each year.

In 2015 we organised an agro-food policy and evaluation, a three year evaluation in 2013, 2014 and 2105. We achieved progress despite the irresponsible and criminal sanctions that the government of the United States of America has imposed on our country, irrefutable proof of this damage done by this sanction is linked to the seizure of 4,836,000 dollars of which 2.981 billion dollars were allocated to the purchasing of food and inputs for our people for the sowing plan which is undertaken each year in our country. And over a billion dollars were also withheld, and this was devoted to the procurement of medicines and also school materials for our children.

Despite all of these difficulties our government is implementing 19 large scale nutrition programmes one of the most important of which is the so called 'clap programme' which involves the local Procurement and Sovereign Production Committee reaching a coverage of six million families or

80 percent of the families in our country. And these families receive 112,000 tons food every 21 days and our target, our goal is to bring this programme to every 15 days, or twice a month throughout the country.

The second programme is the School Feeding Programme, 23,439 schools and a population of 5,337,000 children receive food amount to 40,000 tons every month.

The third programme is the Animal Protein and Iron Programme. And we have coverage here of 2,693 days throughout the whole territory reaching a distribution of 150,910 tons of animal protein.

The fourth programme is linked with technology, research, capacity building training and extension work. We have science and technology programmes in relation to research and we also seed productions programmes improving agricultural practices, technology and the protection and preservation of food. This programme also assists thousands of families which also make sure that vegetable crops are being improved. In this programme we would like to say, we thank the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for their assistance in providing rice seed production technology.

And finally, we would like to raise the possibility for a strong statement against unilateral actions from one country against other countries which affect the food rights of other peoples. We reject any interference against sovereignty and self-determination of nations around the world and we support all initiatives of this body which promote agriculture and food which is healthier more sustainable for the whole planet. Thank you very much.

Chairperson

Thank you much Minister from Venezuela. Libya you have the floor.

Libya

Chairperson, excellencies, heads of delegations, ladies and gentlemen Libya attaches great importance to the topic of food security and ending the hunger through the achieving of the SDGs notably SDG 2 ending hunger. Despite successes in some countries, the results of other countries, and from the reports of the Organization we note an unsatisfactory level of implementation.

I take this opportunity to reiterate our support to FAO in its efforts to accelerate achieving the SDGs and ending hunger. Libya lives and suffers from deplorable events and situations, conflicts and divisions which have adversely affected its status and its aspirations. As such Libya suffers in terms of agriculture with the halting of development programmes and the spread of pests and animal and plant diseases. As well as that the situation has prevented the farmers from reaching their farms and fields.

We look towards FAO to help us addressing many of the agricultural and ecological problems which hamper the achieving of SDGs. Because of the current situation we have difficulty in border controls and the spread of pests and the arrival of commodities which are not conformed to international safety criteria and standards. We look forward to regional and sub-regional cooperation to address these problems.

We also look to exchange knowledge and expertise in many areas. Agricultural research, cross border problems, transboundary disease, assistance to small farmers to increase productivity and production, and the use of natural resources in a safe and sustainable manner. We look to the international

community to assist us to remove the mines that prevent the farmers from reaching their fields and achieving food security.

Food security and rural development remain our main aims and goals. We would like to thank FAO for this opportunity, and we hope that CFS will reach its goals in ending hunger in this world. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you Minister and especially for keeping your intervention under three minutes. That is very useful for all of us. We will now listen to the Minister from Brazil please.

Brazil

Chairman, members of the Bureau, ladies and gentlemen, as the Minister of Health from Brazil I am honoured to represent my country at this plenary session of the World Food Security Committee. We have here a privileged opportunity to strengthen the inter sectorial dialogue in the field of food security and nutrition and to share experiences with high level participants from governments, civil society, private sector and other actors engaged in finding solutions to these global issues.

Currently Brazil is not part of the hunger map, but the Brazilian government remains vigilant to ensure the sustainability of this achievement. Brazilian inter sectorial policies aim to ensure access to adequate nutritious and healthy food in different lifecycles and according to people's daily needs. The right to health and the right to food are inalienable, indivisible and interdependent human rights. And in Brazil they are constitutionally guaranteed.

Our national health system, the SUS, is one of the largest public and universal systems in the world. It provides access to health for over 200 million people promoting equity and comprehensive care. Chairperson, in the last decades we have witnessed an important demographic transition and various transformations in the lifestyles of the populations. As Minister of Health, but above all as a physician, I can witness the impact of these changes on the epidemiological and nutritional profile of the Brazilian population.

