



COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

Fifty-first Session

"Making a Difference in Food Security and Nutrition"

Rome, Italy, 23-27 October 2023

**STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Mr Secretary-General,

Chair of the Committee on World Food Security, Mr Gabriel Ferrero

Excellencies,

Distinguished Participants,

It is an honour and privilege to address the 51st plenary meeting of the Committee on World Food Security.

Let me express my profound apologies for my inability to join you in person, despite my keen interest in further strengthening coordinated policy responses to address the global food crisis.

The right to food is a fundamental human right; a bedrock upon which we are building the future of our planet. Indeed it is the cornerstone of sustainable development.

Achieving SDG 2 – to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture – must remain a priority for all.

It is therefore worrisome that at the **midpoint** of the 2030 Agenda, we are seeing scant progress in realizing this aspiration.

Documents can be consulted at www.fao.org

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On the contrary, the global food crisis has reached staggering proportions – manifested in rampant food and nutrition insecurity stretching across the world.

More than **800 million people** are in a state of chronic hunger, struggling to put food on the table and nearing starvation.

Severe inequality persists in our ability to produce, access and afford food – even in developed countries – while climate change continues to threaten agricultural productivity, leading to crop failures and food scarcity.

In the last year alone **45 countries – including 33 in Africa** – have required external food assistance.

Ladies, and Gentlemen,

We are at a critical juncture.

It is time to **dramatically** accelerate our efforts – not only to respond to immediate food needs but moreover to build resilient and sustainable food systems capable of feeding all populations, at scale.

To achieve **zero hunger by 2030**, coordinated policy solutions are imperative:

- to address entrenched inequalities,
- to invest in the sustainability of agricultural practices, and
- to mitigate the impact of conflict and the pandemic-induced disruptions to the global food supply chains

Together, we **can** make a difference in strengthening food security and nutrition, by:

- bringing nations together in **multilateral cooperation**, to share knowledge and mobilize resources;
- embracing technological advancements and innovative solutions that reduce food waste, promote sustainable farming practices and enhance responsible land and water management;
- incorporating climate resilience into food systems, especially for countries in special situations;
- taking holistic approaches that empower **vulnerable communities** – especially women, girls, and children – to have access to nutritious food, thus leaving no one behind; and
- **building durable peace** in conflict settings.

As President of the General Assembly, I vow to make **a difference**.

I will continue to advocate for the sustainability of our **food systems, including through the sustainable use** of our planet's limited natural resources.

It is my priority to work diligently to advance the multilateral agenda to end hunger and achieve food security and nutrition.

Today's plenary meeting is an opportunity for us **all** to renew our commitment to this vital cause, in line with our commitments in the 2030 Agenda.

The policy recommendations, along with the guidelines on gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment – to be endorsed today – give me strong hope that breakthrough solutions are on the horizon.

Let us restore hope, dignity, and achieve a better future for all.

Let us redouble our efforts to ensure that **no one goes to bed hungry**.

I thank you.