



# FAO's Collaboration with Parliamentary Networks

Engaging with parliamentarians to promote food security and nutrition and sustainable agrifood systems

## Background

Parliamentary action to tackle hunger and malnutrition is more necessary than ever in a world in which between 691 and 783 million people faced hunger in 2022 (SOFI 2023), numbers which are on the rise in part as a consequence of the recent crises global food systems have been facing.

The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the essential role of parliaments through the enactment of legislation, allocation and adoption of budgets and their role in ensuring accountability for the effective implementation of global commitments.

Parliamentary networks are key stakeholders for agrifood systems transformation, uniquely positioned to make positive impacts on legislative agendas.

Parliamentary action is critical to securing the right to adequate food and transforming food systems that deliver healthy diets for all. Food security and nutrition indicators tend to show significant improvement when there is strong political will informing public policies and programmes anchored in legislation.

## Impact areas

FAO's parliamentary work primarily contributes to:



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**“Parliamentarians, as representatives of millions of citizens, have the huge responsibility of promoting and designing laws which guide decisions and strengthen policies promoting a safe environment for people, guaranteeing their right to food and sustainable and inclusive production systems”.**

*From a message on behalf of QU Dongyu, FAO Director-General, Second Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition (June 2023)*

## Partners

FAO, through its **Partnerships and UN Collaboration Division**, seeks partnership and closer collaboration with parliamentarians, considering these relationships as key to its work on meeting mutual commitments on food and nutrition security, including the right to adequate food. Political commitment and major alliances with key stakeholders are crucial, and partnerships are at the heart of FAO's mission to help build consensus for a world without hunger.

FAO's work with parliamentarians has led to increased partnerships in different regions, such as with the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), the European Commission and others.

## Why does FAO work with parliamentarians?

Parliamentarians, through their regional, sub-regional, national, and local networks, can do much to ensure that food security and adequate nutrition for all is a priority in national political agendas.

This includes supporting policy adoption, establishing appropriate legislative and regulatory frameworks, raising awareness, promoting dialogue between relevant stakeholders, allocating resources for the implementation of policies and programmes, and fostering policy coordination and coherence across sectors and agencies involved in the fight against hunger and malnutrition.

## Ways of working

In line with the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-2031, which seeks to support the 2030 Agenda through the transformation to MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems, FAO continues to widen and deepen its collaboration with parliamentarians through:

- Engagement and outreach, including advocacy activities with parliamentarians, promoting the establishment of new networks and organizing events.
- Capacity development, including sessions involving parliamentarians and parliamentary assistants, ensuring a gender-based approach and agroecological solutions.
- Coordination and policy support, including assistance and intermediation in the process of design, and formulation of policies and legislation.
- Partnership facilitation, including the signature of partnerships and cooperation agreements.



**Ensuring food security is principally achieved through policies and programmes anchored in legislation**

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## Results and initiatives

FAO and parliamentarians are working together towards mutual commitments on food security and nutrition, including the right to adequate food. Some examples of recent results and initiatives are:

- More than 50 parliamentary networks have been established in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean.
- More than 80 laws on Food Security and Nutrition have been promoted at regional, subregional and national level.
- A series of policy dialogues and capacity development sessions involving parliamentarians and parliamentary assistants at regional and national level have been organized, focusing on family farming, responsible investments in agriculture, gender equality, women's empowerment in food systems, and agroecology, among others.
- Global knowledge tools (such as eLearning courses, legal briefs, informative books).
- High-level events, such as Virtual Parliamentary Dialogues on Food Security and Nutrition during Covid-19, the first Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition in 2018 and the second Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition in 2023, which resulted with the approval of the first Global Parliamentary Pact against Hunger and Malnutrition.

## The Global Parliamentary Pact against Hunger and Malnutrition, 2023

The Pact represents a historic milestone in the fight to end hunger and achieve food security for all, as the first global parliamentary pact on the progressive realization of the right to adequate food and the transformation of agrifood systems. Among its points, the Pact commits to:

1. Contribute to building agrifood systems that are sustainable, inclusive, equitable, resilient and conducive to the realization of the right to adequate food of all people.
2. Measure progress of actions taken by reporting on efforts.
3. Request the Committee on World Food Security to establish a mechanism for the representation of parliamentarians committed to the fight against hunger and malnutrition.
4. Request FAO to assist further development of technical ways to support the implementation of the Pact.
5. Call on international partners, institutions and donors to mobilize resources and support the efforts for the implementation of the Pact.
6. Request FAO to convene the International Organizing Committee of the second Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition to hold a third Global Parliamentary Summit, by no later than 2026, in Africa.



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Contact: [psp-parliamentary@fao.org](mailto:psp-parliamentary@fao.org)