In Brazil chronic non-communicable diseases are the leading cause of death in adults. Among children, we experience an intense reduction in stunting while facing a significant increase in overweight and obesity besides other outcomes of malnutrition. Among the causes that led us to this scenario are the excessive intake of salt, sugar and fat, the increased consumption of ultra-processed foods combined with more sedentary lifestyles.

We also know that unfortunately, these elements are not unique to Brazil or the Americas. Obesity and overweight are also global and growing challenges to the public health and the wellbeing of our populations.

This is what the state of food security and nutrition in the world presented here to today reports. Dear colleagues, nationally we are strengthening to promotion of physical activity, health, diet and healthy lifestyles. Our dietary guidelines for the Brazilian population has innovated by promoting healthy eating based on food and processes which integrate the entire food system so that every citizen can make conscious choices in personal health and lifestyles.

Technological innovations and scientific evidence must be used in favour of the necessities of our populations. They must take into account different food cultures, the specific needs of women and

groups in the situation of vulnerability, physical and financial accessibility to food, seeking the harmony between quantity and quality and adequate and sustainable production practices.

Ladies and gentlemen, given the growing challenges asserted by the SDGs and a decade of action on nutrition, I am convinced that the world efforts toward achieving food security and nutrition for all, will be strengthened on the international agenda in the years to come. I take this opportunity to reaffirm Brazil's commitment to the healthy food systems agenda, to food security and nutrition, and to the human right to adequate food. Thank you very much.

Chairperson

We have finished with the list of Ministers. The Minister from Sudan has not yet arrived in the room so we will listen to him a bit later on. We are now going to listen to the speeches by the Deputy Ministers and Secretaries of State. The list at the moment is, Russian Federation, then Norway, Bangladesh, Hungary and South Sudan. The Russian Federation please.

Russian Federation

Chairperson, colleagues, the Russian Federation as a responsible member of the international community and international development donor, is deeply concerned about the situation surrounding food security. On the one hand, despite significant efforts, the world continues to see an increase in the number of people suffering from chronic malnutrition. At the same time, one third of all food produced in the world is being lost every year.

At the same time, we are seeing a dangerous increase in overweight and obesity. Of great concern is the increase of this indicated among children which leads to the onset of non-communicable diseases. And this affects life expectancy, the quantity and quality of labour in the workforce, and economic development rates in countries. At the end of the day, this poses as threat countries achieving sustainable development by 2030.

The international community continues to analyse the impact of globalisation and its consequences on states and their populations. However, there is one clear conclusion. Resolving these issues requires coordinated and collective efforts from all stakeholders. This is why the Russian Federation attaches great importance to the work of the CFS.

Chairperson, we thank the FAO Secretariat for its contribution to preparation of the report entitled 'The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019', and we call on countries and stakeholders to pay particular attention to the countries which recently left the category of least developed countries and to middle income countries in relation to which there is a change in the process for the provision of international aid. According to data on one of the indicators for SDG 2 most of the two billion people who lack permanent access to safe and nutritious food in sufficient quantities live in these countries.

For our part we plan to focus on Africa. In ten days on 24th October, the city of Sochi will host the first Russia-Africa Summit. This summit will provide an idea of the shape and development of our cooperation with African countries in the long term including in the area of food security which will have a particular set aside part of the forum allocated to it.

Of no less importance is reviewing existing food systems. This is necessary in order to determine the best ways for them to be transformed to ensure the stable production of micronutrient rich and healthy food for people especially children. It was precisely this subject which was one of the main themes of

the Russian Agricultural Exhibition, Golden Autumn 2019 and the first International Agro Industrial Forum which concluded just the other day in Moscow.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the FAO Director-General Mr Qu Dongyu for his active participation in this event and for his interesting and helpful statement. Chairperson, we attach great importance to the development of the agro industrial sector as an important player in resolving food security issues.

In Russia, there has been a breakthrough in this area. Over the past five years total agricultural production has increased by almost a quarter. Russian farmers are almost completely meeting the country's need of the production of the main food groups. Labour productivity is on the rise. And our agriculture is now less vulnerable to market fluctuations and climate variations. We play in a very important role in ensuring food security at the global and regional levels. In the framework of global partnership SDG 17, the Russian Federation actively provides financial and technical development assistance to countries in need.

In 2018 our country allocated over a billion dollars for this purpose. We are committed to cooperating constructively with all stakeholders including with the Rome based agencies, FAO, WFP and IFAD, which we believe to be time tested and forward looking partners of Russia in resolving the problems of food security and nutrition at the global level.

Thank you Chairperson for allowing me to take the floor and I wish us all every success in our work. Thank you.

Chairperson

Now we will have Mexico.

