

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Plenary address of FAO Director-General at the Post-2015 Summit

UN Headquarters, New York

25-27 September 2015

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. I would like to start by congratulating you all for adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
2. We have given ourselves an enormous task, that begins with the historic commitment of not only reducing but also eradicating poverty, hunger and malnutrition in a sustainable way.
3. The new agenda clearly recognizes the centrality of food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture in SDG Number Two.
4. Let me add that from the point of view of FAO, The full range of Sustainable Development Goals cannot be achieved without rapid progress in reducing and eliminating hunger and malnutrition by 2030.
5. Let me emphasize that when we speak of a sustainable world it means that we cannot leave anyone behind.
6. We have made progress in the past years, but we still have many challenges ahead.
7. The number of hungry people has dropped by over 200 million since 1990. Seventy-three developing countries, out of the 120 monitored by FAO, have met the Millennium Development Goal hunger target.
8. But there is much more to be done.

9. Nearly 800 million people continue to suffer from chronic hunger. This is unacceptable.
10. We can only rest when we achieve zero hunger. To do so we must invest sustainably and responsibly, responding to the needs of the world's poor population, and promoting inclusive growth.
11. Agricultural and rural development are central to this effort, as over 70 percent of the world's poor and food insecure live in rural areas of developing countries.
12. But one third of agricultural land is degraded; 75 percent of crop biodiversity was lost in the last century; and a third of the food produced globally is lost and wasted.
13. So we must recognize that our current production and consumption methods are unsustainable. And we must act to change them.
14. It is clear that we need to build more sustainable agriculture and food systems, that are resilient to stresses and better able to cope with – and respond to – climate change.
15. Let me add that investing in sustainable agriculture is crucial, but still not enough.
16. Ending hunger also needs well-designed social protection systems.
17. The combination of productive support and social protection is the only way to sustainably ensure the food and nutrition security of the world's hungry.
18. The three Rome-based Agencies have estimated the additional investment needed to end hunger: 160 dollars per year per person living in extreme poverty in the next 15 years.
19. This represents only 0.3 percent of the global income in 2014. And it is only a small fraction of the cost that hunger and malnutrition impose on economies, societies and people.

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

20. We have an enormous task ahead of us. But one that we can tackle successfully if we work together.
21. FAO has supported the Post-2015 Development Agenda process.
22. FAO will continue to be part of this effort, supporting governments and working with non-state actors to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals
23. We will support the implementation of the SDGs, including the development of the indicator and monitoring framework, through our governing bodies and other instruments.
24. This is the time to unite our forces to realize the “Future we want”.
25. Thank you for your attention.