

# Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition

Madrid, 29-30 October 2018



## Final declaration adopted by consensus and acclamation

### Call for action to achieve Zero Hunger and ensure the right to adequate food for all

**We, the parliamentarians gathered in Madrid on 29 and 30 October 2018 on the occasion of the Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition, declare:**

Stressing our commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals as the blueprint to achieve a better future for all with a special emphasis on Goal 2 – Zero Hunger by 2030.

Recalling the numerous international and regional instruments that form the backbone of our collective efforts towards eradicating undernourishment in all of its forms and ensuring the realization of the right to adequate food for all.

Concerned that, despite our pledges and efforts to eradicate hunger within Agenda 2030, we are drifting away from the Sustainable Development Goal 2 instead of moving towards achieving it.

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Worried that, despite noteworthy progress in reducing hunger and undernourishment throughout the world until 2015, recent years have seen increases and today nearly 821 million people are facing chronic food deprivation.

Troubled that over 150 million children under the age of five are suffering from stunted growth, 99 million from underweight and 50 million whose life is at risk due to wasting while more than 38 million children are overweight.

Alarmed by the prevalence of obesity among adults in the world that has tripled between 1975 and 2016 – and has increased at an accelerated pace over the past decade – to reach 672 million, which is to say that more than one in eight adults is obese while more than 1.9 billion adults are overweight.

Accentuating that poor access to healthy food contributes to undernutrition as well as overweight and obesity while malnutrition in all its forms is a problem from which no country is spared and which it is imperative to eliminate.

Stressing that persistent obstacles to secured access to and ownership of land and other productive resources, especially for groups such as indigenous peoples and women, significantly hinder their livelihood and the enjoyment of their right to adequate food in addition to highlighting the need of strengthening the governance of natural resources and creating an enabling environment for responsible investments in the food system.

Emphasizing that additional efforts by state, private and civil society actors are needed to meet the Sustainable Development Goals and, given the interlinked nature of our food

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systems and the environment, stressing the need for its sustainable transformation – which include reducing food loss and waste – through improved management and techniques applied to agriculture, livestock, fisheries and forestry.

Underlining our vital role as parliamentarians in achieving Zero Hunger and ensuring the realization of the right to adequate food for all through legislating, overseeing policies and budget allocations as well as raising awareness on those issues and their causes within our constituencies.

Evoking the importance of favoring parliamentary dialogue at the national, regional and global levels in order to share experiences, good practices and challenges encountered, as well as to foster broader collaboration and strengthen cooperation with strategic allies, among which development cooperation agencies, civil society organizations, universities,

research centers and businesses, towards achieving Zero Hunger and the realization of the right to adequate food.

Underscoring valuable progress made at the regional and national levels by Parliamentary Alliances in propelling legislative and policy measures on a wide variety of issues geared towards achieving Zero Hunger and the realization of the right to adequate food.

**We hereby reaffirm that everyone has a right to adequate, safe, sufficient, healthy and nutritious food, and to freedom from hunger. We acknowledge the need for specific**

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**legislative and policy measures to ensure the enjoyment of those rights and achieve Zero Hunger by 2030, being especially mindful of vulnerable groups such as women, children, indigenous peoples and marginalized communities with limited or no access to social services, and thus:**

**We urge** fellow parliamentarians, as custodians of political commitments; to foster and strengthen the necessary political will to reverse the current course and ensure Zero Hunger by 2030 and that everyone is able to feed oneself in dignity.

**We commit** to learn from and share experiences, build on important progresses obtained, strengthen our collaboration within and across countries and regions, and redouble our efforts to enhance the contribution of parliamentarians towards ensuring Zero Hunger by 2030 and the realization of the right to adequate food.

**We invite** Parliaments where Parliamentary alliances against hunger and malnutrition do not exist, to create them and to strengthen them as a political commitment and contribution to achieving a world free from hunger in 2030.

**We will endeavor** to stimulate the adoption of legislation, policies and programmes to improve and ensure a sustainable access to a healthy diet, notably through support to family farming and the sustainable production of food, as well as gender-sensitive poverty reduction, decent employment and social protection measures aimed at empowering the most vulnerable, as means to achieve Zero Hunger and realize the right to adequate food.

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**We reaffirm** the need to act decisively towards eradicating discrimination in all of its forms, particularly gender-based discrimination, and eliminating barriers that impede people's enjoyment of their right to adequate food, especially vulnerable groups such as indigenous peoples, and hinder our common efforts to ensure a world free from hunger and malnutrition by 2030.

**We will strive** to strengthen our work in legislation, policy oversight and budget allocation by building capacities, creating alliances and strengthening coordination with other stakeholders – including civil society organizations, universities, research centers, businesses as well as development cooperation agencies, thus consolidating a wide array of skills and resources that complement one another to realize the right to adequate food and achieve Zero Hunger by 2030.

**We call** on legislators to support the production and consumption of healthy food, as well as food and nutrition education and information, in order to reduce obesity that leads to non-communicable diseases and poses an enormous burden on health systems and public resources.

**We recommend** paying a particular attention to the provision of adequate, predictable and sustained budgetary allocations to achieve Zero Hunger and the realization of the right to adequate food for all given its underlying role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

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**We call** on Parliaments, parliamentarians and governments to support and promote the work of international agencies of the United Nations, such as FAO, IFAD, WFP and WHO, striving, jointly with all States, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and in particular to ensure Zero Hunger by 2030.

**We pledge** to promote the aforementioned ideas at the global, regional, national and subnational levels in order to garner broad and active participation to achieve Zero Hunger in a sustainable manner.

Madrid, Tuesday 30 October 2018

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