Mexico

Thank you Chairperson, delegates, civil society representatives. The government of Mexico would like to congratulate the new Director-General Mr Qu Dongyu. We express our commitment to the objectives of the CFS and we commit to putting an end to inequality, and hunger, and poverty, and we commit to actions to promote development to fight against the causes of migration which are poverty and food insecurity.

And also, in Central America, we are committed to this in Mexico. We have a malnutrition situation which is quite unique. We have anaemia throughout the population as well. And we have also overweight which affects 80 percent of the adult population. This fact is the result of liberalism which has come into our country over the past 30 years under the idea that the markets expand and lots of people are leaving their land and we have a complete opening up of our boundaries to other products. And we have toxic chemicals as well which have come in and this has affected our agriculture.

In December with the arrival of the new President, we implemented a new plan to put an end to the corrupt situation that has been thriving in our country between 82 and 2008. So, here we are looking at the fourth transformation, historical transformation in Mexico. We need to here, fight against poverty and malnutrition. We have decided on the following things. We have taken the following decisions.

In the first year, of the sixth of this government the first is to establish agriculture as a national priority. We need to get rid of the situation of being dependent on agricultural imports. We need to also support

the agro food export industry. We need to support fisher folk to make sure that we support the priorities and livelihoods of our smallholder producers. We have a green transition towards a new type of agricultural production.

We also have a policy to build a new agro food and nutrition system which is fair, healthy and sustainable. And among the actions of our government we have a transformation which involves making sure we can guarantee a food basket for rural population and ensuring that we have sufficient food for producers. And also, having a national reserve of food stuffs, we also have a national wellbeing programme helping two million smallholder producers. We also have a nutrition programme involving organic produce and food. And also a programme which channels funds to millions of people in rural areas, 15 million dollars and we have a wellbeing bank which is being created to assist people in rural areas.

We also have free internet for rural populations which is planned to be implemented over the next two years and also the implementation of a programme against certain types of wheat production and against ultra-processed foods. This is part of our strategy to fight against the epidemic of overweight and obesity. In this context we believe that the CFS needs to remain a reference to addressing these issues and SOFI 2019 report goes to a lot of these issues. And we also look forward to the voluntary guidelines that are being planned to be put in place.

We support the CFS and we call on all members to provide funds for its activities over the coming years. Thank you very much.

Chairperson

Thank you. Thank you Secretary Suarez. We will now listen to Norway.

All delegates please remember, that you should, you can and you should send your statements by email to the CFSrome@FAO.org email address so that they can be uploaded on to our website. And please note when you are giving your statements that they reflect what is actually in the statement that is uploaded on to the website.

Norway you have the floor.

Norway

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, important progress has been made on the road to 2030 in a number of sectors. But when it comes to food security we are failing. You have heard this before, but it needs to be repeated.

Hunger is still on the rise for the fourth consecutive year. Globally every fifth child under the age of five is stunted. All across the globe small scale farmers are finding the struggle to secure livelihood harder by the day.

Less than a month ago, at the UN January Assembly, Secretary Guterres told us, that in order to reach the SDGs we must step up our efforts and we must do it now. There can be few areas where this is more critically needed than in the area of food security.

Over the past year Norway has drawn up a new action plan on sustainable food systems. It was launched just before the summer. The action plan takes a whole of government approach. No less than seven government ministers have been involved in its development. There are good reasons for this. How we

produce food, the kind of food we produce and whether or not we have enough food are all questions of vital importance for our survival and wellbeing. There are also vital questions when it comes to promoting political stability, the resilience of local communities and opportunities for individual people.

The action plan takes an integrated approach to increasing food security through the development of sustainable food systems. We know that food systems affect and are affected by a wide range of different factors including climate change, environment, infrastructure and institutions. Food systems also have important socioeconomic impacts on local communities and society as a whole.

Norway is intensifying its efforts relating to food systems and our aim is to play an active and effective role in reducing food insecurity and malnutrition. We look forward to continuing to develop our already close collaboration with the Rome based agencies. We would like to commend these agencies for the clear leadership they have shown on SDG 2 and their strong commitment to achieving all the sustainable development goals. Norway will remain a consistent partner in our joint efforts to reach SDG 3 and the 2030 agenda as a whole. Thank you very much.

Chairperson

Thank you very much Vice Minister Ulstein. Now for Bangladesh please.

Bangladesh

Honourable Chairperson of the session, honourable CFS delegates and observers, ladies and gentlemen, I am honoured to speak on this august session. Let me first thank CFS, FAO for inviting me to share the Bangladesh achievements in the food and nutrition security FNS agenda. I would like to take this opportunity to express our applause to CFS for the accomplishments [s.l.] of SOFI 2019.

