

HLPF 2020: Ending hunger and achieving food security
July 7th 2020 | 3:00- 4:00 pm

Remarks by Ambassador Milenko Skoknic
Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations

Thank you very much, Mr. President, for your efforts in conducting this online session on Hunger and Food Security.

Dear colleagues, in order to make our food systems an engine for inclusive growth and contribute to accelerating progress, Chile is working to ensure that all people have timely and permanent access to the food they need (both physically and economically) in quantity and quality to meet their food needs, through the promotion of open and transparent international trade, without arbitrary restrictions.

We are facing a difficult scenario, a global crisis never seen before in the last hundred years. The Covid-19 pandemic will be a challenge that we must face together through a strengthened multilateral system, where the efforts of all actors are integrated and where Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals are at the centre of recovery strategies to systematically address its social, economic and environmental consequences.

The Covid-19 pandemic has affected food supply chains, increasing the risk of food loss and waste in perishable commodities such as fruits and vegetables, fish and milk, due to delays in production and delivery, and labor shortage including from temporary and migrant workers, as well as the need to implement appropriate measures, including biosecurity, to safeguard sufficient, safe, and nutritious food, food security and nutrition.

This pandemic has exposed the great inequalities that exist in societies and threatens to set back such important areas as the fight against hunger, affecting especially the most vulnerable countries. As a result, the number of food-insecure people in the Latin American and Caribbean region is estimated to increase by 20 million.

1. That is why, Chile considers that **it is fundamental to take the necessary measures to protect agricultural supply chains and avoid jeopardizing food security and nutrition, factors that can have a major impact on the social and political stability of States.**

President, the current context demands cooperation and joint work in order to manage the consequences of the pandemic, which is why the multilateral system and its principles are becoming the key factor in dealing with this global crisis.

2. Additionally, it is also essential to adopt public policies that promote sustainable food systems based on healthy diets, paying attention to the sustainability of production and consumption systems.

With this objective in mind, our country has taken the lead in the Executive Committee of the "International Year of Fruits and Vegetables 2021", established last December by the General Assembly, which has three specific objectives:

- To increase awareness of the health and nutritional benefits of fruit and vegetable consumption.
- To promote their sustainable production and consumption, with particular attention to family farming and small-scale farmers, and
- Reduce losses and waste in the supply chains, from production to consumption.
- The production of fruits and vegetables offers opportunities to increase the efficiency of the use of land, water and other farm inputs.