

**“Delivering on Commitments to Eradicate Hunger and Malnutrition by 2025”**

**SUMMARY**

There is a long record of failure by governments to deliver on the commitments that they have made at successive Summits and high-level meetings to reduce hunger. Several CSOs had, therefore, developed a proposal for an instrument intended to formalise government commitments to take action towards the eradication of hunger and to increase their level of accountability for delivering against their commitments.

The International Alliance Against Hunger (IAAH), convened a Multi-Stakeholder Event to consider this proposal. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Kwesi Atta-Krah, Chair of the IAAH Working Group. The presentation of the proposal, by Mr. Chris Leather, Oxfam International Policy Advisor, was followed by a Panel discussion and comments and observations from the floor. Members of the panel included Mr. Moleka Mosisi, African Center for Food Security (ACFS); Mr. James Harvey, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom and Ambassador to FAO; Professor M.S. Swaminathan, Chairman of the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSFR); Mr. Mario Arvelo, Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic and Ambassador to FAO as well as Chairperson of the Rome Chapter of the G-77 for 2009; and Mr. Aksel Naerstad, International Coordinator of the More and Better Campaign.

Mr. Leather explained that the proposal called on governments to make a voluntary Declaration of commitment in which, inter alia, they commit to meet their legal obligations to protect, respect and fulfil the right of everyone to adequate food. The Declaration would include an undertaking by governments, to prepare within two years, a national Food Security and Nutrition Action Plan (with time-bound goals, and using the Voluntary guidelines on the right to food as a point of reference) to achieve eradication of hunger, and to help other countries to do so. By depositing the Declaration and the Plan in an International Public Register of Commitment, hosted by the reformed Committee on World Food Security (CFS), they would agree to be held publicly accountable for delivery against commitment.

He indicated that CSOs were considering running a global campaign in support of this initiative, and to build up popular support for the adoption by governments of time-bound goals for eradicating hunger and malnutrition.

In the ensuing Panel discussion, speakers welcomed the initiative taken by the IAAH to arrange for a review of the proposal. There was a widely felt need for more accountability, and to translate signals of political will into political action. The proposal responded to this. However it would not be easy to persuade governments to formally declare their commitment. The sponsors of the proposals should, therefore, begin by trying to bring on board selected countries, known for their commitment to end hunger. The proposal for a campaign was welcomed.

Points arising from the floor included the need to strengthen and support National Alliances Against Hunger in countries that have established them, and to promote the creation of more National Alliances in additional countries; the potential complementarity between the proposal and the “compacts” being promoted by the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Program (CAADP); the need to develop the proposal further to keep it in line with the evolving CFS reform process; and the importance of ensuring that hunger eradication policies are built into national constitutions.

Mr. Leather indicated that the proposal would be revised and discussed with interested governments, especially in relation to the draft Summit Declaration.

The Chair, in closing the event, expressed the view that the CSO proposal was a step in the right direction, and coming at the right time. He encouraged the IAAH and partner CSOs to continue to work within the context of the reformed CFS, to ensure that accountability mechanisms are indeed built into the functioning of the new CFS, and into food security governance at global and national levels.

He thanked the Panellists and all participants for taking part in the Event, and the IAAH Secretariat for arranging it.