



Addis Ababa Call to Action for **A World Without Hunger**

World Without Hunger Conference
5-7 November 2024, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

PREAMBLE

The development community has not delivered on the goal it set in 2015 to eradicate hunger by 2030: as it stands now, **582 million people will still be affected by hunger in 2030** – only a slight decrease from the **733 million** who face hunger today. The trends of promising decline in undernourishment ended around 2015. Starting in 2020, the world has experienced major food security disruptions, leading to what can be described as "**lost years**" in the pursuit of SDG 2, with further negative consequences towards the achievement of other related SDGs.

Recent global challenges have added to underlying structural challenges faced by least-developed countries (LDCs). **Global economic shocks and downturns** make countries dependent on food imports particularly susceptible to global price fluctuations. **Conflicts** have disrupted supply chains and led to increased energy and food prices, affecting countries and regions reliant on importing food, energy and agricultural inputs. **Climate change** has significantly impacted food production and availability, especially in regions that lack the necessary infrastructure such as irrigation and storage.

With the world population expected to surpass 10 billion by 2050, the demand for food, energy and water supply is expected to grow significantly. Without rapidly increasing agricultural productivity levels, so will the amount of land needed to grow food. The transformation pathways of the three systems are deeply interconnected. Agri-food systems are the largest consumer of freshwater resources, use about 30% of the world's energy and are responsible for one-quarter of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The food, energy and water nexus is adversely impacted by climate change, exacerbating existing social, economic and environmental challenges, particularly in vulnerable LDCs, landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS).

Persistent poverty and income inequality are another driver increasing number of people facing hunger worldwide. But while millions endure hunger and are uncertain about their next meal, one-third of the food produced for human consumption globally is lost or wasted, presenting a significant challenge to sustainability. These losses amounting to about 1.3 billion tons per year, valued at approximately US\$ 1 trillion occur at post-harvest level, largely due to a lack of knowledge and technology. This staggering loss, if eliminated across the value chain, could



provide enough sustenance to feed 2 billion people, more than double the number of undernourished individuals worldwide.

In recent years, several global events have been organized addressing global food security. The World Without Hunger Conference (WWH) serves as an action-oriented platform for stakeholders to exchange ideas and experiences to take the first steps towards solutions for the transformation of our food systems.

RECOMMENDATIONS

WE, participants of the World Without Hunger Conference, gathered in Addis Ababa on November 5-7 November 2024 to discuss and agree on concrete actions to advance progress in the global fight against hunger, with a particular focus on the African Continent, to accelerate progress towards the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals;

WE, representing Government and Intergovernmental Organizations, United Nations agencies, Academia and Research Institutions, Professional and Private Sector Organizations and International Financial Institutions and Civil Society Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations, consisting collectively of partners and stakeholders of food security, sustainable food systems transformation and agro-industrialization, express our deep sense of urgency to find and finance innovative solutions to address the intolerable regression in several SDGs, including Goals 1, 2 and 9;

WE, touched by the warm hospitality accorded to the delegations by the Government and People of Ethiopia and thankful for convening this important and timely conference, acknowledge the leadership of H.E. Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of the Republic of Ethiopia; Mr. Gerd Müller, Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization; and H.E. Mr. Moussa Faki, Chairperson of the African Union Commission;

CONCERNED that lagging investments in recent years have caused a widening financing gap of USD 540 billion dollars to end hunger by 2030 and that the cost of inaction is growingly clear, yet without triggering the required paradigm shift by investors, policymakers and the international community;

RECOGNIZING that investing in agro-industrialization and the structural transformation of the agricultural and industrial sectors towards greater value addition and income generation is pivotal to unlocking sustainable agricultural practices and building resilient food systems;

CONCERNED that while millions endure hunger, one-third of the food produced for human consumption globally is lost or wasted, presenting a significant challenge to food security and sustainability;

CONCERNED that today still 685 million people and agri-businesses in the Global South lack access to electricity for productive uses and 2.3 billion people have no access to clean cooking facilities relying on traditional biomass or other polluting fuels causing 3.7 million premature deaths of particularly women and children through indoor pollution;



AGREEING that achieving SDG2 and many of the 17 interlinked SDGs cannot be achieved without strong collaboration with industry;

UNDERSTANDING that support to food systems and interlinked industrial sectors depends on strong political will and commitment of governments, development partners, and the private sector and the scaling up of highly impactful approaches;

