

# Partnering for Food Security

September 26, 2009, 4:00-5:30 pm

UN Headquarters

Trusteeship Council Room

## Agenda

### I. Welcome

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon & U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton

### II. Country-Led Plans

#### Speakers

- President Paul Kagame, Rwanda
- Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh
- Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Ivan Lewis, UK

Sustainable approaches to reducing hunger and poverty begin with country-led planning. Country-led plans must be technically sound, reflect domestic investment and political will, and be developed in consultation with key domestic and international stakeholders, including farmers, development partners, private sector, civil society, foundations, and research institutions. All stakeholders should work together to foster an enabling environment for the private sector.

*How do we effectively and quickly advance country-led plans?*

### III. A Comprehensive Approach to Food Security

#### Speakers

- Ambassador Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Brazil
- Minister of State for Overseas Development Peter Power, Ireland

*What are the key elements of a comprehensive approach to food security?*

It is necessary to address the full range of issues that affect hunger and food security, from increasing sustainable agricultural and economic growth to meeting emergency needs and addressing under-nutrition. Markets must be developed and regions integrated economically, while maintaining the natural resource base and drawing on the contributions of small-holder farmers, including women, who are often as much as 70% of rural farmers.

#### **IV. Strategic Coordination of Assistance**

##### **Speakers**

- Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. Cheikh Tidiane Gadio, Republic of Senegal
- Minister for International Development Cooperation Gunilla Carlsson, Sweden

Assistance should be coordinated at the country, regional, and global levels, including through multi-donor partnerships and funds to support country-led plans. Public benchmarks and targets for efficacy, effective monitoring, reporting, and peer review must be developed to better coordinate assistance. All vested stakeholders should participate in ensuring efficiency, effectiveness and accountability, while eliminating duplication and gaps.

*How do we ensure and improve coordination at the country, regional, and global levels?*

#### **V. Strong Role for Multilateral Institutions**

##### **Speakers:**

- Minister for Foreign Affairs Stephen Smith, Australia
- Managing Director Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, World Bank

The United Nations, the World Bank, and other multilateral institutions are central partners in the implementation of this approach to improving food security. They have the capacity and expertise to help develop national and regional projects, as well as the convening power to coordinate the efforts of donor countries.

*How do we leverage the strengths of multilateral institutions to support country-led efforts?*

## VI. Sustained Commitment of Financial Resources

### Speakers:

- Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Pakistan
- European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid Karel de Gucht, European Commission
- Sylvia Mathews Burwell, President of the Global Development Program, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

*How do we hold stakeholders accountable for their commitments?*

Too often, food security efforts have been marked with ad-hoc and short-lived initiatives where donors and countries are not held accountable to the commitments they have made. Indicators that would ensure that efforts are succeeding should be developed. Stakeholders should be held accountable. Multi-year financial resources and technical assistance should be committed, with contributions and progress tracked on an annual basis.

## VII. Next Steps

### Speakers:

- Vincenzo Scotti, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Italy

*How do we move from words to action?*

There is an urgent need to move action forward at the country level to advance this agenda.

**‘Partnership for Food Security’  
Support from the High Level Task Force (HLTF): Building on Experience**

**The L’Aquila Initiative for Food Security focuses on the long-term implementation of urgent actions to tackle hunger and malnutrition, to improve the agricultural productivity of family farmers (especially woman farmers), and to enable small-scale producers to benefit from food processing, marketing and trading systems that respond to their interests.** The initiative, launched in July 2009, identifies food security, safety nets, nutrition and sustainable agriculture as political imperatives to be pursued within an evolving context of supply uncertainties and price volatility. It links food and nutrition security to (a) climate change adaptation and mitigation measures; (b) sustainable natural resource management, including biodiversity protection; (c) responses to the interests of women farmers and their communities; and (d) social protection systems that ensure access to food and nutrients among the most vulnerable. Importantly, the initiative envisages strong multilateral action in support of country-led processes that are driven by national authorities with increased levels of financial assistance that are both sustained and predictable. It calls for effective coordination among all stakeholders. The initiative foresees a strong role for multilateral institutions. This paper indicates how the United Nations and Bretton Woods system can support the application of the L’Aquila principles.

**A comprehensive response is essential in response both to immediate and long term challenges.** Priority must be given to improving access to food and nutrition support for the most vulnerable. This should include well-designed, fiscally sustainable safety nets and investment in food systems and infrastructure that support smallholder production and markets. It should be backed with fair trading systems that respond to the interests of poor people. Recognizing that population growth in the future will almost exclusively be urban in nature, the increasing vulnerability of urban populations to food and nutrition insecurity heightens not only the critical rural-urban linkages, but also the scope of safety nets and social protection systems. The basic food and nutrition needs of women and women-headed households, children and other vulnerable groups must have addressed. Food and nutritional assistance, other social protection measures and humanitarian actions are critical. They mitigate the impact of today’s crises on vulnerable households. To sustain these gains, communities and households must be resilient enough to access the economic and social benefits that derive from other pro-poor initiatives.