Bangladesh achieved sustainable self-sufficiency in the turn of a few decades. Last year we had recorded record rice production and all credit goes to our indomitable farmers and our government led by Her Excellency Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Moreover, Bangladesh continued to maintain a strong GDP growth that is projected more than 8 percent this year. I would like to tell, yes, His Excellency, the Bangladesh government is committed by their election manifesto that ensuring safe and nutritious such food for all citizens and leaving no one behind. We targeted nurturing the vulnerable population in general and the pregnant women, lactating mothers, infants, adolescents in particular.

As such the Bangladesh Food and Nutrition Security programme is running in more than 11 districts under funding from European Union, USAID and UKAID and implemented by many international and national partners.

Bangladesh policy and intervention goal is very much in line with those highlighted and recommended in SOFI 2019. Bangladesh is justifiable proud in its progress in reducing poverty in all its forms and dimensions. In the 1970s the poverty incidence was about 80 percent rate, while by 2018 the poverty incidence had fallen down below 22 percent and extreme poverty below 12 percent.

To protect the incomes of the poor and vulnerable, the government is placing great attention to inclusive development and social protection. The social protection budget share is around 2.25 percent of our GDP and 15 percent of our national public expenditure. In this context we are to formulate a new Food and Nutrition Security Policy this year, aimed at achieving the relevant SDGs targets also. This new

policy process follows the food system approach and covers inter ally priorities of the second country investment plan for nutrition sensitive food system.

Ladies and gentlemen as part of the larger policy framework for food security and nutrition, Bangladesh has also embarked on institutionalisation of food safety by improving the integration of national food safety control systems and by enhancing interagency collaboration and cooperation leading to greater consistency in enforcement of regulations and the safer food policy.

At this point I would like to mention that we are the first nation who observed 2 February this year as National Safe Food Day throughout the country.

Ladies and gentlemen Bangladesh recognises that a market economy like Bangladesh have the bulk of the economy is privately owned and managed should therefore aim its plans and regulations at stimulating the private sector. Nevertheless, there is an important compliment of the role for public sector investment programmes particularly in the areas like food and nutrition security of the poor and other social sectors. However, private sector is less interested to invest in.

We hope that our development partners and [unclear 02:17:55] will continue to join hands with the Bangladesh daunting task of ending hunger and establishing a sustainable food and nutrition security environment friendly food and agricultural system.

In conclusion I would like to assure you that on behalf of the government of Bangladesh that improving food and nutrition security is at the top of the political and inclusive development agenda in Bangladesh. With the sustained political commitment at the highest level we have achieved our target for reducing hunger by less than half before 2015. Likewise Bangladesh aspires to achieve the relevant SDG targets in the same way. Along with other ministries, the Ministry of Food is playing a more vital role in implementing plans for SDG targets and achieving Bangladesh's sustainable food and nutrition security. Thank you all very much.

Chairperson

Thank you Mr Shahahouvin [s.l] thank you. Now we will listen from Hungary please.

Hungary

Mr Chairperson, Director-General, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the Hungarian government I would like to express my appreciation for the opportunity to address the 46th session of the CFS in alignment with the statement of the EU and its 28 member states.

As we could hear from the presentation of the report on the state of food security and nutrition in the world, over 820 million people are going hungry. In addition, two billion people in the world suffer from various forms of malnutrition and its consequences, obesity and overweight.

In this respect I consider it indispensable to address the root causes of hunger, poverty and inequalities. In this regard recent work has an eminent role. We share the wise words of Pope Francis, 'A society that fails to work and does not care about those who work is doomed to atrophy and to the multiplication of inequalities.'

The above clearly indicates that the main global challenges are universal and the SDGs to address them are inseparable. Another aspect is the need to meet the increasing demand for food globally for the growing population. In this regard increasing production is not the only appropriate answer. Priority

should also be given to decrease drastically the food losses and food waste. The post-harvest food losses can be reduced through the development of rural infrastructure. This would have positive impacts on rural communities to their improved livelihood and could contribute to sustainable management of their natural resources.

For similar reasons, developed countries should take severe measures to reduce food waste. In addition, the agricultural sector needs to overcome several other challenges. Adaptation to climate change impacts and reduction of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

Efficient climate actions are required to ensure food security in the world and to achieve SDGs. European agricultural ministers have shown strong commitment to increase soil carbon sequestration on agricultural land. With suitable cultivation methods, land use and forestation, land could absorb more carbon while also increasing the quality of soils and thus contribute to higher productivity.

Please allow me to mention some current Hungarian initiatives. In 2018 Hungary allocated over 12 million dollars to the implementation of the sustainable development goals through the implementation of 40 development cooperation projects.

Hungary launched its largest to date international development cooperation programme in the Republic of Uganda this year with a budget of nearly 16 million euros. Thus Hungary will contribute to the food security of Uganda.

