



COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

Forty-eighth (Special) Session
"Making a Difference in Food Security and Nutrition"

4 June 2021

**STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WFP OR HIS
REPRESENTATIVE**

Excellencies,
Friends,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to join CFS 48 on behalf of the WFP Executive Director, who regrettably could not attend himself.

First, I would like to congratulate His Excellency Yaya Olaniran for his excellent leadership in guiding the Committee to a successful conclusion of the negotiations on the CFS Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches.

As the previous speakers have conveyed, joint support to the CFS is one of the shared priorities among the three RBAs and a visible manifestation of successful RBA collaboration.

Innovation and food security

Here at the World Food Programme, we believe that we must innovate and embrace new technologies to achieve Zero Hunger by 2030.

Innovation has been a part of the WFP's DNA since the first airlift in 1962 which started a legacy of developing new technologies and approaches to provide humanitarian assistance to those in urgent need.

With innovation and technology, WFP speeds up emergency response, scales up assistance and brings empowerment and choice to the lives of people in need.

WFP also leverages unprecedented advances in digital innovation – such as mobile technology, artificial intelligence, and blockchain – to transform the way it serves vulnerable communities across the world.

The WFP Innovation Accelerator was launched in 2015 to source and test new ideas and scale promising innovations to disrupt hunger.

Innovation is something we nurture in each of our teams everywhere in the world.

Let me give you some concrete examples of our innovations

On Emergencies: WFP's **HungerMap LIVE** uses big data, artificial intelligence, and predictive analytics to monitor and visualize the severity and scope of hunger in the world's most vulnerable countries.

On Cash-Based Transfers: WFP's **Building Blocks** project is leveraging blockchain to transfer cash faster, cheaper, and more securely to more than 1 million people in Bangladesh and Jordan.

On Innovative Financing: **ShareTheMeal** is WFP's fundraising app, engaging over 4.6 million smartphone users to donate over 100 million meals with a simple tap of their phones.

While many of you will know that WFP was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2020, you may not know that in 2021 we were awarded the Franz Edelman Award for Achievement in Advanced Analytics, Operations Research and Management Science.

This is the world's biggest competition when it comes to analytics and optimization, and among the other finalists were companies such as Alibaba or Lenovo

The award shows that we in the UN can do amazing things that allow us to serve people better.

Food Systems Summit

All these innovations will have an opportunity to grow momentum when the world gather together at the Food System Summit this September.

WFP has the opportunity to support a global rethink on the efficacy and efficiency of food systems and take many of the ideas forward through its programmes.

WFP is committed to the humanitarian, development, peace nexus in its approach to food systems, and advocates for a more in depth understanding of the underlying linkages between food systems' resilience and conflict.

Fragility and conflict risk hindering development gains and limit opportunities for women, children, youth, and the most vulnerable and poor.

In conflict-affected countries, where agriculture and trade are disrupted, food systems are often broken or dysfunctional.

60 percent of the nearly 700 million hungry in the world living in countries affected by conflict.

WFP is working closely with the other RBAs to ensure alignment of our work, build on our synergies and strengths; and, where possible, jointly support the Country Level Dialogues by working together with governments and Resident Coordinators.

Excellencies,
Friends,
Ladies and gentlemen,

The CFS Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches, and the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition will provide valuable inputs to the Food Systems Summit discussions and any follow-up process.

The CFS debates are critical to advance the food security and nutrition agenda, and you have a vital role to play in rallying the support and resources needed to end poverty and hunger by 2030.

Thank you all for the vital role you play.