

Statement by the representative for the Republic of Togo

The Togolese delegation is honoured to take this opportunity to express its views in relation to the theme of this session: Investing in sustainable food systems to end hunger by 2030.

Ending hunger is a formidable challenge for humankind, and it is even greater now, as we are confronted with the combination of a rapidly growing population and an unbalanced distribution of the available food supply. Moreover, we are faced with the paradox of a huge amount of food being wasted while so many go without food in other parts of the world. We must therefore find other ways of effectively combating food shortages and their corollary: world hunger.

Given current trends in the number of people who are going hungry, we might well ask ourselves whether we will be capable of attaining the goal of Zero Hunger by 2030 and what ways and means we should use to that end.

We believe that the private sector has a role to play in the systems and mechanisms that we need to put in place.

The promotion of the private sector has an important part to play in changing the paradigms of our economies and our food systems. The diversification of supply, food safety and food security should be a priority for everyone. Regulations and standards therefore must be put in place at the national level and on a regional and continental scale as well. Governments must also strengthen their quality control mechanisms to ensure traceability along the entire value chain for marketing supply lines.

On a smaller scale, it has to be recognized that local knowledge about food and nutrition is on the wane. Our dietary habits are becoming poorer and poorer and, as one of the many results of that, we are witnessing an increase in the number of persons suffering from obesity as a consequence of the unrestrained consumption of food products that contain too much fat, too much sugar and too much salt. In view of the harm being done by this trio, we are called upon to get back to the basics and make a genuine and determined effort to promote the consumption of locally produced foodstuffs.

The Togolese delegation would like to take this opportunity to commend IFAD for the support it provides to the farm sector and, in particular, to rural entrepreneurship and the promotion of agricultural value chains. I would, in particular, like to draw attention to its support for the start-up of the Shared-risk Agricultural Financing Incentive Mechanism Support Project (MIFA). We also welcome the work being done on the formulation of a project for implementation in Togo and Benin that will focus, among other areas, on the promotion of agricultural value chains.

I would also like to take this opportunity to inform the distinguished representatives of Togo's launch of its "500,000 Hectares Offensive", which will work to develop that amount of land area by 2028 for a minimum of 390,000 beneficiaries, of whom 150,000 are to be direct participants, while the other 240,000 will benefit indirectly. This campaign will be undertaken within the framework of the National Development Plan. This plan focuses on the private sector, which is expected to provide 65 per cent of the necessary investment via the selected public-private partnerships.

We therefore call upon all our partners, all countries and all organizations to support these initiatives in Togo, initiatives that will contribute to the attainment of food and nutrition security and thus help us to achieve Zero Hunger by 2030.

Thank you.