As for the topic of food systems and nutrition, we wish to express our pleasure to have hosted the regional consultation in Budapest. We hope the findings of the regional consultation will contribute to the finalisation of the voluntary guidelines. These guidelines are expected to assist decision makers to ensure enabling policy environments and appropriate legislative framework to provide food security.

We are aware that most of the hungry and extremely poor live in rural areas and livelihood is based on agriculture. Thus it is essential to follow the approach of relying on the needs and capacities of local communities preserving the existing jobs, creating employment opportunities, establishing schools and services can contribute to making rural life more attractive in particular for the young. Hungary enables the local small producers through its legislation to deliver their products directly to local schools or kindergartens.

Research and innovation play an important role by improving the quality of life in rural areas. New technologies provide the opportunity to involve younger generations in the agricultural sector. We wish to emphasise that new technology should fully comply with the requirements of sustainability.

Let me say in conclusion that for us this year World Food Day is a special occasion. All of you know that we are celebrating World Food Day on 16th October, FAO's birthday. But probably, only some of you know that it was a Hungarian proposal. It was the Hungarian Minister of Agriculture 40 years ago during the FAO conference in 1979 to suggest establishing a day dedicated to food and those who produce it, the farmers. Thus this year's World Food Day has a special meaning for us.

We really hope that our joint strong commitment to ensure food security will accelerate the achievement of our common goals. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you Mr Shigo. We will be holding hands day after tomorrow celebrating World Food Day. Now our next speaker is South Sudan please.

South Sudan

Your Excellency, Honourable guests, ladies and gentlemen, I have the honour to join the company of this host of the world members nation to celebrate this occasion of Committee on Food Security.

South Sudan celebrate its recognition as significant of the event that we may maintain continuously the right to all people for sufficient quality, safe, nutritious food for healthy, active life and prosperity. South Sudan with a total number of land of 640,000 square metres and an estimated population of 12 million among African countries are being endowed with use of natural resources for agricultural protection. And it is characteristics with distinct agro climatic zones.

The recent 11 September report on IPC indicated the good security situation in South Sudan has slightly improved during the 2018 lean season compared to 2019 lean season compared to 2018. This improvement has been driven by reduced conflict and improved access to livelihood markets and the humanitarian assistance. Despite the improvement an estimated 6.9 million still face food crisis and acute food insecurity.

The net cereal production in 2017 was 764,107 tons, but in 2018 there was a slight decline because of the conflict as well as the climate change. Which has created a gap of 482,000 tons. However, the [unclear 02:26:40] of the government of South Sudan Rural Minister of Agriculture is to fulfil the programme of food security for all the people of the country is by developing the master plan which could contribute to the improvement in agricultural production and food security in the country.

With reluctance the critical support including provision of economy of scale to farming households in South Sudan by partners such as the Food and Agricultural Organization including the World Food Programme, the situation of food and nutrition security can be arrested.

As mentioned earlier, the Minister of Agriculture and Food Security strives to make South Sudan fully food security compliant at the household and at regional level. To the extent of producing quality surplus, products for local, regional and international markets. Improving agriculture and extension services shall become a driving force for our national socioeconomic development.

The Ministry have to work to improve the livelihood of rural South Sudan without compromising the sustainability of its natural soil for future generations. However, to improve the present situation of food security in the country joint efforts are welcome in supporting the country to maintain the cessation of hostility and the implementation of a revitalised peace agreement.

A scaled up provision of humanitarian assistance including emergency nutrition, food, wash and health to those in crisis. And with scaled up and improved access to basic services throughout the year. And in all areas provide level of support to stimulate income generating activities.

However, to reduce the malnutrition efforts to ... as a way forward South Sudan alone can't do much in boosting agricultural production and productivity. It needs cooperation and support from other world bodies such as the FAO and the World Food Programme to improve the food security in the country. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you, Under Secretary Udo. Now the Secretary tells me that we will only be able to accommodate four more speakers in this morning session. All other speakers, and we are compiling the list as I speak,

will be taking the floor on Tuesday, on this item on Tuesday afternoon at around 5 p.m. after we finish the multi stakeholder partnerships item.

So, the four speakers that will be taking the floor now as time permits are the Philippines. The Philippines speaking on behalf of Asia. Sudan speaking on behalf of the Near East. And then Germany and the United States. Philippines please.

Philippines

Thank you Chairperson. The Philippines has the honour to deliver this Asia Regional Group statement.

Out the outset we would like to appreciate FAO, IFAD, WFP, UNICEF and WHO, in producing the SOFI 2019 document which exemplifies their joint commitment in achieving the Agenda 2030 SDGs. Particularly, in ending hunger, poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition.

