

## Remarks by Dr. David Nabarro

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#### Multi-stakeholder Dialogue on Implementing Sustainable Development, 1 February 2010

Session 2: “Strengthening International Cooperation and Partnerships for Implementation of CSD-17 Decisions” (3.00-6.00pm)

David Nabarro, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Food Security and Nutrition and Coordinator of the High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis:

*“Promoting synergies between the Comprehensive Framework for Action and CSD-17 decisions”*

#### Introduction:

- The Comprehensive Framework for Action (CFA), developed by the High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis (HLTF), and the recommendations by CSD-17, negotiated by member states, are very similar.
- Implementation of the CSD-17 recommendations and of CFA actions is part of the same overall agenda to improve the 4 dimensions of food security (access, availability, utilization and stability) while contributing to development that is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable.

#### The Comprehensive Framework for Action (CFA)<sup>1</sup>:

- The CFA was developed in July 2008. It presents the consensus view of the UN System, including the International Financial Institutions, on how to respond to the global food security crisis in a coherent and coordinated way.
- It aims at being a catalyst for action: It provides governments, international and regional agencies and organizations, and civil society groups with a menu of policies and actions from which to draw appropriate responses (on the global, regional, national and local level).
- The CFA includes both the objective to improve access to food and nutrition support and take immediate steps to increase food availability, as well as to build longer-term resilience and contribute to global food and nutrition security.

##### (1) Outcomes: Meet immediate needs of vulnerable populations

- Emergency food assistance, nutrition interventions and safety nets enhanced and made more accessible
- Smallholder farmer food production boosted
- Trade and tax policy adjusted
- Macro-economic implications managed

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<sup>1</sup>The CFA is available in the six UN working languages under: <http://www.un-foodsecurity.org/documents>

(2) Outcomes: Building longer term resilience and contributing to global food and nutrition security

- Functioning social protection systems expanded
  - Smallholder farmer food production growth sustained
  - International food markets improved
  - International biofuel consensus developed
  - Focus on sustainability and resilience
- Besides the ‘what’, the CFA also addresses the ‘how’: It highlights the importance of partnerships – at local, national, regional and global level. And it emphasizes the need to involve all stakeholders under national leadership, including regional organizations, UN agencies, donor agencies, civil society and farmer organizations, private corporations, and academia.

**Link to CSD-17 outcomes:**

- The CSD recommendations on agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification, African development and on inter-linkages and means of implementation are very similar – and also present a comprehensive approach to food security.

**Updating of the CFA:**

- The CFA is currently being updated to reflect the current context of food and nutrition insecurity and its evolution since the food price crisis.
- The updated CFA will continue to focus on both short term measures and longer term investments. It should reinforce practical ways of working together at all levels emphasizing access, availability, utilization and stability, using the Right to Food as a reference point.
- It will include a strengthened analysis on nutrition, social protection and trade. Additional work is also needed to highlight the links between food security, nutrition and:
  - adaption to climate change,
  - access to land and land acquisition, and contract farming
  - employment opportunities,
  - markets and value chains, and local trade linkages,
  - conservation agriculture and water use.Guidance on policies relating to small holder agriculture should be augmented by analysis that includes pastoralists and fishers.
- The updating of the CFA is a collaborative effort with other stakeholders (civil society organisations, UN colleagues at the country-level, etc)
- It will draw on the rich CSD-17 recommendations.

**Implementation of the CFA in the emerging political context:**

The HLTF and its entities are helping countries to realize the CFA outcomes: – by providing prioritized and coordinated policy support and technical assistance to countries, by advocating for funds needed for urgent action and long term investment, by inspiring a broad engagement by multiple stakeholders, and by improving accountability of the international system.

- The work by the UN system in the HLTF is part of a larger movement by the international community to address food security in a comprehensive way:
  - I. The L'Aquila Food Security Initiative:
    - At the G8 Summit in L'Aquila, Italy, in July 2009, 26 nations and 14 international organizations launched the 'L'Aquila Food Security Initiative. They agreed on a comprehensive and coordinated approach, partnering with countries to help implement their national food security strategies.
    - The approach is spelled out around 5 principles, which were also endorsed at the World Summit on Food Security in November 2009 in Rome:
      1. Investment in country-led plans;
      2. A comprehensive approach that includes support for humanitarian assistance, sustainable agriculture development and nutrition;
      3. Strategic coordination of assistance;
      4. A strong role for multilateral institutions,
      5. Sustained commitment of financial resources).
    - Focus is now on turning these principles into action, developing national food security strategies and ensuring support for their implementation.
    - Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP) at the World Bank as one way of financing
  - II. Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) (and other regional and subregional approaches)
    - The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme has proven to be valuable in promoting coherent policy and institutional frameworks for country-led action: CAADP provides a framework to stimulate and guide the development of national and sub-regional food policies.
    - Several countries have developed national strategies and agreed these in 'roundtables' with all involved stakeholders, and are now ready to agree on the investment and implementation of these strategies.
  - III. Committee on World Food Security
    - A process is under way to revitalize the Committee on World Food Security (the CFS) to become an inclusive intergovernmental body to deal with food security. The plans presented for the CFS' revitalization provide for the involvement of private sector and civil society entities. There is the hope that the CFS will evolve as an important element of the emerging Global Partnership on Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition.

**FOR THE WAY FORWARD for implementation of food security activities:**

1. Sustaining the comprehensive approach in a way that links efforts to improve food production and availability, to ensure that all are able to access the food they need (and enjoy their right to food),

and to increase the likelihood that they can utilize (and be adequately nourished) by the food they eat.

2. Ensuring effective support for country-led and regional actions that improve food and nutrition security and include (a) joint investment planning, (b) coordinated stewardship (c) mutual accountability and (d) predictability and trust at national, regional and global levels. This implies:
  - A role for HLTF entities, working through existing mechanisms at the interface between national authorities and other country-level stakeholders, regional platforms, multilateral banks and global intergovernmental arrangements;
  - The need for prompt action by donors with their accountability systems squared with the principles of country ownership and leadership.
3. Advancing efforts to engage a broad range of public sector, business and civil society partners in this process at all levels, ensuring that global arrangements for partnering contribute to more effective action and outcomes at local and national levels. This requires that:
  - Partners are able to engage in ways that ensure the participation of stakeholders from local, national and regional levels and that their interests are fully taken into account in discourse about “global governance”.
4. Ensuring a coherent and synergized multilateral contribution by the different elements of the multilateral system – working together at all levels while maintaining respect for diverse mandates; ensuring that synergy results in more effective outcomes without establishing additional bureaucracy. This implies the need for:
  - A better understanding of the roles, comparative advantage and interagency working arrangements among different entities represented within the HLTF (as a part of the updating of the CFA, perhaps);
  - Single communication from heads of HLTF entities to their country representatives stressing the importance of effective joint working – synergy, coherence and partnerships at country level.
5. Tracking progress, and communicating both intentions and results at country, regional and global levels. This implies the need to:
  - Continue tracking the work of the HLTF entities so as to demonstrate how their individual and collective contributions add value;
  - Establish coherent and comprehensible message boards that can be well used by all.