



FOOD & AGRICULTURE IN TIMES OF CRISIS

WORKING BETTER TOGETHER FOR LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

HIGH LEVEL EVENT OF THE GLOBAL NETWORK AGAINST FOOD CRISES

BRUSSELS, 2 - 3 APRIL 2019

Working together for long-term solutions



Welcome message



Dear Participant,

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the high-level event on food and agriculture in times of crisis.

We all know why we are here. Across the world, there are still too many people going hungry and many millions more are on the brink of hunger. Sadly, conflict, climate change, water scarcity and economic hardship have put food crises back in the headlines.

There are unprecedented risks that food crises will increase in the years to come. This calls for unprecedented measures.

Over the course of these two days, we will have the opportunity to put our heads together to address the underlying causes of food crises, and invest in solutions to move forward.

We will launch the *2019 Global Report on Food Crises* at the event. This report is an invaluable tool to help us navigate these complex crises. It is the first- and only – global, consensus and evidenced based piece of work, which paints the scale and severity of food crisis hotspots. Its findings are a clear call to action.

We are absolutely determined to do more and do better. However, we are counting on all participants' cooperation and commitment, as it is only by working better together that we can make a real difference.

NEVEN MIMICA

Member of the European Commission
International Cooperation and Development

CHRISTOS STYLIANIDES

Member of the European Commission
Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management

Overview



Hunger in all its dimensions is still at unacceptable levels.

The latest evidence shows that millions of people are still suffering from food crises, which are becoming more profound and protracted in nature, and it will only get worse if current trends are not reversed.

The number of people experiencing acute food insecurity due to food crises represent just the visible tip of the iceberg. In many parts of the world (including developing and developed countries), entire agri-food systems and millions more people will be at risk unless we address the root causes of these crises.

Armed conflict, climate change, over-exploitation of natural resources, social inequality, state fragility and poor governance have brought hunger back into the spotlight, reversing the trend of recent years. Long-term displacement, political instability and conflicts, together with climate-related disasters (especially drought), are common features both as causes and consequences of all major food crises that tend to become increasingly protracted. Such crises mostly affect rural communities that depend on agriculture for their livelihoods.

Taking stock of the latest information on global hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, the event promotes a collective reflection and discussion on the challenges ahead, on the opportunities for effective action and on the political commitments needed to eradicate food crises.

Solutions exist and new approaches for efficient joint work are possible. There must be no more food crises.

Challenges to be addressed



Socio-economic factors – The root causes of recurrent food crises and related poor nutritional status are essentially socio-economic and environmental in nature. Any poverty reduction, resilience, food security and nutrition strategies in food crisis contexts need a strong focus on agriculture (including crop, livestock, fisheries, forestry, etc.) and the development of resilient and inclusive agri-food systems. However, they also need to strengthen the capacity and opportunities of households to effectively access them.

Environmental and climate factors – Climate variability and extremes are among the key drivers behind the recent rises in global hunger and one of the leading causes of severe food crises, especially when coupled with land and natural resources degradation. It is critical to adapt and transform the different food production and agri-food systems in the face of environmental and climate constraints while generating local socio-economics benefit. This also requires investing in nature-based solution and innovations grounded in local and scientific knowledge to ensure the environmental and climate resilience and sustainability of agri-food systems.

Peace and security – The worst and most persistent food crises are principally caused by armed conflict. Through the adoption of UNSC Resolution 2417 in May 2018, the UN made addressing the link between conflict and hunger a priority, pointing to the need to invest in safeguarding and enhancing resilient agriculture-based livelihoods and agri-food systems as an essential contribution towards preventing and responding to food crises, and to improving



Opportunities to tackle food crises



the prospects for local peace. Amongst other challenges, this means addressing the use of food as a weapon of war, and the impact of conflict-driven population movements on food security, nutrition and food systems.

Data and analytics – In food crisis contexts, it is critical to improve data quality and frequency to ensure timely action as early as possible. Moreover, preventive actions remain the most cost-effective investment against the deterioration of food security in food crisis contexts. It is essential to invest in improving information and early warning systems on specific hazards, food insecurity and malnutrition at country level as well as better use of data in shaping decision-making processes by all stakeholders at all levels.

Coordination and implementation considerations – Greater coherence and coordinated efforts are needed between humanitarian, development and peace actors, contributing to collective outcomes in an integrated manner at policy, programming and practice levels. The Global Network Against Food Crises is a potential and promising mechanism to adopt a common long-term vision among partners, promote greater coherence and collective efforts across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus to sustainably prevent and address food crises and related impacts.



Day 1

Tuesday, 2 April 2019

Morning – Plenary session

- Opening ceremony
- The evidence
 - Launch of the 2019 Global Report on Food Crises
 - Presentation of the study on “Agri-food systems at risk: new trends and challenges”
 - Presentation of the study on “Healthy diets from sustainable food systems”
 - Keynote speakers’ interventions
- Concluding remarks of the plenary session

Afternoon – Parallel sessions

Segment A – Facing challenges and exploiting opportunities

● Parallel session 1

Tackling socio-economic challenges in building resilient local agri-food systems (Chair: IFPRI)

Panel 1: Fixing missing and broken links – promoting innovation and investments to foster sustainable agri-food systems

Panel 2: Reducing inequalities for decent livelihoods free from food insecurity and malnutrition

● Parallel session 2

Environmental challenges in a changing climate – innovative approaches in farming and food systems (Chair: UNDP)

Panel 3: The end of normal – landscape and agriculture transition for preventing food crises in a changing world – a global perspective

Panel 4: Making ends meet: transforming agriculture to respond to climate and local challenges

