

Statement by Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

at the Asia-Pacific Regional Forum for Sustainable Development,

Pattaya, Thailand 19 May 2014

First of all, I wish to convey our appreciation to the Royal Government of Thailand and ESCAP for organizing this extremely important and timely gathering today to discuss our common future goals.

You may recall that for the scope of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, a number of key cross-cutting issues were proposed at the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development in Brazil in 2012 to sharpen the formulation of a next set of sustainable development goals with one of the key messages that “ Sustainable development cannot be realized unless hunger and malnutrition are eradicated”.

Accordingly, FAO’s vision for Rio+20 and beyond is “end hunger and make the transition to a sustainable agriculture and food system”. It involves the following three priority areas which are relevant to this region:

- 1) Eradicating hunger and improving human nutrition: with emphasis on fair access to resources; employment and income; targeting smallholder producers and the landless; chronically hungry people with a well-targeted approach and social safety nets.
- 2) Sustainable consumption and production systems: with emphasis on reducing food losses and waste; investing in the whole food chain; promoting sustainable intensification across all food production systems; and promoting climate-smart and energy-smart agriculture.
- 3) Inclusive and effective governance: with emphasis on inclusive, nationally owned and flexible governance mechanisms; sound policies and strong institutions; and an equitable distribution of transition costs and benefits.

In response to the UN Secretary-General’s request on the Post 2015 Development Agenda, I recall that the report of the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons (HLPE) on the Post-2015 Development Agenda identified 12 Universal Goals. Of those, Universal Goal 5 explicitly aims to “**ensure food security and good nutrition**” with five targets which are well-aligned with the UN Secretary General’s Zero Hunger Challenge. The Universal Goal 9 aims to “**manage natural resource assets sustainably**” and the Universal Goal 1 aims to “**end poverty**”. These are directly relevant to this region and FAO fully supports these universal goals as potential post 2015 priorities.

In addition, we suggest that the importance of mitigation and adaptation to climate change and disaster risk reduction (DRR) may also be considered.

In this opportunity, on behalf of FAO, I wish to assure you of FAO’s full commitment to support member countries and work together with ESCAP and other UN Agencies , CSOs and partners towards achievement of sustainable development in this region.

Thank you

