



The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World and The State of Food and Agriculture

**High-level Briefing by the FAO Director-General, the IFAD President
and the WFP Executive Director**

The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, José Graziano da Silva, the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Gilbert Hounbo, and the Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP), David Beasley, will brief Member States on [The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World \(SOFI\)](#) and [The State of Food and Agriculture \(SOFA\)](#).

The Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations, in its capacity as Chair of the Group of Friends of Food Security and Nutrition, the Permanent Mission of Mozambique and the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations co-sponsor this briefing.

This will be an opportunity for a high-level conversation on:

- The continued rise world hunger, the multiple causes of hunger and malnutrition, rising levels of obesity, the emergence of multiple forms of malnutrition, how to build climate resilience for food security and nutrition, and the challenges to put the world back on track to achieve Zero Hunger and Sustainable Development Goal 2 by 2030;
- The drivers and impacts of rural migration, including how to make migration a choice, not a necessity, and to maximize the positive impacts while minimizing the negative ones, a discussion that gains relevance as we move towards the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

The President of the 73rd Session of the General Assembly, H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, will deliver opening remarks at the high-level briefing.

STATE OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE WORLD

After years of progress, evidence shows that hunger is on the rise again. *The 2018 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI)*, published by FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO, reports that the number of people who suffer from hunger has been growing over the past three years, rising to nearly 821 million in 2017 and returning to levels from almost a decade ago. Conflict, climate variability and extremes, economic slowdowns are the main drivers behind this increase in hunger. In addition, hunger is extensive even in countries or contexts not affected by conflict, climate extremes or economic downturns, where extreme poverty, marginalization and inequality prevent access by everyone to nutritious diets. And, as alarming as the rise in hunger is, we are now witnessing multiple forms of malnutrition. Obesity rates are going up in all regions of the world and also affecting developing countries with impacts on health, well-being and economies.

Climate change is not only something that will happen in the future – it is happening now. Rising temperatures and increasing climate variability and extremes are already now negatively affecting people and their livelihoods, contributing to both increases in chronic hunger and food crises. As shown in *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2018* report, increasing climate variability and exposure to more complex, frequent and intense climate extremes are threatening to erode and reverse gains made in ending hunger and malnutrition. This is a wake-up call – an early warning – because if we already have evidence that increasing climate variability and extremes is leading to greater levels of hunger – it will only get worse if left unaddressed. We must urgently scale-up actions to strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity of people and the agricultural and food systems to the rising tide of climate variability and extremes. We need integrated—rather than dissociated—disaster risk reduction and management and climate change adaptation policies, programmes and practices with short-, medium- and long-term vision.

STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Migration is a global reality that allows millions of people to seek new opportunities and a means to reduce inequalities within and between countries. But it also poses challenges for migrants and for societies in areas of origin and of destination. Ensuring that migration is a choice and not a necessity is a collective responsibility and especially relevant in rural areas. Rural migration represents a considerable portion of both international and internal migratory flows and is closely associated with development. Migration outcomes will differ depending on the development path countries undertake and how the relationship between rural and urban areas evolves. Providing attractive alternative opportunities for prospective rural migrants where they reside, such as through a territorial development approach that focuses on rural–urban linkages, is one way to reduce out-migration to overburdened larger cities and possibly international migration as well.

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