

Hovedinnlegg CFS50 – ‘Coordinating policy responses to the global food crisis – The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022’, 10 October 2022

Morten Aasland, Ambassador of Norway

Mr Chairman, Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen

The SOFI report expresses it clearly, the world is moving in the wrong direction. We are far from target to reach SDG 2 on zero hunger. At this rate, SDG 2 recedes into the horizon. More people are food insecure. More people go hungry.

The UN Secretary General has said ‘we need all hands on deck’ We need to turn around negative trends. We know what must be done.

Most of all we need less conflict, allowing for development.

While many countries still grapple with the consequences of the pandemic, and the increasingly serious consequences of climate change, conflict and war is *the key driver* of food insecurity.

There is a very significant overlap between the major food insecurity and hunger situations and armed conflict. Very simply put – No peace, no food.

The Russian Federation’s aggression against Ukraine is a blatant violation of international law and the UN Charter. It has exacerbated an already strained global food security situation. It is also an attack on the 2030 agenda, and thus on the most exposed populations and the weaker countries.

While the rise in food and energy prices have considerable consequences in Europe and countries in the North, it has potentially devastating consequences in the global South.

Norway’s Minister for Development Cooperation is today in Addis Abeba, speaking at an African Union Conference, with the IFRC and the ADB, on food security and nutrition in Africa, expressing support and solidarity with those that are hardest hit.

Allow me to make a few specific points:

The **gender gap in food insecurity** is alarming. This underscores the need to conclude the work on the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girl’s Empowerment [in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition] as soon as possible.

Norway is pleased to co-host a side event tomorrow, focusing on **empowering women** in aquatic food systems. **Aquatic food** has a major potential in ensuring food security, that must be further developed.

The deep dive in the SOFI-report into the question of **making healthy diets more affordable**, is very timely. We note with interest the recommendations and findings, also in view of Norway's forthcoming strategy on food security in our development policy.

Nutrition will be a priority in the strategy, which will have **small scale food producers and their value chains** as main targets of intervention.

Chair,

Food security and rising hunger has prompted numerous good initiatives – many of them which we support and take part in. Coordination is key to results. And the various initiatives should be coordinated with the Rome based UN-organizations, ensuring consistency and the best possible delivery.

In this context, we are very concerned about the long-term effect of the shortage of fertilizers. Norway is engaging on measures for more targeted and efficient use, especially for the benefit of small-scale farmers.

Lastly, we call on the RBA's to strengthen their collaboration and coordination, when relevant and where it will increase results. CFS is an important member of the RBA family and should be given the means and the mandate to deliver on issues that complement the priorities of the other RBA's and where it has added value.

Thank you -