



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Ending hunger and malnutrition

FAO COLLABORATION WITH PARLIAMENTARIANS ON FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY

INTRODUCTION

Foremost amongst the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the eradication of poverty, achieving zero hunger, good health and well-being. The Rome Declaration on Nutrition and Framework for Action also prioritizes the eradication and prevention of hunger and poverty in all its forms. These global commitments are necessary, since despite the progress made, over 790 million people still suffer from hunger and high levels of malnutrition continue to persist.

Eradicating hunger and malnutrition is therefore at the center of FAO's efforts. In order to achieve this, all stakeholders must be involved. This includes Parliamentarians and non-State actors such as Civil Society and the Private Sector.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PARLIAMENTARIAN ALLIANCES IN ENDING HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION

Evidence has shown that the improvement in food and nutrition security is principally due to policies, programs and frameworks that are anchored in legislation.



Parliamentarians are fundamental custodians of political commitments on food security and nutrition; therefore critical partners in achieving food and nutrition security.

FAO, through its Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development Division (OPC), seeks partnerships and closer collaboration with Parliamentarians, as we work towards meeting our mutual commitments on food and nutrition security, including the right to adequate food. Parliamentarians' efforts are key to placing these issues at the highest level of the policy and legislative agendas.



We reaffirm that everyone has a right to adequate, safe, sufficient, and nutritious food and to freedom from hunger, and we acknowledge the need for specific constitutional and legislative provisions to ensure the enjoyment of those rights.

(Extract from the Statement by Parliamentarians who met on the occasion of the 2nd International Conference on Nutrition, Nov. 2014)

EXAMPLES OF ONGOING COLLABORATION WITH PARLIAMENTARIANS

Parliamentary Front Against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean (PFH LAC)

Established in 2009, the Parliamentary Front against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean (PFH LAC) is a multi-partisan platform that brings together legislators from Parliaments in the LAC region, principally aimed at strengthening the legislative and institutional frameworks in the Parliaments of the region to facilitate the effective realization of the right to adequate food. Since the establishment of the PFH LAC, 4 framework laws have been produced as guides to countries and more than 20 laws relating to food and nutrition security have been enacted nationally. These measures have contributed, in part, to the LAC region leading the world in poverty reduction.

Members of the European Parliament

Engagement between FAO and Members of the European Parliament has resulted in the decision of several MEPs to establish an alliance to discuss issues related to the fight against hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. Their first meeting was held on April 26th, 2016.

The Pan African Parliament

Parliamentarians from the 250-member Pan African Parliament (PAP) has decided to establish the Pan African Alliance for Food and Nutrition Security by the end of 2016. At the request of the PAP, FAO will facilitate this process, including through South-South cooperation with Parliamentarians from the PFH LAC sharing their experiences with their African counterparts. FAO will also work with the PAP at the sub-regional and national levels.

THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION

Parliamentarians are best placed to position the issue of food and nutrition security at the highest level of the political and legislative agenda, given their legislative, budgetary and oversight responsibilities, among others. For instance, Parliamentarians can:

- ▶ **Promote and/or enact as appropriate**, legislative and other measures, to address specific issues relating to food and nutrition security
- ▶ **Raise awareness** on the aforementioned issues, including with their constituencies.
- ▶ **Provide a dedicated space** for dialogue, discussion and exchange of views on issues relating to food security amongst themselves.
- ▶ **Dialogue and share experiences** with other Parliamentarians and Parliamentary bodies around the world.

They can do so using nationally appropriate mechanisms, including existing ones such as Standing Parliamentary Committees, Special Select Committees or the establishment of a Parliamentary Alliance/Front/Network. The selected mechanism can serve as the Parliamentary focal point on food and nutrition security.



Improving nutrition requires a collective effort. It requires well-designed laws that improve food systems, ensure healthy diets and strengthen school meals. It also requires adequate public budgets and it calls for strong legal frameworks that consolidate advances and allow us to press ahead.

José Graziano da Silva, FAO Director-General
(Source: FAO, 2014)

FAO'S CONTINUED COLLABORATION WITH PARLIAMENTARIANS

FAO will continue to widen and deepen its collaboration with Parliamentarians to end hunger and malnutrition. This will be done using the Parliamentary mechanisms identified at the regional and national levels and according to the priorities identified by the respective region/country. FAO will continue to:

- ▶ **Facilitate the sharing** of information such as good practices on legal frameworks and public policies, among others;
- ▶ **Provide support** to Members of Parliament on the development of legislation and public policies.
- ▶ **Provide technical information**, including statistics, on relevant issues of food security to support the measures taken by the respective Parliamentary body;
- ▶ **Provide capacity building** for Parliamentarians on key issues of food and nutrition security
- ▶ **Facilitate linkages** amongst Parliamentarians and Parliamentary bodies through exchanges (e.g. South-South cooperation) as required. ■