



COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

Forty-fourth Session
"Making a Difference in Food Security and Nutrition"

Rome, Italy, 9-13 October 2017

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF ON THE UNITED NATIONS
SECRETARY-GENERAL**
**(delivered by Mr Fabrizio Hochschild, Assistant Secretary-General for
Strategic Coordination)**

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour and a pleasure to have the opportunity to say a few words about the Secretary-General's priorities and his vision of a reformed United Nations.

A principal objective of reform is to better position the UN system to help states pursue the 2030 Agenda.

I understand you will be examining today the importance of food security towards the achievement of the sustainable development goals. The SDG's are universal and ambitious, and to meet them, we need to recognize their interconnectedness and interdependence.

SDGs one and two are your main focus here, and are important goals in themselves. But they are even more important as a piece of a larger puzzle; as a foundation for achieving other goals, like SDG 3: good health and wellbeing, and 16: ensuring peaceful and inclusive societies.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

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As Executive Director Beasley highlighted, food insecurity and conflict frequently co-exist and one often feeds on the other. While poor access to food can prompt or increase tensions, conflict almost always intensifies food insecurity.

The 2017 Global Food Crisis Report notes that last year alone, conflict and insecurity left more than 63 million people across 13 countries severely food insecure.

And a 2008 study by Pinstруп-Andersen found that post-conflict settings with high levels of food insecurity are 40% more likely to relapse into conflict within ten years than those with low levels.

As the Secretary-General indicated in his video message, climate change further complicates this picture, putting fragile food systems at risk around the world.

The pursuit of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement are the United Nations' overarching objectives for the coming years and the motivation for reform efforts. The Secretary-General's vision on prevention responds to the need to frontload action at earlier stages to prevent crises that undermine the basis for sustainable development from erupting, recurring or escalating.

Meeting the SDGs and operationalizing the prevention vision will require better collaboration across UN pillars to enhance operations that bridge humanitarian and development programming, while making meaningful linkages to peace activities.

In the situations of concern for us, challenges of development, of humanitarian need, and of context are often inextricably linked. To respond effectively, we need a better joined up approach across the UN system.

The Secretary-General's first report on repositioning of the development system puts forward 38 initial ideas and proposals, offering a roadmap for change and improvement of country-level UN delivery. Consultation with Member States and all UN entities will continue through the end of the year to elaborate on these ideas and create concrete proposals for institutional change.

The Committee on World Food Security is the foremost inclusive platform for all stakeholders to work together towards achieving global food security and nutrition. As you reflect this week on how best to reach these objectives, I suggest you consider how these efforts fit within a wider set of actions to prevent conflict, reduce exclusion and promote the 2030 Agenda.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

I cannot conclude without expressing my admiration to FAO on its excellent work around the world. I have seen first-hand in my recent duty stations in Central African Republic and Colombia how FAO projects address food security, build livelihoods and address exclusion, often in extremely isolated and conflict affected areas.

Its brave and dedicated field staff deserve your support as well as that of the UN system as a whole.

Thank you.