



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 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WFP

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

The 51st Session of the Committee on World Food Security is meeting in exceptional times.

Hunger is surging in many parts of the world, fuelled by conflict and instability, Covid's aftershocks, and the climate crisis. Operating costs for humanitarian agencies are also soaring.

But just as needs are at record levels, funding for vital humanitarian and development programs is drying up.

At the World Food Programme, we face a funding shortfall of 60% - the highest ever in our history. And this is happening right across the UN system and beyond.

Excellencies, we have a choice to make. Act now, to save lives, and invest in tackling the causes of hunger. Or see rising levels of food insecurity, instability and mass migration.

Now is the time for all of us to step up, not step back.

The Committee can, and must, play a vital role in mobilizing a coordinated response to this global humanitarian crisis.

And that is why supporting your work is a shared priority for all three Rome-Based Agencies.

Documents can be consulted at www.fao.org

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No one can do this alone. The challenge is just too great.

But in a polarized world, food can be a unifying force for good.

So let's all work together - governments, the private sector, civil society, and the science community – to find the creative solutions needed to end hunger.

With partnership and collaboration, we can - and we will - support the world's hungry people, and help them build a better future.

Thank you.