WELCOMING the launch of G20 Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty, which seeks to raise resources and knowledge for implementation of public policies, social protection schemes and other measures that are proven to be effective in reducing hunger and poverty around the world;

ACKNOWLEDGING the efforts of governments, development partners and the private sector around the world to combat hunger and the need for innovative financing models;

RECOGNIZING that gender disparities and inequality mean that women face disproportionate disadvantages in agrifood systems that limit their productivity and economic opportunities and that there are persistent gender gaps in access to critical resources like land, livestock, technology, financial services, and agricultural inputs;

CALL on governments, development partners, the United Nations, the private sector, International Financial Institutions and other relevant decision-makers and stakeholders to:

1. **Mobilize greater political support and action** for an enabling environment to facilitate investments in knowledge, capacities, infrastructure and technology to transform food systems towards more value-adding, resilient, sustainable and inclusive production patterns, and promote **national ownership and leadership** to implement strategies to address food insecurity, including by mobilizing domestic governments and investors, taking into account national circumstances.
2. **Increase and target investments** in food systems transformation by **coupling improvements in farm productivity and infrastructure, with value addition and income generation through agrifood-processing distribution and retail**, providing key employment opportunities by adding value to agricultural products.
3. **Increase investment to build and maintain infrastructure for irrigation, electricity, rural roads, cold chain and storage** to reduce post-harvest losses. Improved transportation infrastructure allows producers to better connect with growing domestic urban, regional and international markets.
4. **Strengthen knowledge and skills** of food systems actors in developing countries, including gender-based skills development, by facilitating access to relevant information and vocational



training opportunities, with a view to supporting integrated approaches and value chain development.

5. **Expand access to technology** along the agri-food value chain, including to micro-, small- and medium-enterprises (MSMEs), through **improved trade and competition** policies, **regional integration**, **technology transfer** mechanisms, as appropriate, as well as through **strengthening innovation ecosystems** in developing countries in food system contexts, including to facilitate the adoption and the local development of advanced manufacturing technologies, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), and digital applications in rural-urban areas.
6. **Improve access to blended finance, especially for small-scale producers and agrifood SMEs**, acknowledging that one of the biggest challenges in the agrifood sector LDCs is access to finance, particularly for the ‘missing middle’, and that access to finance is essential to make all the other interventions possible.
7. **Call for a global investment program** in renewable energy and clean cooking solutions in the agri-food sector in LDCs. Clean mini-grids, agrivoltaics, stand-alone systems and efficient appliances for irrigation, processing, drying, cooling and transport can simultaneously contribute to food security, climate resilience and decarbonisation of the agri-food industry.
8. **Advocate for harmonised regional technology markets** to accelerate the roll-out of clean energy solutions in the agri-food industry by endorsing the declaration “Clean Energy Without Borders for a World Without Hunger” issued by the centres of the Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres (GN-SEC) in Africa, Asia-Pacific and Caribbean in coordination with UNIDO. Small fragmented national markets, trade barriers and lack of harmonised standards continue to hinder equal access to cleantech solutions for all.
9. **Raise awareness for and availability of affordable solutions for the adoption of science-based approaches, cutting edge technologies and - practices in agri-food systems**, and provide clear and viable strategies for the green transformation of food value chains and **sustainable and resilient agro-industrialization**.
10. **Address the vicious cycle of hunger and poverty** by adopting appropriate measures of policies and instruments to promote **income generating measures** through **local value addition** and thriving **entrepreneurship**, as well as **social inclusion and protection schemes**, including for women, youth and vulnerable groups, based on both market and non-market approaches.
11. Develop and adopt **integrated, well sequenced and properly financed multistakeholder approaches**, in alignment and coordination across different but interrelated policy areas,



including agriculture, trade, environmental, social and industrial policies, and strengthen policymakers' capacities for -coherent agro-industrial policies and their implementation.

12. Ensure the optimization of persistently scarce resources to support agri-food development and transformation, **building on existing multilateral efforts** to ensure coherent and transformational approaches to fighting hunger, including by **joining the G20 Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty**.
13. **Galvanize action from the private sector** to drive agro-industrialization and food systems transformation and **endorse action-oriented initiatives** aimed at innovative solutions such as **UNIDO's "A World without hunger is possible!" initiative**, and request UNIDO to fully develop such a mechanism in consultation and collaboration with partners.