



Launch of the HLPE Report

Sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition

27 July 2017

Amira Gornass
CFS Chairperson

Closing statement

Thank you all for the rich discussion we have had.

I would like to warmly thank the High Level Panel of Experts' Steering Committee and its Chair, Dr Caron and the Project team and its leader, Dr Sunderland, for their work on this critical, complex, and often neglected topic for food security and nutrition.

Today our discussions highlighted the importance of this report, which, calls for an integrated approach at different scales from global to landscape level. In particular, the report clarifies forest definitions and typology and enables us, using a common language, to better understand the dynamics at play and the multiple links between forests, trees and food security and nutrition. I'm sure that this very comprehensive analysis will help us to reach concrete results at the end of our policy convergence process and to agree on good, specific, short and concrete policy recommendations under the leadership of Ambassador Pythoud.

As reminded by Ms Semedo, FAO will also use this report in its further dialogues with governments and other stakeholders at global, regional and national levels. CFS members and participants are also invited to make the best use of this report in their own countries or constituencies.

It is quite possible that our views on the important issues that have been presented are still quite different and distant from one another, and that more questions will come up, but I am convinced that the High Level Panel of Experts' report offers us a solid and common basis to start a fruitful discussion that will lead to a valuable policy outcome for CFS.

Our work does not stop here today as we have mentioned. On the contrary, this is just the beginning of what I hope will be a comprehensive and focused discussion on the roles of forests and trees for food security and nutrition.

I look forward to reach consensus on an evidence-informed outcome that can be practical and usable and that can sincerely contribute to improving food security and nutrition. Such an outcome would genuinely show the added value of the inclusive and multi-sectorial deliberations taking place in CFS.

We will do our best to ensure the full and effective participation of all the stakeholders in the policy development, particularly vulnerable and marginalised groups, including indigenous people and forest-dependent communities, or people.

Let me stop here, and once again express my gratitude to Ambassador Pythoud for taking this on and to all those who will be involved in this process throughout the summer and again in September and October to prepare for the CFS Plenary.

Thank you and I wish you all the best.

Thank you for your participation!