The Group, however, is deeply concerned with some of the revelations in the report among which are the following.

First, the number of people who suffer from hunger in the world has increased for several years in a row reaching 820 million in 2018. Across the regions the undernourished population is distributed unevenly with the majority living in Asia, Southern Asia still has the highest prevalence of undernourishment followed by Western Asia.

Second, the distribution of food insecure people in the world shows that from a total of two billion suffering from food insecurity 52 percent are in Asia.

And third, in 2018, Africa and Asia bear the greatest share of all forms of malnutrition accounting for more than nine of out ten of all stunted children, over nine out of ten of all wasted children, and nearly three quarters of all overweight children worldwide.

Such a bleak picture evidently makes it immensely challenging to reach the SDG targets. With around a decade to go towards 2030, how do we proceed. As emphasised in the report, greater and more targeted efforts should be exerted in addressing the three key drivers of these problematic trends. Which are conflict, climate and economic slowdowns.

In 2018 conflict remained the key driver of food crisis followed by climate and natural disasters and be economic shocks. The Asia Group supports the report's focus and call for action on two fronts to safeguard food security and nutrition from economic downturns.

One, in the short term, protection of incomes to counteract economic adversity, and two, in the long term wise investments to reduce economic vulnerabilities and build capacity to withstand and recover from economic turmoil.

On the first front, a number of Asian countries are already implementing policy measures such as social protection programmes including cash transfers and school feeding, public works programmes that help reduce unemployment, stabilisation of food prices and protecting incomes by ensuring full coverage of essential health services.

On the second front, we concur that priority should remain in reducing inequalities in income and in access to basic services and assets as well as marginalisation of groups such as indigenous peoples and local communities, ethnic minorities and people with disabilities. This should also cover enhancing gender equality and empowerment of women and the youth.

Furthermore, we need to provide adequate targeted support to people in vulnerable situations such as small scale and family farmers, fisher folk and pastoralists including the provision of technical and financial assistance, access to and transfer of technology, capacity building and intensification of research in food and agriculture.

We recognise that it is critical for country decision makers to consider the impacts of trade policy on food security and nutrition given that some of these policies rarely consider healthy diets as an underlying rationale.

In both fronts we call on FAO and concerned institutions to boost their assistance to countries in pursuing policies and programmes to sustain economic growth and help improve resilience in the face of conflicts, economic and climate related shocks.

For instance, the Asia region is being hard hit by the African Swine Fever affecting around ten countries thus far. In this regard, we highly appreciate and urge continued support by FAO such as the regional TCP project on the ASF in Eastern South Asia in conjunction with the actions by affected countries. We reiterate optimising the use of relevant UN declared use in decades, particularly the decade of action on nutrition and the decade of family farming in advocating the respective objectives of improving food security and nutrition and promoting smallholders and family farmers role in achieving the SDGs.

Finally, we stress that a multi stakeholder approach involving State and non-State actors including the private sector in civil society is essential in addressing the underlying causes of hunger, poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you. Thank you Mr La Feron [s.l.] from the Philippines speaking for Asia. Now speaking for the Near East we will have the Sudan.

Sudan

Thank you Chairperson. To begin, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for the way in which you have welcomed the delegations in this room. And thank you for the new positioning.

We would like to speak on behalf of the Near East Region. Most speakers who have taken the floor before us have stressed the important evidence contained in SOFI that was prepared in New York with the five Organizations that were previously mentioned. Especially, we now realise how the economic prospects deriving from the situation that they can have an impact on malnutrition or on food security.

Of course, the number of hungry poor in the world have increased, but poverty is progressing albeit slowly. Something has to be done otherwise by 2030 people are going to continue to suffer from Hunger.

Chairperson, the Near East would like to reiterate the message given by some speakers before us who talked about the close relationship existing between poverty and instability. In our region this is really quite evident. It is evident that there is quite a link between instability and food insecurity. And all economic and commercial progress in our area seem to be hindered by instability. And so our Group feels the need to place further emphasis on awareness raising as to the danger posed by conflict to all efforts made to improve nutrition and food security.

In all statistics I think that we should really highlight these consequences. The resilience, conflict resolution and the registration of peace are absolutely crucial to improving food security. Amongst those who are called to make further efforts the Rome based agencies need to make their voice heard throughout the world so that everyone can contribute to the solution of these conflicts.

SOFI stressed that the fight against hunger and food security requires a new multisectoral approach. And in this context the efforts promised and pledged by the RBAs to intensify coordination and partnerships between agencies is becoming more and more crucial and are welcome.

