

Malta welcomes the publication of the 2013 edition of the report on the state of Food Insecurity in the World (SOFI 2013) and finds the continuing work on the development of multi-dimensional indicators to be a useful contribution in this important debate. Malta also shares the message on the importance of social protection and nutrition-enhancing interventions, policies to increase agricultural productivity and rural development, diverse sources of income and long-term commitment to mainstreaming food security and nutrition in public policies and programmes. Realization that the problem of food security must be tackled in a holistic manner is paramount, and that economic growth on its own is not sufficient to eliminate hunger and malnutrition.

Malta continues to believe that the fight against hunger is one of the main priorities in the global development agenda, and we are concerned when reading that there is not the same progress across regions. Sub-Saharan Africa continues to have the highest prevalence of undernourishment and the progress in hunger reduction and we believe that without greater efforts in this area, it will not be possible to achieve progress in addressing the other challenges faced by the most vulnerable people in these countries, including migration.

Finally Malta also supports the message that more attention needs to be devoted at sustaining agricultural productivity in these countries, with a particular emphasis on developing smallholder capacities.