

Third International Conference on Financing for Development

Second Drafting Session on the Outcome Document

Zero Draft Outcome Document

FAO Statement – Long Version

*Short version was delivered by Mr Guy Evers, Deputy Director, Investment Centre of FAO,
on 16 April*

FAO welcomes the Zero Draft of the Outcome Document for the Third International Conference on Financing for Development which will take place in Addis Ababa. We especially value the recognition that greater public and private investments in rural development and sustainable agriculture are needed for ending hunger, achieving food security and nutrition.

FAO is currently revising earlier estimates of the investments needed to support the required expansion in food production for ending hunger by 2030. Preliminary results will be released within a few weeks.

We also welcome in paragraph 12 the statement underscoring that the Committee on World Food Security's Principles on Responsible Agricultural Investment should be used as a guiding instrument for such investments, with a particular focus on small-scale food producers and on promoting gender equality.

We wish to express our appreciation for the recognition in paragraph 71, of the contributions to agricultural development, food security and nutrition, by the UN Rome-based agencies and the UN Secretary General's High Level Task Force (HLTF), as well as by the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP). At the same time, to remain consistent with the Rio+20 outcome document and the Report of the Open Working Group on SDGs, it would be important to note that "agriculture" is to be understood in a comprehensive manner, i.e. to include crops and livestock farming, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture.

More broadly, the Zero Draft fully reflects the SDGs' holistic approach to the sustainable use of natural resources and emphasizes the need to build climate - and disaster- resilience considerations into development (e.g. in paragraph 61). We welcome the commitment in paragraph 15 to coherent policy, financing, trade and technology frameworks for protecting our ocean and terrestrial ecosystems, combatting land degradation and desertification, preserving biodiversity and fighting the effects of climate change. Equally important is the reiteration of the SDGs' call for equal access to ownership and control over land and natural resources (paragraph 42) and the commitment to nationally appropriate minimum levels of



social protection (paragraph 11), all of which are indispensable for ending hunger and combatting poverty of the most vulnerable.

We also find the emphasis on women extremely important given that women have a vital role to play in ending hunger and malnutrition and in fostering a transition to sustainable and increased agricultural production. We feel, however, that more emphasis could be placed in paragraph 71 on youth, and especially on the need for action to improve youth employment in the rural areas.

FAO supports paragraph 76 of the Zero Draft's call to correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural and fishery markets, including by the elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies. Similarly, to address concerns about the volatility of commodity prices, including food prices, we concur with paragraph 96 that it is important to support Member States' measures to ensure that these markets function appropriately, and to facilitate efforts to provide food producers with timely access to market information.

In conclusion, FAO would like to once again welcome the Zero Draft Outcome Document of the Addis Ababa Accord. Paragraphs 12 and 71, in particular, are welcome and include most needed elements to cover sustainable agriculture (used in the broad sense), ending hunger, food security and nutrition. Some editorial suggestions on paragraph 71 have been provided to the Financing for Development Office.

FAO is fully committed to support on all the issues pertaining to its mandate.

Thank you.