Chairperson let me just add something and speak for another minute or maybe a minute and a half. I would like to talk about a very important political decision that was taken in my country. Thanks to the efforts and sacrifice of the Sudanese people and of course also, thanks to the young people, the women and even the children who took part in these rallies that led to the establishment of a transition government that has made several promises.

This was recently stressed at the UN General Assembly. A representative has stressed that the transition government will spare no efforts in order to fully implement all the sustainable development goals and cooperate with all of the UN agencies including those based in Rome. We really do hope that all these organizations will come together as hoped and pursue this ambition. The Rome based Organizations as we know, expressed a wish to visit my country and they will be welcome. Thank you Chairperson.

Chairperson

Thank you Sudan and speaking on behalf of the regional group of the Near East. And now I would like to give the floor to Germany.

Germany

Thank you Chairperson. Without wishing to interfere in your Chairmanship, I think it would be appropriate to have the Presidency of the European Union, Finland first to have the floor. I am happy to speak after Finland preferably today otherwise on Tuesday afternoon. Thank you very much.

Chairperson

Yes, five minutes for the European Union and Finland will be speaking and then three minutes for the United States and that is all we have. Finland.

Finland

Chairperson, Excellencies, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen. I am now to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 member States.

We welcome the SOFI 2019 report with its specific focus on economic slowdowns and downturns as drivers of hunger and malnutrition along with other drivers. In particular, conflict, climate change and natural disasters.

We are deeply concerned about the persistence of negative global trends with regard to hunger, malnutrition in all its forms and food insecurity. These negative trends call for continued political commitment and the acceleration of our concerted actions.

We fully support the call in SOFI 2019 to safeguard food security and nutrition through economic, environmental and social policies. And to tackle inequalities through comprehensive multisectoral policies.

The EU and its member States are strongly committed to enhancing food and nutrition security. In particular, by providing humanitarian assistance ensuring long term institutional support and making responsible investments to address the root causes of hunger and malnutrition. Poverty, inequality and marginalisation.

We welcome the fact that SOFI 2019 now makes full use of the food insecurity experience scale as an additional tool for estimating and monitoring the various dimensions of food insecurity. The FIE scale indeed makes a significant contribution to better inform policy responses.

We would also highlight the value of strong multi stakeholder partnerships at all levels in fighting food insecurity. The Global Network Against Food Crisis is a case in point. The first global report produced by the Network provides a shared analysis of global food crisis and can make an important contribution to improving the efficiency and the impact of crisis prevention and response.

In conclusion we reiterate our commitment to the CFS key role in raising the profile of global food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms analysing global and regional trends and their causes and developing and promoting recommendations, guidelines, initiatives and policies. In doing so, the CFS has a critical contribution to make to reversing negative trends observed in SOFI 2019 and delivering on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Thank you Chairperson.

Chairperson

Thank you Finland. A point of clarification? Have you spoken for the EU or have you spoken for your own country? The thing is that the Secretary and I are confused. Can you clarify that?

Finland

As stated in the statement at the beginning, I was honoured to speak on behalf of European Union and the 28 member States. Thank you very much.

Chairperson

Thank you, it will noted as such. Thank you very much Finland. And to close the list of speakers for the morning we will not have finished this item. We will continue as I said before on Tuesday. We will listen to the United States of America, please.

United States of America

Before I deliver my comments, I note that the United States opposes the participation of the illegitimate Maduro regime at the CFS.

The US delegation appreciates the work involved in preparing the SOFI 2019 report and remains committed to reducing hunger, poverty and malnutrition globally. The United States believes that to accelerate and protect progress on this front, we must address the drivers of food insecurity, strengthen

resilience, support the safe and appropriate use of relevant technologies and tools as well as market based solutions and learn from past results.

The United States through our Food for Peace Programme is the largest donor of emergency food aid assistance around the world. Our global food security initiative Feeding the Future brings partners together helping developing countries transform their food systems to boost inclusive and agricultural led economic growth, opportunities, resilience and stability while reducing malnutrition in all forms.

To address current food security challenges, large and small farmers need access to modern agricultural tools and technologies to increase productivity. The most sustainable manner, scientific research and innovation are critical for the development and expansion of agricultural productivity to address core food security vulnerabilities.

Innovation including the use of modern agricultural tools such as biotechnology allows farmers to increase production with fewer inputs, using less land, less water, less energy while lowering carbon emissions. And we have 30 years of data to demonstrate that.

We must embrace research and innovation, strengthen market systems, reduce costly barriers to regional and global trade flows and unlock more investment in the food and agriculture sector, and work together to tackle the entrenched drivers of hunger and migration as it persists throughout the global food security system.

