



## High Level Consultation (HLC) on Hunger, Food Security and Nutrition in the Post 2015 Development Framework

Madrid, 4<sup>th</sup> of April 2013

### Joint Chairs and Co-leads Synthesis Report

#### **Our common vision.**

Participants in the HLC called on the world community to commit to a vision of development that guarantees – for all human beings – freedom from want, including their fundamental right to food and a life free from hunger and malnutrition in all their forms, and moderates excess consumption.

Food security and nutrition security for all, achieved through equitable and inclusive governance, contributes to the cross sectoral objectives of durable economic growth, environmental health, social stability and human development.

**Hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition can be ended sustainably by 2025. The eradication of hunger and malnutrition must be definitive and irreversible based on the right of everyone to safe, sufficient, nutritious and affordable food. This vision is achievable. Bold and effective action is urgent and both a moral and political imperative.**

This ambitious vision is holistic and universal in its perspective, is driven by a human rights-based approach, and privileges the needs of the most vulnerable people in all societies. Shaped by emerging challenges and opportunities, it can only be realized if people are empowered to lead full, secure and dignified lives. This requires comprehensive, transformational and structural changes. Food security and optimal nutrition are cornerstones of development: without them humans cannot live, learn, prosper or lead healthy and productive lives, and societies cannot achieve their aspirations for innovation, environmental health, economic growth, and resilience to shocks and disasters. Although achievement of food security and optimal nutrition is enhanced through efforts to eradicate poverty, both outcomes merit attention in their own right as part of a new, universal post -2015 agenda.

#### **Pathway to achieving the vision.**

The challenges for food security and nutrition are complex and multidimensional (including cultural and spiritual aspects) with a range of underlying causes. There is no one-size-fits-all-solution, so the building blocks for change are cross sectoral, complementary and synergistic.

**Sustainable and resilient food production and consumption** require access to better quality, diverse and nutritious diets, local availability of food, efficient food distribution systems, and reduced waste and loss. To feed a growing population in the face of climate change, globalization, price volatility, and urbanization, more resilient, knowledge-based and sustainable intensification of agricultural production, better infrastructure, more functional and connected markets, and judicious management of food price volatility, speculation and risk are needed. To be sustainable and resilient, this can only be achieved through more efficient use of water, energy, labour, land and stewardship of the global commons and ecosystems (e.g. soils, land, air, oceans, forests, biodiversity). Rural development, more and better rural and urban employment along the food chain, territorial approaches, and enhanced rural-urban linkages are also linchpins for poverty eradication and sustainable livelihoods and development trajectories. Social protection floors, food assistance and safety nets are critical enabling conditions in all countries.

**Good nutrition for all.** Overcoming the dual challenges of under- and imbalanced nutrition (eg due to

over the lifecycle, especially for women of reproductive age and children. Access to safe drinking water, hygiene and sanitation, and nutrition education are key to good nutrition. Through this, the elimination of stunting in children under 2 years, a marker of society's development and equity, is within our reach.

Agents of transformation. At the centre of this vision, the critical agents of change are women and men small producers and their organizations, family farmers, fishers, livestock keepers, forest users, workers, entrepreneurs, and indigenous peoples, as well as consumers at all levels. The future of farming, rural livelihoods, and global food security also depends on creating opportunities and incentives for young people.

Catalytic steps include investments that are directed towards small producers, sensitive to their needs, and innovation based. These investments should furthermore

- promote gender equality and the empowerment and education of women as multipliers of wellbeing;
- guarantee access and control by small producers and family farmers to financial and productive resources (e.g. soils, seeds, land, livestock, water, and fish stocks) which are sufficiently protected and secure;
- enhance their access to markets, means for value addition, business opportunities, and critical knowledge, extension and information services and offer new models of doing business that empower them.

### **Making sure the vision is realised.**

A new brand of enlightened, principled partnerships is needed, with shared responsibility for prioritized actions towards achieving food and nutrition security as a total concept:

- in which small producers and their organizations, citizens and social movements participate themselves, have a voice and are listened to throughout the process; particular attention should be paid to vulnerable groups;
- in which Governments, first and foremost, own the development goals and act as guarantors of rights and fair rules of the game for all actors. They must be politically committed and demonstrate leadership. They must also coordinate across ministries, create incentives for change and ensure an enabling environment for responsible public and private investments (including responsible budget allocations), good governance, and the provision of public goods.
- in which private sector engages and invests more and more responsibly (in agriculture, rural development and along the value chain) and is accountable for impacts on the environment, rights, labour, and corruption;
- in which consumers articulate the economic, environmental and social values they hold through their consumption practices, in ways that shape a more sustainable system of food production and consumption; and,
- and in which UN partners come together themselves across sectors and mandates, and bring all stakeholders together.

Stakeholders will fall in more than one of these categories, emphasizing thus the need for integrated approaches and cross-cutting responsibilities. At all levels, priority should be placed on fostering well-being and equality between rural and urban populations, within and between countries, and across generations. To deliver on this, transparent governance with multi-stakeholder participation is instrumental, for which governments need to create space and tailored platforms. At the global level, efforts should be made to build on and enforce existing negotiated frameworks, with the Committee on World Food Security as the foremost inclusive multistakeholder platform for food security and nutrition security.

New partnerships will need to be founded on coherent, lasting and balanced policies, legislation, and institutions at local, national, regional, and global level. Improved data and evidence, along with

capacity development for better monitoring, review, and assessment, are good for policy development and also support compliance and mutual accountability by all actors in both developed and developing countries. Planning and implementation will require joined-up approaches, increased and more responsible investment, and exchange of and access to all kinds of technology, good practice, research, innovation and knowledge, including from indigenous and traditional sources. Learning lessons and learning by doing, from both good and bad experience, will be critical to getting it right this time.

Increased finance and resources for food security and nutrition is a prerequisite for progress in achieving this vision. Adequate and predictable financial flows from all sources, including innovative financing mechanisms, will be needed at all levels to ensure effective implementation of this new agenda.

For this ambitious agenda to be achieved, it is recognized that particularly at the regional and global levels, efforts are still needed to bring greater convergence on some areas which remain unresolved, such as trade, subsidies, and biofuels.

### **Call to Action**

The cost of inaction is too great for this agenda to be ignored. Investing in the future demands urgent and decisive action now. Although we cannot resolve everything today, today offers a unique window of opportunity to plant a seed for the roots of a new future to grow and flourish. Today we commit to this new vision and pledge to transform political will into action around a global goal on food and nutrition security for all. Make no mistake --this constitutes a radical shift of direction from business-as-usual to “business un-usual”, from charity to inalienable and universal rights for a food and nutrition secure future for all. THAT is the World We Want.