



Forty-fourth Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

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Patrick Caron
HLPE Chairperson

Opening statement

Madam Chair, Excellency Ambassador Gornass,
Mr Director-General of FAO, Jose Graziano da Silva,
Mr President of IFAD, Gilbert Houngbo,
Mr Executive Director of WFP, David Beasley,
Mr Assistant Secretary General of the UN, Fabrizio Hochschild,
Excellency President Kufuor
Honourable Ministers,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you, Madam Chair.

This year has been particularly intense for HLPE, because of the release of three major publications.

We are presenting this week two reports that draw a global picture of food systems and their implications for food security and nutrition – the first is on forestry and the second on nutrition; and the third publication is the HLPE’s second note on *Critical and Emerging Issues for Food Security and Nutrition*.

The report on “*Sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition*”, launched last June, will be presented Wednesday by Dr. Terence Sunderland, the project team leader. The HLPE adopted a broad scope for this report, including not only forests but also trees outside forests, and moving beyond a focus on deforestation to provide a comprehensive vision of all direct and indirect contributions of forests, trees and agroforestry for food security and nutrition.

Trees and agroforestry provide food, income and employment for many people; they provide essential ecosystem services and are an integral part of human cultures and belief systems. Echoing the past HLPE reports on fisheries and aquaculture (in 2014), and on agriculture and livestock (in 2016), the “Forests” report calls for the sustainable management of limited natural resources and for an integrated approach, in particular at the landscape level.

The HLPE report on “*Nutrition and food systems*”, will be presented tomorrow by Dr. Jessica Fanzo, the HLPE project team leader. I am aware of the high expectations of all CFS members and participants regarding this report: for the first time, the CFS will discuss malnutrition in all its forms – undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, overweight and obesity, and encompass all the elements of food systems – including the food system supply, food environment and consumer behaviour.

And finally, Friday, I will present the 2nd HLPE note on “*Critical and Emerging Issues for Food Security and Nutrition*”. This forward-looking note is the result of an inclusive and evidence-based process, which involved many experts and knowledge institutions around the world with the view to contribute to CFS future programme of work. The paper points out a series of critical areas that need our collective attention and may contribute to prospective approaches: the interconnected fate of urban and rural transformations; conflict and migration; inequality and exclusion; commerce that internalizes social and environmental costs; agro-ecological approaches that can adapt quickly to less predictable conditions; better integration of knowledge and technology, including those related to biological and genetic diversity; and responsiveness, and inclusive forms of governance that respond to the uncertain environment.

This 2nd note and all the HLPE reports demonstrate that the lens of “Food Security and Nutrition” offers a powerful perspective to approach sustainable development in all its dimensions in a concrete way. That was said by my predecessors. For example, supporting the CFS, the HLPE contributed in 2017 to the SDG2 review by the High Level Political Forum at UN Headquarters. And drawing on the conclusions from all the HLPE publications,

the HLPE contribution emphasised the importance of sustainable food systems as a lever to achieve the whole – the whole – 2030 Agenda.

Madam Chair, I would like to thank you for your continuous attention and support. CFS honourable members and participants, it has been an honour for me to serve the CFS these last two years as HLPE Steering Committee (Chairperson).

A new Steering Committee will take over at the end of this meeting. I am glad to be part of it and I want to welcome here my new colleagues with whom I am eager to further contribute to the global science-policy dialogue, with the view to participate in the fight against hunger and malnutrition.

I take this opportunity to thank all the scientific experts and stakeholders involved in the HLPE work around the world, as well as all the resource partners that make this very unique work possible.

Thank you for your attention.