

munications services necessary to operationalize the wider response throughout the region.

Looking ahead, the annual performance urged a redoubling of efforts to tackle the harmful effects of hunger and malnutrition on those people left behind by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Programme's mission to end hunger would continue to be guided by the five pillars of the Secretary-General's Zero Hunger Challenge [YUN 2012, p. 1170], namely: eliminating stunting among children under two; guaranteeing universal access to adequate and nutritious food; ensuring that food systems were sustainable; increasing the productivity and incomes of smallholder farmers by 100 per cent; and eliminating loss or waste of food.

Food Assistance Convention

The Food Assistance Convention (FAC), which came into force on 1 January 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 1185], saw its membership increase with the accession of six countries: Australia, Luxembourg, the Russian Federation, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden, bringing the total membership at the end of 2014 to 14. FAC expanded the traditional focus of previous Food Aid Conventions which centred exclusively on commitments of in-kind food aid for direct consumption. It also incorporated a broader toolbox of eligible activities and food assistance products, including cash, vouchers and products intended for protecting livelihoods, a greater focus on nutrition, and a commitment to improved transparency and accountability. Parties to the Convention were making their commitments in monetary value as opposed to the metric wheat tonne equivalent, sharing information and best practices in food assistance delivery, and meeting twice annually to discuss the most efficient and effective means of delivery of food assistance.

Annual FAC financial commitments to improving the food security and nutritional status of vulnerable populations amounted to over \$2.7 billion dollars in 2014. FAC members responded to humanitarian crises throughout the world, with the Syrian regional conflict constituting the largest single response. Other notable responses included the Ebola virus disease outbreak in West Africa and the crises in South Sudan and Ukraine. In 2014, all members fulfilled their financial commitments, and some exceeded their commitments substantially. Food assistance operations were provided bilaterally, through intergovernmental or other international organizations including WFP.

Food security

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) continued to address global

food insecurity. The 2014 edition of the organization's report *The State of Food Insecurity in the World*, which focused on strengthening the enabling environment for food security and nutrition, stated that 805 million people—or one in nine people—were chronically undernourished in 2012–14: an amount 100 million lower than the previous decade, and 209 million lower than in 1990–92. The vast majority of those undernourished people lived in developing countries, where an estimated 791 million were chronically hungry. The developing world, however, accounted for most of the improvements over the previous two decades, with an overall reduction of 203 million undernourished people since 1990–92. The MDGs hunger target of reducing by half the proportion of undernourished people by 2015 was within reach if appropriate and immediate efforts were stepped up.

Despite the overall progress, the developing world was not on track to achieve the 1996 World Food Summit [YUN 1996, p. 1129] target of halving the number of undernourished people by 2015. Marked differences also persisted across regions. Sub-Saharan Africa had the highest prevalence rate of undernourishment, having made only modest progress in preceding years; around one in four people in the region remained undernourished. Asia, the most populous region in the world, still had the highest number of undernourished. Latin America and the Caribbean, as a whole, met the MDG hunger target as well as the more stringent World Food Summit target.

Key messages outlined in the report included the need for sustained political commitment at the highest level as a prerequisite for hunger eradication; an integrated hunger reduction approach that would include public and private investments to raise agricultural productivity; better access to inputs, land, services, technologies and markets; social protection for the most vulnerable, including strengthening their resilience to conflicts and natural disasters; and specific nutrition programmes, especially to address micronutrient deficiencies in mothers and children under five.

Agriculture development, food security and nutrition

Malabo Declaration. At the twenty-third ordinary session of the African Union (Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, 26–27 June), which also marked the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) of the New Partnership for Africa's Development [YUN 2009, p. 1234], African leaders adopted the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods, reaffirming Africa's strong commitment to using growth in agricultural productivity to spur economic growth, boost the food and income security