**Smallholder farmers produce most of the food consumed in developing countries: they are the engine for growth, poverty reduction and food security.** The volatility in energy and commodity markets and the uncertain timing of global economic recovery add to the production challenges of these farmers. They must be fully engaged in the development dialogue and linked effectively to sources of finance and technology. The must also be linked to markets, including by leveraging food assistance through local purchase, while mitigating any risks incurred by increased productivity and diversified production. Adequate farm, community and rural infrastructure must also be in place to maximise production, support crop drying and storage and facilitate market access.

**The opportunity for momentous change is emerging from the re-engagement of nations on food security issues since early 2008.** Analytical work by a number of international organizations and political leadership by key donors at L’Aquila have changed the landscape for action on food and nutrition security. The world’s attention to its capacity to feed itself beyond 2050 while under threat of climate change, the unacceptable situation in which more than a billion people cannot access and utilize the food they need, and the clear recognition that sustainable development can only be achieved if it is country owned and led, offer a powerful new platform for re-launching commitments to poverty and hunger eradication. In response to this global shift, the HLTF, which itself represents a new and dynamic partnership of UN systems agencies and Bretton Woods institutions, has initiated a programme to improve synergy by strengthening donor-government collaboration and institutional alignment at country level, and by coordinating its advocacy for the increased mobilization and effective allocation of development resources.

**Partnering for Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition at country, regional and global levels is increasingly recognized as the optimum way to move forward.** Urgent action is needed to strengthen and ensure greater coherence and coordination among all stakeholders in the global food system, particularly including the private sector. Within countries, multi-stakeholder partnerships are a vital platform for resilience, confidence building and empowerment. The reform of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) is expected to serve as an inclusive international and inter-governmental platform to help ensure the effectiveness and impact of these multi-faceted partnerships.

**The High Level Task Force (HLTF) works for the coherence of policies, action and the delivery of results amongst UN system agencies, international financial institutions and their partners in support of comprehensive food security strategies that are country-owned and country-driven.** Stronger and better partnerships are fostered, as is advocacy for sustained support to national efforts. During its first year of operation, the HLTF has worked toward the realization of the Comprehensive Framework for Action (CFA) in over 60 countries, while HLTF members – with capacities for standard setting, provision of policy advice and technical support, movement of funds and tracking progress - have committed in excess of USD 2 billion of own funds and mobilized in excess of USD 6 billion to relieve the impact of soaring food prices in over 90 countries. The members of the HLTF contribute to improved donor coordination, aid alignment and harmonization, to ensure predictable, efficient and effective responses at country level. Experience with realizing the CFA provides a basis for lessons learned and guidance. The HLTF is well positioned to support the effective implementation of the L'Aquila initiative within countries, in regional institutions and in global forums.

**National and regional plans, strategies, projects and lessons learned will serve as the base for the identification and planning of activities envisaged in the L'Aquila initiative.** Effective plans will reflect a comprehensive response that puts smallholder farmers at the centre and has a particular focus on gender issues. Countries with the greatest needs and potential to benefit from the initiative will be identified. In many African countries, their Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Country Compacts provide the basis for this analysis. In others, national programs for agricultural growth, food security or poverty reduction could be the driving force. In all cases, adequately resourced country support teams will be an essential element of success. The mobilization of resources under the EUR 1 billion EU Food Facility, achieved with HLTF support, provides one model, amongst others, for rapid fund disbursement.

**Effective and transparent tracking of financial resources proposed under L'Aquila Initiative and the results obtained through the application of these resources, must be established quickly.** This could involve joint action by OECD (through the Development Cooperation Department - DAC - process, broadened to include the growing number of non OECD country donors), together with the Global Donor Platform on Rural Development, the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the HLTF together underpinning the tracking of aid resulting from the L'Aquila Initiative by monitoring donor specified disbursements. The HLTF can also assist with tracking results and help contribute to mutual accountability.

**Continued international coordination** is essential to ensure that the L'Aquila Initiative is aligned with other, ongoing efforts, with an emphasis on in-country coordination and synergy that engages all partners (including producer groups, agribusiness and civil society) in developing and implementing country strategies under the leadership of national authorities. The HLTF has experience with supporting short and medium term efforts to raise smallholder productivity and develop safety nets and effective social protection measures for the most vulnerable, and stands ready – if requested – to support the implementation of the Initiative, especially in its early stages.