● Parallel session 3

Conflicts, insecurity and food crises (Chair: Netherlands and Belgium)

Panel 5: Conflict and hunger – implementing UNSC Resolution 2417 and supporting agri-food systems in conflicts

Panel 6: The movement of rural populations in response to food crises, conflict and insecurity and its implications

Share corner

Day 2

Wednesday, 3 April 2019

Morning – Parallel sessions

Segment B – Working better together to prevent food crises

● Parallel session 4

Data and analytics in preventing and responding to food crises and famine (Chair: FSIN/WFP)

Panel 7: Emerging and established tools, technologies and indicators for early warning and forecast mechanisms

Panel 8: Current and emerging uses of data and analyses

● Parallel session 5

Preventing food crises – towards a more structured and integrated governance system (Chair: FAO)

Panel 9: Operationalizing the humanitarian-development-peace nexus

Panel 10: The Global Network Against Food Crises – a game changer?

Afternoon – Plenary session

● Strategic commitments – the way forward

Introductory panel

Key findings of the parallel sessions.

Decision-makers' roundtables

Key partners and decision-makers' priorities and strategic commitments

● Closing statement

Share corner

Share corner



The event features a physical space to facilitate the exchanging of ideas, networking and collaboration that can be sustained after the event.

Videos featuring various partners' efforts, solutions and joint actions to fight food crises are on display in the Magritte and Delvaux foyers, which are equipped with screens and headphones. These videos are a sample of the work that all partners are undertaking to contribute to the fight to food crises. They cover also some of the issues discussed during the event, including the efforts and solutions to tackle the main root causes of food crises; the challenges and achievements in delivering coordinated response; and food, nutrition and resilience initiatives.

In addition, a "Working together" stand is set up to encourage participants to share their thoughts and views on how to improve cooperation.

The spirit is to reinforce the idea that it is only by working together that we can face the wide challenges of delivering on zero hunger, sustainability, peace and prosperity for all.



Share widely



Please share the high-level event issues, discussions and outcomes on your organization's websites and social media channels.

Follow the twitter account:

@fightfoodcrises

Event/Global Network hashtag:

#fightfoodcrises

Be part of the conversation, please also use these hashtags:

#GlobalFoodCrises

#ZeroHunger

#Agriculture

#resilience



Useful information



Square Conference Centre

Glass entrance and registration
Mont des Arts/Kunstberg
B-1000 Brussels

+32 2 515 13 00

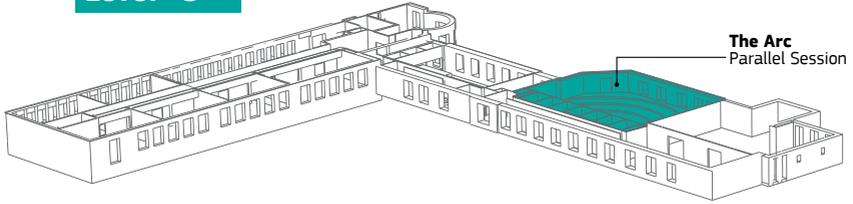
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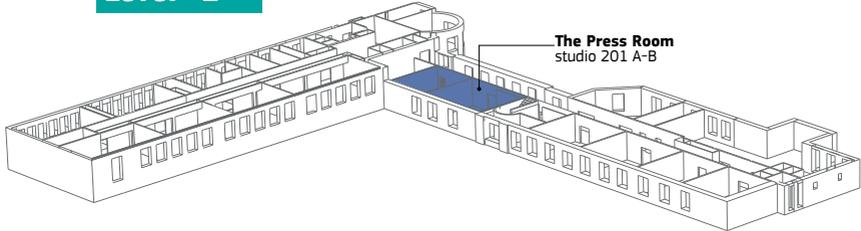
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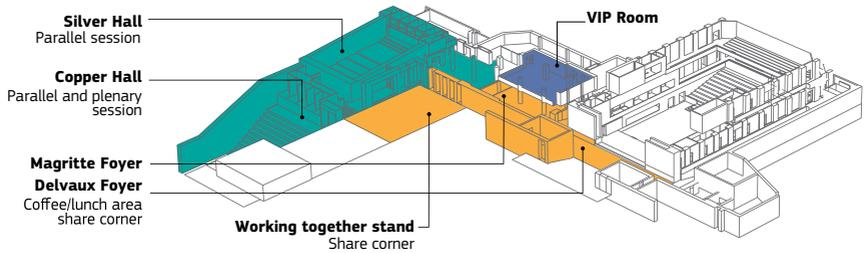
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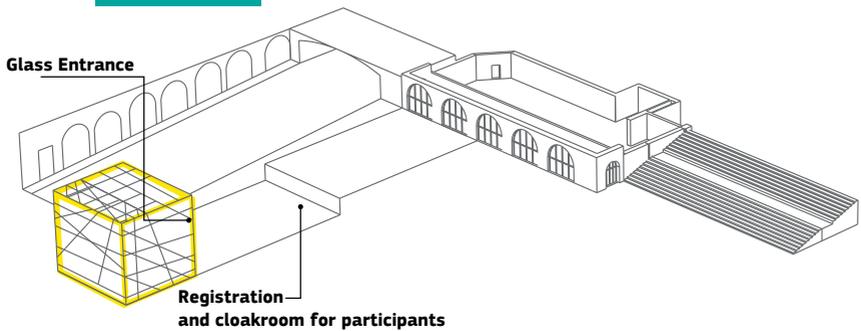
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Level 0



Entrances



Parallel and plenary session

Coffee/lunch area and share corner

Press and VIP room

Contact



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The event is hosted by the European Commission
on behalf of the Global Network Against Food Crises