

# Breaking the Cycle Between Conflict and Hunger:

*Working towards sustainable peace and zero hunger*



**25 September 2018**

**6:30-8:00pm**

**Conference Room 3**

**United Nations Headquarters**

## Background

The Global Report on Food Crises 2018 warns that in 2017 almost 124 million people across 51 countries faced crisis levels of acute food insecurity or worse. This is a dramatic increase since 2015, when the figure was 80 million. In addition, worldwide nearly 52 million children under the age of five are acutely malnourished. Urgent action is required to assist this extremely vulnerable population, which, in the direst circumstances, are at risk of famine.

People in conflict situations are extremely vulnerable to food insecurity. On May 24, 2018, the Security Council unanimously endorsed Resolution 2417, which has paved the way for addressing conflict-induced hunger. The Resolution is a recognition of the unanimous condemnation of starvation and places the protection of the most vulnerable in situations of conflict on the Council agenda. It identifies a series of actions and measures that can be undertaken to address International Humanitarian Law (IHL) violations. The Resolution calls for early warning briefings when the risk of conflict-induced famine and wide-spread food insecurity in armed conflicts occurs, calls for humanitarian access to be granted, and provides the Council with a toolkit for action to respond to situations where denial of access occurs.

Securing the means to produce food and investing in safeguarding agriculture-based livelihoods during conflicts is also essential. In practice, this is a call for better linking peace, humanitarian and development actors, specifically in the context of conflict induced food insecurity.

According to the Global Report on Food Crises, conflict is the main driver for acute food insecurity in 60 percent of the cases, affecting 74 million, while climate shocks are the main driver in 30 percent of the cases, affecting over 39 million people. In line with the Secretary-General's call for scaled up and coherent efforts to sustain peace, a comprehensive response is needed to respond to situations of severe food insecurity, addressing both immediate needs by provision to affected families of life-saving and livelihood support and tackling the root causes of severe food insecurity and building resilience to pave the way to sustainable development.



## Outcomes

The side event will examine the following questions:

- How to operationalize Security Council Resolution 2417 (2018) to prevent and eradicate conflict-induced hunger;
- How to achieve respect for international humanitarian law in a context of conflict-induced hunger in country-specific contexts;
- How to promote investment in food security and in preserving and building resilience of agricultural livelihoods and food systems in order to contribute to mitigating severe food insecurity and the risk of conflict;
- What lessons can be learned from the Sahel as a case study of where prevention and resilience-building efforts are already paying dividends;
- How to ensure quality data on food security in fragile contexts;
- How to strengthen partnerships through mechanisms such as the Global Network Against Food Crises, in order to achieve sustainable peace and to leave no one behind in the effort to realize the vision of the 2030 Agenda and SDG 2 of zero hunger.

## Agenda

Opening Remarks: **United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres**

Panelists will discuss:

- 1) Conflict and food security: UN Security Council Resolution 2417 - From a landmark resolution to implementation
- 2) Humanitarian – Development – Peace Nexus: Transforming the way we collectively prevent conflict and build resilient societies

Panelists:

- **Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Netherlands, Ms. Sigrid Kaag**
- **Minister of Agriculture of Niger, Mr. Albade Abouba**
- **EU Commissioner of International Cooperation and Development, Mr. Neven Mimica**
- **African Union Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, Ms. Josefa Sacko**
- **Administrator for USAID, Mr. Mark Green**
- **Vice Minister for Development of Sweden, Ms. Eva Svedling**
- **Food and Agriculture Organization Director General, Mr. José Graziano da Silva**
- **President of International Fund for Agricultural Development, Mr. Gilbert Houngbo**
- **World Food Programme Executive Director, Mr. David Beasley**
- **Action Contre la Faim CEO, Ms. Véronique Andrieux**

**Please RSVP before September 20 at <https://goo.gl/forms/onwEa0jxpIjsJR4E2>**

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