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منظمة  
الأغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

# FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA

## Thirtieth Session

**Khartoum, the Sudan, 19-23 February 2018**

**Ministerial Round Table: Zero Hunger**

### I. Achieving Zero Hunger: “Prospects Following the Malabo Declaration”

1. In June 2012, the United Nations Secretary-General launched the Zero Hunger Challenge in Río de Janeiro, Brazil. The Secretary-General offered a vision that linked five key elements in a comprehensive approach to achieve Zero Hunger: these included commitments to end, not reduce, hunger, eliminate the worst forms of malnutrition, build inclusive and sustainable agriculture and food systems, and, at the heart of it all, double the incomes and productivity of family farmers and other smallholder food producers.

2. Inspired by this Zero Hunger vision, a High-Level Meeting (HLM) was jointly organized in 2013 by the African Union (AU), FAO and the Lula Institute along with a broad range of non-state actors. The outcome of the 2013 High-level Meeting was echoed in the 2014 Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods, which adopted commitments that prominently include a call to End Hunger and Malnutrition by 2025, and to ensure mutual accountability for results through a biennial review and reporting process.

3. This commitment to end hunger has been further strengthened by the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015 with the aim of ending hunger and poverty, promoting prosperity and people’s wellbeing while protecting the environment. Specifically, SDG 2 aims to “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture”. While each goal has specific targets to be achieved over the next 15 years, there is a strong linkage between SDG 2 (which includes ending hunger), SDG 1 (ending poverty) and many of the other 15 SDGs, including ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns and the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies, among others.

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4. As follow-up, FAO launched in 2014 a Regional Initiative on Zero Hunger in response to requests for support from the Governments of Angola, Ethiopia, Malawi and the Niger to enhance national capacities to plan, coordinate and finance food security and nutrition. The Regional Initiative was conceived with the aim of adding value to ongoing work at country level, including the work of FAO and its strategic partners, by sharpening its focus on food security and nutrition and by identifying concrete windows of opportunity for promoting an integrated approach to food security and nutrition. In 2015, the implementation of this initiative was extended to four additional countries: Chad, Ghana, Kenya and Rwanda. These countries and others in Africa, as well as their regional economic entities, have made considerable progress to align agricultural and other policies, programmes and investments related to food security and nutrition with the Zero Hunger vision of SDG 2.

5. However, the Continent faces considerable challenges in attaining food and nutrition security while also addressing agricultural low productivity, climate change and the degradation of the environment. Recent estimates of the food security and nutrition status (FAO, 2017) reveal that, in Sub-Saharan Africa, the prevalence of undernourishment rose from 20.8 percent in 2015 to 22.7 percent in 2016; in concrete terms, that's about 224 million undernourished people, up from 200 million in 2015.

6. It is worth highlighting that eradicating hunger and malnutrition, and eradicating poverty, need to be tackled together. While meeting the basic needs of the poor means ensuring their food security, improving their nutrition helps increase productivity and incomes. Despite the progress achieved in the past few decades, about 767 million people continue to live in extreme poverty, half of them in Sub-Saharan Africa, and inequalities are still pervasive. Most of the world's poor and hungry people live in rural areas and depend on agriculture for their livelihoods and food security. Yet, they are often constrained by limited access to resources, services, technologies, markets and economic opportunities, which lower agricultural productivity and income. Fast population growth, conflicts and climate change make the situation worse, as the poor are most vulnerable. Countries that are in fragile situations and have weak institutions face additional challenges. The worrisome trend towards greater food insecurity calls for more efforts at all levels, if the continent is to achieve SDG 2 by 2030.

7. At the margin of the AU Summit in 2018, a High-Level Side Event was organized by the AU Commission in partnership with FAO, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in collaboration with other partners. The event took stock of the progress made and lessons learned from efforts under the Renewed Partnership to End Hunger in Africa by 2025 in light of the SDGs.

### **Objectives of the Round Table**

8. Building on lessons learned, the Round Table will offer an opportunity to discuss the challenges encountered by countries and their partners in implementing policies and interventions in response to the commitment to end hunger and malnutrition in Africa, in particular to:

- provide a platform to African Ministers, countries and African institutions to exchange experiences and lessons learned in implementing their policies, programmes and investment plans, developed in the framework of global, continental and regional commitments;
- exchange views on the conflict-food security nexus and review the role of social protection and livelihood support in fostering resilience of rural households, as well as their potential in contributing to sustaining peace and improving food and nutrition security;
- exchange views on how to strengthen coordination and partnership between all stakeholders involved in the agricultural sector to ensure synergy; and
- discuss key measures, including country cases of innovative financial mechanisms which have been put in place, particularly in the context of the Addis-Ababa Agenda for Action (AAAA),

to ensure mobilization of adequate domestic and private resources towards an effective implementation of their policies and interventions to achieve the established targets.

Facilitation: Kanayo F. Nwanze, FAO Special Goodwill Ambassador

#### Agenda and participants

- 17:00-17:10 Welcome and Introduction of Participants.
- 17:10-17:20 Opening Remarks: Mr José Graziano da Silva, Director-General, FAO.
- 17:20-17:45 Ministerial Panel Discussion: two countries will make a statement on the progress of achieving Zero Hunger for five minutes each, to launch the discussions.
- 17:45-17:55 Inputs from the AU Commission and the floor.
- 17:55-18:00 Summing up (conclusion/recommendations).