

# UNFSS+2 Stocktaking Moment

## Side Event

***Food systems transformation amid a polycrisis: addressing climate change, food insecurity, malnutrition and conflict***

Opening Remarks

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German Room, FAO Headquarters, Rome

12:30 pm-1:25 pm

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In Yemen, years of violent conflict and economic crisis have left 17 million people suffering from acute food insecurity. Severe droughts alongside political and economic instability have put Somalia and Ethiopia at risk of famine. In the Sudan, violence erupted amid severe inflation, while intensive flooding has led to 19 million people being food insecure.

**Distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,**

Good afternoon.

I am honored to be among you today, discussing food systems transformation within crisis-affected contexts.

For the past three years, the world has been living amid polycrises.

Economic recessions, climate change and violent conflicts have all inflicted a heavy toll on human welfare. These crises feed each other. Combined, they pose a greater threat and have a more profound impact on societies than any one of them would have alone. In vulnerable countries, these polycrises create a vicious cycle of hunger and despair.

We are moving further away from ending hunger and malnutrition for all.

Since 2020, there has been a global deterioration in food security and nutrition.

In 2022, around 735 million people around the world experienced food insecurity and 150 million children suffered from stunting. More than 3.1 billion people cannot afford a healthy diet.

It is estimated that in 2030, 600 million people will continue to face hunger. That's 119 million more than prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dear participants,

The progress in human development and food security made in recent decades is at risk.

We must act now to ensure that no child goes to sleep hungry or suffers from malnutrition.

We must act now so that everyone has access to the food they need to lead a healthy and productive life.

Where do we start?

- By increasing the effectiveness of humanitarian responses and building resilience
- By supporting small producers and local food systems
- By integrating nutrition along the value chain and promoting healthy diets
- By promoting inclusive and equitable trade
- By reducing inequality through comprehensive social protection schemes
- By adopting sustainable practices and enhancing disaster risk management
- And so by ensuring peace, stability and social cohesion.

We know that transforming food systems is not an easy task ...

It requires a holistic, multisectoral approach...

- We need to work together: countries, NGOs, regional and international organizations, and humanitarian, development and peace actors.
- We need to guarantee that the voices of affected communities are heard.
- We need science and innovation.
- We need sufficient financing to fund humanitarian responses and development goals.
- We need evidence-based decision-making.
- We need enhanced governance structures.

In closing, on behalf of ESCWA, I thank Sida for their support, and thank all our partners for this opportunity. I want to reiterate our commitment to this transformation towards more sustainable, resilient, healthy and inclusive food systems.

Together, we can build a world where everyone has access to the food they need; where hunger and poverty have no place; where people's dreams are nurtured along with the hope for a better future.

Thank you.