



Launch of the HLPE Report

Multi-stakeholder partnerships to finance and improve food security and nutrition in the framework of the 2030 Agenda

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Mario Arvelo
CFS Chairperson

Opening statement

Excellencies, colleagues and friends: good morning and thank you for coming. Thank you also for your time, we're starting a few minutes later, so apologies for the people who were here at 9:30.

We are taking part in a significant event, as the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition is releasing a new report – the thirteenth since the HLPE came into existence. Ten years ago a global financial crisis was wrecking national economies and devastating livelihoods; many countries have not yet fully recovered.

While having no culpability whatsoever in its inception, the first to suffer the consequences of that crisis were – as always – the most vulnerable: women, children and the elderly in the so-called Global South.

As the financial crisis in the abstract realm of assets, equities and stocks translated into mass unemployment, broken value chains and uncontrollable food prices, political stability in most developing countries was put at risk.

It was in that context of impending global breakdown that we met in this house to reinvent the Committee on World Food Security. One of the institutions we came up with is the High Level Panel of Experts, created to provide independent, evidence-based analysis and advice to CFS.

Excellencies, colleagues: acting on requests from the Committee, the High Level Panel of Experts has presented reports on key issues for fighting food insecurity and malnutrition; in chronological order, these reports cover:

- *One, food price volatility;*
- *Two, governance of land tenure;*
- *Three, the challenges of climate change;*
- *Four, social protection;*
- *Five, biofuels;*
- *Six, investment in small-scale agriculture;*
- *Seven, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture;*
- *Eight, food losses and food waste;*
- *Nine, water;*
- *Ten, livestock;*
- *Eleven, sustainable agroforestry;*
- *Twelve, nutrition and food systems; and*
- *Thirteen, the document we have in our hands today, on the role of multi-stakeholder partnerships for financing food security and nutrition in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.*

Several HLPE reports have served as bases for CFS to develop voluntary guidelines that are having an impact in the design and implementation of public policies in numerous countries, including their incorporation into legal frameworks, contributing to effectively realizing the fundamental human right to adequate nutrition.

At this moment, the CFS is currently embarked on its most ambitious project since the approval, in 2004, of the guidelines on the right to food: the 45th session (to take place here at FAO from 15 through 20 October of this year) will discuss Terms of Reference for drafting voluntary guidelines on nutrition and food systems, which is the subject of the 12th HLPE report.

Other HLPE reports that have not been rendered into guidelines, enjoy great inherent value as products of independent scientific study, conceived for satisfying CFS requirements as the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform in food security and nutrition.

And so it is that the first recommendation emanating from the report being launched today can, from this moment onwards, serve as a useful orientation for governments and stakeholders: a call to action for creating policy frameworks that facilitate and make more effective multi-stakeholder partnership contributions for the realization of the right to food.¹

Excellencies, colleagues: in the name of CFS, I thank Mr Caron, the Chair of the High Level Panel of Experts, and through him Vice-Chair Mr El-Solh and all the members of the HLPE Steering Committee.

¹ Originally delivered in Spanish.

Our thanks also go to Steering Committee member Mr Khan as the Convenor of this study, Project Team Leader Mr Makhura and team members Mr Alves Zanella, Mr Elamin, Ms Swaminathan, and Ms Weisheit; all of them worked *pro bono* to deliver this report.

Likewise, we thank Mr Pingault and his team in the HLPE Secretariat; and also thanks to the French Republic, because their financial support is vital for HLPE.

On inclusiveness, which is the first and foremost principle of CFS – as affirmed in the 2009 Reform Document that created the HLPE – the thirteen reports constitute a body of work built on the best available scientific evidence, as well as on the knowledge, experience and contributions of stakeholders from all over the world, including civil society, the private sector, academia, research centres, financial entities, governments and the United Nations.

This collective labour has gathered a wealth of knowledge and experiences by embracing a range of disciplines and a diversity of sectors, while observing gender and geographical balance, so as to mirror the humanity we all share.

If anyone cares to ask me – either as Chair of CFS or as a country representative for the Dominican Republic – what I think about the HLPE, I would respond that a project team is currently working on a report tackling Agro-ecology and Innovation, scheduled for next year; that the Committee has yet to discuss a report for 2020; and what subject will be and that given the expanding number of persons suffering from hunger and malnutrition (which threatens the accomplishment of Sustainable Development Goal 2 of Zero Hunger by 2030) CFS should consider asking the HLPE for an opinion on how many reports and on which subjects it should focus on in the coming decade, while keeping an eye on critical and emerging issues.

With the report that is being launched this morning, the ball, so to speak, is now in our court: as member States, we have the political and the moral obligation to ask ourselves, what now? Are we going to actually read the report? Is it going to be filed away to gather dust in an archive no one will ever open again? Or, will we engage with it? Who among us will step up and be a facilitator to lead the policy process that will originate from this report? That person, along with the team that is presenting the report, will be able to say that she (or he) can also be counted as a fighter in this righteous war we are waging against hunger.

Excellencies, colleagues: food and nutrition insecurity represent a persistent flaw that casts a shadow on the human condition. The challenges we face go beyond single answers such as exercising political will or allocating financial resources – while both of these dimensions are essential. Ending hunger requires collective efforts that are coherent and consistent, as well as strong partnerships to leverage what we know, the lessons we are learning, and the improvements yet to be achieved, including larger investments that are better targeted and more effectively coordinated.

We will now listen to Mr Caron for an introduction of the report.

Thank you.