

Federal Minister for Food and Agriculture of the Federal Republic of Germany
Mr Christian Schmidt

Check against delivery!
Do not release before: Delivery

Director-General da Silva,
Director-General Chan,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen!

The message is clear: Food will be at the centre of the coming decade! We have gathered here in Rome to set the course for a world without hunger and without any form of malnutrition. Because this is the fundamental right of every individual in this world.

Taking stock of the time since the last ICN it becomes clear that we have made good progress. It has been possible to roll back hunger and poverty in many parts of the world. The adoption and implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) has made a pivotal contribution to this effect. Nevertheless the number of people suffering from hunger and malnutrition worldwide still remains unacceptably high. We mustn't forget that there also is a growing number of people affected by overweight and obesity, both in developed countries and increasingly also in developing countries.

Therefore I would like to thank the FAO and the WHO for their initiative and their strong commitment to combat hunger and malnutrition, but also to improve nutrition and dietary habits.

Negotiations have been long and intensive. The German delegation, too, has been closely involved. Today, however, we are holding the trailblazing outcome of the negotiations in our hands:

- The Rome Declaration throws light upon the most pressing challenges and reaffirms our commitment to tackle them resolutely.
- The Framework for Action offers a full set of options and strategies to realise the goals of ICN 2: a world without hunger and malnutrition.

We need to dedicate our entire energy and determination to achieving these goals. Because the human right to food still is the human right that is violated most often. The gradual implementation of the right to food focuses on the individual. And this is where our policies need to set in.

- I therefore expressly welcome the emphasis the Rome Declaration puts on the need to gear food systems more to the nutritional needs of people and on the need to strengthen their role in preventing and controlling infectious diseases.
- Agriculture plays a key role in this regard. Because it provides the basis of all nutrition. It generates income in rural areas. We need to make sure that farm structures are strengthened in a sustainable manner, mainly with an eye on small-scale family farms.
- At the same time we need to foster the knowledge about a healthy diet, hygiene and care and a healthy lifestyle at all stages of life. In this context, the diversification of the supply of local nutrient-rich foods is of essential importance.

My Ministry attaches supreme importance to these goals in the bilateral project work with the FAO.

In addition to that, with its IN FORM action plan, Germany has been committed since 2008 to improving dietary and exercise habits in Germany. In its implementation, my Ministry closely collaborates with the Ministry of Health.

Every year, my Ministry invites Ministers of Agriculture from throughout the world to Berlin to attend the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture and the International Agriculture Ministers' Summit. The chosen topics always also refer to the implementation of the right to food. This way we can generate attention and the political will to act.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let us seize the opportunity the Rome declaration and the Framework of Action have given us. Every one of us can make a contribution in his or her responsibility to eradicate all types of malnutrition. Let us shape the future and contribute the results of ICN2 to the negotiations on the post 2015 agenda. Food security and better nutrition need to be enshrined there prominently.

It is up to all of us to make the vision of a world in which everybody can have adequate, sufficient and healthy food come true. Yesterday we gave the go-ahead to this end.