

Wednesday 12 July – 4:30-6:00PM

Conference Room 4:

**“Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world – approaches for countries in special situations: LDCs and LLDCs. Also including special challenges of MICs”**

**Guiding questions (generic, not just for the Chair):**

1. What actions and policies have proven successful in increasing resilience and addressing the impacts of climate change, natural disasters, conflict and displacement in countries in special circumstances?
2. How are governments working to address the underlying social and economic root causes of distressed migration that can potentially lead to conflict?
3. What technologies, innovations and data collection tools have been effective so far for countries in special situations in monitoring and follow-up to the SDGs?

Further guidance: intervention should be 7 mins max, informal, focused and frank. It should facilitate interaction with other panelists, lead discussions and audience.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

By the current trends, the world is not on track to eradicate poverty and hunger and meet the SDGs by 2030.

The progressive realization of the right to adequate food is an imperative for eliminating poverty, promoting prosperity and achieving success across the rest of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This requires policy coherence and coordination, especially in those least developed countries that are too often and too harshly hit by natural and men-made disasters that pose so many obstacles to progress and development.

It is my view and the view of the Committee on World Food Security that priority should be given to: i) food security and building sustainable food systems; and ii) to rural areas, where the majority of extreme poor and chronically food insecure live.

In the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with its commitment to leaving no-one behind, least developed countries (LDC), landlocked developing

countries (LLDC), Small-island Developing States (SiDS) and Countries in Protracted crises are the most in need of our attention.

If you were asking me what actions and policies should be encouraged because they have proven most successful in increasing resilience and addressing the impacts of climate change, natural disasters, conflict and displacement in countries in special circumstances, my answer is: invest in smallholder agriculture.

Small-scale food producers (including small-scale farmers, artisanal fisher-folks, and pastoralists) play a critical role in both adaptation and mitigation. The likely negative effects of climate change are alarming; however relatively small investments in small-scale agriculture can contribute to emission reduction efforts and enhance the adaptation capacity of small-scale food producers to ensure especially the most vulnerable ones are not too adversely impacted.

Investing in smallholders, be it through social protection, giving them access to better rural services or building rural

infrastructures, will build their livelihood assets and increase the resilience of small-scale producers to shocks and stresses, reducing the impacts of natural disasters on them and their recourse to migration as a coping strategy in times of crises.

Evidence shows that, besides generating higher incomes for them and stimulating broader economic growth, investing in smallholders can produce results on other fronts. It can lead to more diversified production and healthy diets, leading to improved nutrition and health (SDG3); and it can contribute to closing the gender gap in agriculture (SDG5).

Now, I want to say something about countries in protracted crises, as their circumstances deserve special attention.

Protracted crises are often the result of the combination of multiple drivers, including conflict, natural disasters and climate change; often compounded with more structural factors such as inequalities, weak governance, and resource scarcity. Over 50<sup>1</sup> per cent of people living in extreme poverty are living in countries deemed as fragile, vulnerable or in protracted crises;

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<sup>1</sup> Source: A joint FAO/WFP update for the United Nations Security Council (July 2016)

and those people are three times<sup>2</sup> as likely to be undernourished as compared to those living in other developing contexts.

Countries experiencing these circumstances need immediate actions to alleviate hunger and suffering, and medium to long-term actions to build resilience, avoid impoverishment, and address the underlying causes of food insecurity.

This calls for both short- and longer-term interventions (a “twin-track approach”), which combines and integrates humanitarian aid and development assistance, to address poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition and their causes.

CFS, with the leadership and technical support of FAO, IFAD and WFP, developed a Framework for Action for food security and nutrition in protracted crises which provides guidance on the development, implementation and monitoring of policies and actions to improve food security and nutrition in conflicts and protracted crises.

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<sup>2</sup> FAO, State of Food Insecurity Report (SOFI) 2010

With the average length of displacement being 17 years<sup>3</sup>, many live in a state of protracted displacement, or “second exile”, a long chunk of their life. The Framework for Action, for example, calls for understanding the effects of protracted displacement on food security and nutrition and addressing immediate and long-term food security and nutrition needs of IDPs, refugees, as well as host populations, also with the objective of eliminating further possible causes of conflict.

The Framework also focuses on policies and actions to support comprehensive evidence-based analyses of crises; on technologies for strengthening early warning and reducing risks; and on innovative financing mechanisms for countries in protracted crises.

By addressing critical manifestations and building resilience; adapting our interventions to the specific challenges; and contributing to addressing the underlying causes of crises, we can really make a difference!

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<sup>3</sup> Source UNHCR

**One minute last intervention:**

The number of hungry and food insecure people in countries in special situations is so high that alone it represents a major impediment to sustainable development. Eradication of poverty in all its forms will only be possible if we work together to eliminate hunger and malnutrition through commitment to effective policies and by building effective partnerships. It is only through the meaningful participation of those furthest left behind that we can advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and build the World We Want, for ours and all future generations.