

Statement by CFS Chair

Your Excellency Rigobert Maboundou, Chair of the Conference
Director General, Jose Graziano da Silva
The Independent Chair of FAO Council, Luc Guyau,
Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen.

As Chair of the Committee of World Food Security, I'm very pleased to talk to you today about the progress made by the reformed CFS over the past two years and how this relates to this Regional Conference. In this regard I invite you to refer to the following documents ARC/12/4, ARC/12/INF/6, ARC/12/INF/15 and CFS/2011/7.

CFS continues to work towards fulfilling its goal of being the foremost inclusive platform for different stakeholders to work together to ensure food security and nutrition for all. Africa is well represented on the CFS Bureau by Zimbabwe and Angola as well as being the current Chair of CFS. There are many challenges facing us such as food price volatility, the impact of climate change and the need for environmentally sustainable production. New issues will undoubtedly emerge so it's important that the CFS multi-stakeholder model continues to improve its effectiveness and influence.

The High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition contributed its first two reports on "Land Tenure and International Investments in Agriculture" and "Price Volatility and Food Security" which served as background documents for policy round tables during CFS 37 in 2011. Two further studies are currently being prepared for the October 2012 session. One is on "Social Protection and Food Security" and the other on "Climate Change and Food Security".

CFS has been very active during the intersessional period as well. These are some of the key activities underway:

1. **The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the context of National Food Security**, known as the VG GT. The final round of negotiations were concluded successfully and there will be a special session of CFS on May 11th to endorse them. The guidelines are intended to provide guidance to improving the governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests with the goal of achieving food security for all.
2. Another major undertaking has been the development of a **Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF)**. The purpose of the GSF is to improve coordination and guide synchronized action in support of global, regional and country-led actions.
3. CFS 37 called for a **High-Level Experts Forum on Addressing Food Insecurity in Protracted Crises**. The objective is to provide an open space for consultation and policy dialogue to increase understanding and strengthen collaborative efforts to deal with food security and nutrition in protracted crises. The HLEF is scheduled to be held in mid-September 2012 with a view to producing an "Agenda for Action for Food Security in Countries in Protracted Crises" for consideration by CFS.
4. Another activity is **Mapping Food Security And Nutrition Actions at Country Level**. The importance and relevance of mapping actions has been noted, and it was recommended that governments from the region be invited to discuss and share their experiences during the Regional Conferences.

CFS 37 in October 2011 recommended that the Global Strategic Framework and Mapping Food Security and Nutrition Actions at Country Level be discussed at the FAO Regional Conferences this year. Accordingly, these items were discussed in a multi-stakeholder session during the senior officers segment and at a side event which included case studies from Sierra Leone and Madagascar. The major outcomes of these discussions could be considered as concrete recommendations from this Region.

There was broad support for the preparation of the GSF and the specific comments received will be taken into account when preparing the First Version.

Regarding Mapping, one of the outcomes was the recognition of the importance and relevance of mapping actions in order to strengthen coordination and alignment in support of national and regional strategies and policies. One recommendation to consider might be to invite national governments or regional bodies to present case studies regarding their experiences and lessons at the 28th ARC.

In addition to these two activities, CFS has been exploring different ways to enhance linkages with regional food security and nutrition initiatives and to foster their active engagement in CFS. This has included presentations of regional initiatives at CFS Plenary Sessions including CAADP, IGAD, and CILSS as well as a Side Event hosted by the Africa |Regional Group during CFS 37.

I wish to emphasize the importance of expanding and strengthening such exchanges including through a multi-stakeholder mechanism to address food security and nutrition in the Region. I would be glad to hear of progress made with this and would encourage delegates to continue pursuing this goal by considering:

- Ways to strengthen linkages between ARC, other regional food security and nutrition initiatives and CFS, particularly during intersessional periods
- Modalities to include CFS matters as standing agenda items for future ARCs, allowing adequate time for multi-stakeholder forums and side events to ensure that the voices of all stakeholders are heard and
- Ways to monitor progress in implementing key decisions concerning food security and nutrition.

Food security and nutrition for all will be realized only if all stakeholders work together and CFS offers a unique opportunity to make that happen.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the government and people of the Republic of Congo for their generous hospitality in hosting this Conference and to the organizers for their great efforts and support in including the CFS items on the agenda.

Thank you very much.