

**Statement by CFS Chair  
to  
Thirty-first Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific  
Hanoi, Vietnam, 12-16 March 2012**

*Your Excellency Cao Duc Phat, Chair of the Conference,  
Director-General, José Graziano da Silva,  
The Independent Chair of FAO Council, Luc Guyau,  
Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,*

As Chair of the Committee on World Food Security, I'm very pleased to talk to you today about the progress made by the reformed CFS over the past two years and how this relates to this Regional Conference. In this regard I invite you to refer to the following documents APRC/12/INF/12, APRC/12/INF/13, APRC/12/INF/14, and CFS:2011/7.

CFS continues to work towards fulfilling its goal of being the foremost inclusive platform for different stakeholders to work together to ensure food security and nutrition for all. The governance of food security can be improved at country, regional and global levels and CFS is well placed to contribute to this. There are many challenges to be faced such as food price volatility, the impact of climate change and the need for environmentally sustainable production. New issues will undoubtedly emerge and it is important that the CFS multi-stakeholder model continues to improve its effectiveness and influence.

Those of you who attended the Regional Conference in 2010 may remember some of the key features of the CFS reform. These include expanded participation to ensure the voices of a wide range of stakeholders are heard in the policy debate on food security and nutrition. The expanded Bureau and Advisory Group, which is made up of a wide range of stakeholders, is supported by a Joint Secretariat with staff from FAO, IFAD and WFP. Until October 2013 Asia is represented on the Bureau By China and Indonesia and the Pacific Region is represented by Australia.

The High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition which provides independent and evidence-based analysis contributed its first two reports on "Land Tenure and International Investments in Agriculture" and "Price Volatility and Food Security" which served as background documents for policy round tables during CFS 37 in 2011. Two further studies are currently being prepared for the October 2012 session. One is on "Social Protection and Food Security" and the other on "Climate Change and Food Security".

Another part of the CFS reform is that there should be more activities during the intersessional period. In that regard, CFS has been very busy. I would like now to highlight some of the key activities that are being undertaken .

1. **The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security** – known as the VG GT - has been a major undertaking. The VG GT are intended to serve as a reference and to provide guidance to improve the governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests with the goal of achieving food security for all. The final round of negotiations were concluded successfully last week in Rome and there will be a special session of CFS in May to endorse them.
2. Another major undertaking has been the development of a **Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF)**. The purpose of the GSF is to provide a dynamic instrument to improve coordination and guide synchronized action by a wide range of stakeholders in support of global, regional and country-led actions to prevent future food crises, eliminate hunger and ensure food security and nutrition for all.

3. One of the outcomes of CFS 37 was the call to organize a **High-Level Experts Forum on Addressing Food Insecurity in Protracted Crises (HLEF)**, which was also the theme of the State of Food Insecurity in the World (SOFI) 2010. The objective of the HLEF is to provide an open space for consultation and policy dialogue to increase understanding and strengthen collaborative efforts to appropriately deal with food security and nutrition in (or to avoid) protracted crises. The HLEF is scheduled to be held in mid-September 2012 with a view to elaborating an “Agenda for Action for Food Security in Countries in Protracted Crises” for consideration by CFS.
4. Another activity is **Mapping Food Security and Nutrition Actions at Country Level**. The importance and relevance of mapping actions was noted and it was recommended that governments from the region be invited to discuss and share their experiences during the Regional Conferences. It was furthermore requested that FAO support appropriate national and regional stakeholders to help develop and strengthen systems for mapping of food security and nutrition actions at country level.

CFS 37 in October 2011 recommended that the Global Strategic Framework and Mapping Food Security and Nutrition Actions at Country Level be discussed at the FAO Regional Conferences in 2012. Accordingly, these items were discussed in a multi-stakeholder session during the senior officers segment and a side event on Tuesday. The major outcomes of these discussions could be considered as concrete recommendations from this Region.

There was broad support for the preparation of the GSF and the specific comments received will be taken into account when preparing the First Version.

Regarding Mapping, one of the outcomes was the recognition of the importance and relevance of mapping actions for food security and nutrition in order to strengthen coordination and alignment in support of national and regional strategies and policies. One recommendation to consider might be to invite national governments or regional bodies to present case studies regarding their experiences and lessons at the 32nd APRC.

In addition to these two activities, CFS has been exploring different ways to enhance linkages with regional food security and nutrition initiatives and to foster their active engagement in CFS. This has included presentations of regional initiatives at CFS Plenary Sessions and participation in regional meetings such as ASEAN.

I would be glad to hear of any progress that has been made towards establishing a multi-stakeholder mechanism to address food security and nutrition within the Region. Whatever the case, I would encourage delegates to continue pursuing this goal by considering:

- Ways to strengthen linkages between APRC, other regional food security and nutrition initiatives and CFS, particularly during intersessional periods
- Modalities to include CFS matters as standing agenda items for future APRCs, allowing adequate time for multi-stakeholder forums and side events to ensure that the voices of all stakeholders are heard and
- Ways to monitor progress in implementing key decisions concerning food security and nutrition, and relevant successes and challenges, taken during APRCs.

The challenge of reducing food insecurity and malnutrition is enormous. It’s a challenge that we will overcome only if all stakeholders work together. CFS offers the unique opportunity for everyone to do this. Let’s make the best of this opportunity by putting in place the necessary mechanisms and modalities to make it happen.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the government and people of Vietnam for their generous hospitality in hosting this Conference and to the organizers for their great efforts and support in including the CFS items on the agenda.

Thank you very much.