



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Statement by Mr José Graziano da Silva,
FAO Director-General

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Plenary Session

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WHS Plenary (afternoon session)

Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. The scale of the humanitarian challenges we face is tremendous, and there will be many more to come.
2. These are not only humanitarian crises.
3. They are also crises of development and, as such, cannot be solved by humanitarian action alone.
4. An approach that combines the joint efforts of the development and humanitarian communities is critical.
5. It must rely on a genuine commitment to build and sustain the conditions for peace, security and respect for human rights.

6. This does not mean that humanitarian action should be absorbed into a broader development and resilience agenda.
7. Shocking violations of humanitarian principles, human rights, refugee rights and international humanitarian law are occurring on a daily basis. The basic human right to food is violated every day.
8. So we need independent and impartial humanitarian assistance to save lives and livelihoods and protect those who have their rights denied.
9. There is no substitute for the primacy of political solutions to prevent and resolve conflicts, for States to uphold their responsibilities and obligations, and for transgressors to be held to account.
10. Food and nutrition insecurity, sustainable development, addressing humanitarian crises, conflict resolution and peace building: these are different facets of the same challenge.
11. To move beyond business as usual, we need to broaden the scope of interventions – complementing and supporting, not replacing – humanitarian response.
12. We need to prioritize investments in prevention and resilience, precisely so that we can help reduce future humanitarian needs.

13. For decades FAO has worked in, and across, both the humanitarian and development spheres in order to save lives...
 - ...to protect and restore livelihoods;
 - ...to reduce food insecurity, rural poverty and malnutrition;
 - ...to strengthen resilience, and
 - ... to reduce poverty and build sustainable food and agricultural systems.
14. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls for an end – not only a reduction - to extreme poverty, hunger and all forms of malnutrition.
15. It also calls for an integrated approach that recognizes the links between sustainable agriculture, rural poverty and biodiversity.
16. FAO has laid out its commitments to further this work in its Position Paper for the World Humanitarian Summit
17. Let me highlight some key commitments that FAO is making:
18. **First**, FAO is developing a corporate policy and guidelines on our role in contributing to conflict prevention, sustainable peace and stability.

19. **Second**, FAO will scale up its work on social protection and cash transfer programmes, linking them to agriculture and rural development.
20. FAO recognizes that scaling-up cash-based programming and [risk-informed and shock-responsive] social protection systems are a strategic priority – both in leaving no one behind and moving from delivering aid to ending need.
21. In times of crisis, whenever markets can respond to an increase in demand, cash transfers are a flexible and cost-effective instrument to address the most pressing needs of affected populations.
22. With social protection, the hungry are no longer a mere statistic. They become individuals, with registered names and addresses.
23. They become empowered to escape hunger through their own efforts, and thus lead dignified and productive lives.
24. **[Third]** As I recalled this morning in the Round Table on managing risks and crisis differently, climate change is already causing droughts and floods with increased frequency and intensity.
25. Hunger and climate change must be addressed hand-in-hand.

26. FAO commits to scaling-up its engagement in promoting the food security/climate change adaptation nexus.
27. [Fourth] Together with key partners, FAO commits to working towards an integrated framework for protracted crises that supports greater alignment among humanitarian, development, peace and human rights actors.
28. This means increase investments and also incorporate various and innovative sources of financing to end the vicious cycle of protracted crisis.

Ladies and gentlemen,

29. In adopting the Sustainable Development Goals, the world recognized that our ability to succeed tomorrow depends on the choices we make today.
Tomorrow is today.
30. And here, at this Summit, we recognise the same thing.
31. There will not be a prosperous and peaceful society with the levels of hunger, instability and inequality we see today.
32. This is the time to embrace change.

Thank you.