

**STATEMENT BY H.E. JACKLINE YONGA, AMBASSADOR/PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA IN ROME ON ITEM II: FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION: BUILDING A GLOBAL NARRATIVE TOWARDS 2030 DURING THE 47<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY, 8<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2021, 9.30-12.30**

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**Your Excellency Antonio GUTERRES, Secretary General of the United Nations,  
CFS Chairperson,  
FAO DG,  
President of IFAD,  
Executive Director of WFP,  
Ministers Present,  
Fellow Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Thank you, Chairperson, for giving me the floor. I am indeed delighted to participate in this meeting and speak on behalf of the Africa Regional Group on ***Item II:***

**Chairperson,**

I take this opportunity to commend the CFS Chairperson for guiding this process and hard work put in by FAO management and other stakeholders culminating in this 47<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on World Food Security. Indeed, this meeting offers an important platform for multisector dialogue on Food Security and Nutrition, which is an agenda of great importance to the African region.

**Chairperson,**

We also acknowledge and appreciate the three UNRBAs; FAO, IFAD and WFP, for the great efforts of food and nutrition security in the African continent over many decades. We encourage continued efforts towards attainment of Agenda 2030.

**Chairperson,**

Food and Nutrition Security is an integral component of the SDGs, and the UN2030 Agenda.

Food insecurity is first and foremost about poverty and inequalities, which are also at the heart of undernourishment and malnutrition.

Household food and nutrition security is also usually threatened by natural disasters (recurring droughts, floods, diseases, such as the desert locust outbreak and the fall armyworm), political and economic problems (protracted conflicts).

I wish to seize this opportunity to draw your kind attention to the significant challenges posed by the devastating COVID-19 pandemic to the already strained health, food and nutrition security and broad socio-economic conditions in Africa, including the disruptions to the food and agriculture systems, and in the other hand the opportunities it revealed in terms of socio-economic development.

Ensuring the continent's food and nutritional security is, therefore, a multi-sectorial and global challenge, which implies prioritizing the modernization and intensification of family farms, as well as global rural transformation.

This is why, African leaders, through the Malabo Declaration strategy and the African Union – NEPAD flagship programme, namely the CAADP (Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme), have been encouraging a Pan-African process to put agriculture at the center of the agenda of individual African states and Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

Furthermore, Africa has decided to upgrade its food security strategy to a food sovereignty strategy and regional preference.

The recently adopted ACFTA (Africa Continental Food Trade Area Agreement), as a major Agenda 2063 flagship programme, will boost intra-regional food trade, thus improving food and nutrition security.

We therefore call upon the governments, UNRBAs and non-governmental stakeholders present here to continue building synergy in the implementation of CFS products, ***including the already developed voluntary guidelines*** and mobilization of resources, since we all know that eradicating hunger is a monumental task that can only be achieved by working together.

To that purpose, resilience in partnership, with sustainable national ownership and leadership by key stakeholders, including governments, meeting their respective commitments, is essential.

#### **Chairperson,**

The pursuit of Gender Equality and women's empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition is an issue that cannot be ignored. We encourage capacity

development, improved gender inclusive policies and stronger participation of women in dialogues that address food security and nutrition.

**Furthermore, Chairperson,** Africa is the youngest continent with 60% of our population being under 25 years. Indeed, the world today is home to almost 2 billion young people with 90 percent of them in developing countries. This is the largest generation of youth in history. We must put youth at the core of development. Therefore, the promotion of youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food security is core in promoting SDG2 of Zero Hunger.

There is urgent need to support the youth in accessing finances, capacity building and transfer of agricultural knowledge and technology particularly in developing countries. The eradication of hunger can only be achieved if countries aim at moving to achieve this goal at the same pace.

**In conclusion Chairperson,** it is my hope that as we begin this meeting today and conclude on Thursday, we will have made progress in our resolutions towards achieving sustainable food security and nutrition for ourselves and future generations.

**I thank you.**