In short, we can't reject the safe tools and technology essential to feed a growing population. If we reject science, we undermine our collective efforts towards food security and sustainable development. In the theme of cooperation and collaboration we look forward to being, a voice in the conversation shaping tools like agroecology as in its current form it does little to address food security, reduction in negative impacts to the climate, and it only intensifies the cycle of poverty experienced by smallholder farmers and communities.

So, we look forward to participating in a discussion in agroecology in making sure it is inclusive of all forms of agriculture.

As a government we see a necessary and appropriate role as a catalyser, an influence, and immobiliser. Huge funding gaps remain that donors and development agencies can't fill alone. Increased country ownership and policy engagement is therefore critical as is partnering with and learning from the private sector.

We can't deliver and impact at this scale we want without the partnership of Committee Members, including the Rome based agencies, civil society, academia and the private sector. We want CFS to be a practical body for advancing food security and nutrition creating opportunities for partnerships to advance security in helping each country realise its own journey to self-reliance.

In close, we must and will measure success not just by the development outcomes we achieve, but also by increases in country capacity and commitment and the ability of countries to plan and implement and finance their own solutions. By investing in long term solutions to food security today including the scientific innovations we can reduce needs in the future and help countries accelerate, protect progress and partnerships will be essential. Thank you ladies and gentlemen.

Chairperson

Thank you Ambassador. I have to shoulder the responsibility because I was, because all previous speakers had spoken for five minutes. This was the first one for three minutes and the two and a half

minute thirty second ringing escaped me. So, I am very sorry to all of you. And now the Secretary tells me that we have interpretation open till 1.10 p.m. That means three more minutes. At this point we can give the floor to Germany. You have three minutes Germany please.

Germany

Chairperson, Honourable Ministers and Secretaries of State, Excellencies, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, I align myself with the statement delivered by the European Union.

We all have taken note of the alarming figures mentioned in the recent SOFI 2019 and the IPCC reports. Malnutrition is on the rise. Every third person is malnourished. The numbers have been mentioned I would like to recall them.

Worldwide more than 820 million people are today suffering from hunger. About two billion in the world experience food insecurity and around 700 million people are suffering from obesity. Following the successfully concluded evaluation of the CFS reform process and the subsequent realignment, I think it is not exaggerated to say that the next year will be crucial for the CFS to demonstrate its regained unity, efficiency and continued relevance.

A successful development of the voluntary guidelines for food systems and nutrition in 2020 will be in light of the envisaged Food System Summit in 2021 of utmost importance and offers a unique opportunity not only for the CFS but also for the three RBAs as well.

To say it loud and clear and to echo what Secretary General Guterres stated in his message, the Committee on World Food Security as the only intergovernmental and multi stakeholder platform within the UN system dedicated to food security and nutrition having developed an excellent product such as these voluntary guidelines would necessarily become a cornerstone for the successful preparation of a substantial Food System Summit in 2021.

Germany is pleased to have contributed to the successful realisation of regional conferences this year with the substantial financial support of 500,000 euro. These regional consultations ensure the necessary inclusiveness of the regional characteristics to be taken into consideration in the drafting process of the voluntary guidelines.

Please let us never forget the comparative advantage of the CFA is its multi stakeholder structure and input. With this in mind, let us build on the good work we have already accomplished together in the past. Let us continue to join forces and to work strictly cross-sectorally.

I think it is well known anyway, but let me, nevertheless, highlight once again the significance that both the work and the wellbeing of the CFS as well as sustainable food systems and nutrition have for my government.

I wish all of us an interesting and inspiring week full of productive interaction and that we are able to break out of our respective siloes. Thank you very much.

Chairperson

Thank you Ambassador. We are now going to postpone the rest of this Item II until p.m. tomorrow. I am going to read the list of speakers. There are 17 of them. In the following order we will have: Spain, China; private sector mechanism, Finland; civil society Japan, France, Cuba; Bill and Melinda Gates, Switzerland, New Zealand, the UNSCW, Belgium, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia and Nigeria.

On the screen we are going to put the side events that are going to take place. They are going to start in the next few minutes. And the 54 side events are on our website and you can see where they will take place, what the subjects will be and for this information I now turn to the Secretariat.

Secretary

Chairperson. Just as a reminder, this year we are testing a new feedback system. The Secretariat has created a survey for each Agenda Item. We also encourage you to give the more general feedback on CFS 46 when you have attended all your sessions, plenary and side events. The survey takes about three minutes to complete and you can access it through the CFS 46 webpage. We will also use the Slido app on Friday to solicit your feedback on improving CFS preparations for next year. And one addition, we have South Sudan who I understand will be responding on Tuesday on behalf of the G77.

Chairperson

Also Thailand is a late entry into the list. Thank you all, and we will commence at 3 p.m. sharp.

The meeting adjourned at 1.10 p.m.