



Statement by H.E. Mr. Bob Rae [Pre-Recorded Video]

President of the Economic and Social Council

52nd Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS 52)

21 October 2024

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honor to address the High-Level Opening Ceremony of the 52nd Session of the Committee on World Food Security, marking its fiftieth anniversary.

I sincerely regret not being able to be with you in person today and to partake in your discussions.

As you know, the intersecting crises of food insecurity, displacement, and inequality are having devastating impacts on women, children, older persons, Indigenous Peoples, rural and local communities, persons with disabilities, and those in vulnerable situations.

Hunger and malnutrition are grave violations of human rights. Yet, we are confronted with alarming realities.

One in eleven people globally - and one in five in Africa - goes to bed hungry.

Nearly 30 per cent of the world's population faces moderate to severe food insecurity.



Conflicts, climate change, deep inequalities, and economic downturns exacerbate this crisis, leaving those in vulnerable situations bearing the brunt.

If trends continue, one in five children under the age of five will be stunted by 2030.

Low-income countries, where the majority cannot afford a healthy diet, also face the lowest spending capacity to tackle these issues.

But solutions are within reach.

In July this year, Member States adopted the Ministerial Declaration of the 2024 Economic and Social Council and High-Level Political forum on sustainable development, where Goal 2 was under in-depth review and had a dedicated discussion.

The ECOSOC/HLPF Ministerial Declaration outlines a path forward:

- 1. Transform Agrifood Systems:** Commit to making them sustainable, efficient, inclusive and resilient, inter alia, through agriculture technology, family farming, reducing food waste, integrated water resources management, and improving diets, nutrition, health and hygiene for children.
- 2. Leverage science, technology and innovation:** Utilize these - and artificial intelligence - through international cooperation to combat hunger and malnutrition.
- 3. Close the Financing Gap:** Secure the necessary resources to achieve our Sustainable Development Goals.



The work of this Committee is vital in advancing these objectives.

Your efforts to build sustainable, inclusive, resilient agrifood systems are central to addressing the root causes of hunger and malnutrition.

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Summit of the Future has brought to the fore the aspirations, hopes, commitments and most importantly – actions that are needed to achieve a better future for present and future generations.

Looking ahead, the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, the UN Food System Summit +4 Stocktaking and the Second World Summit for Social Development will provide further opportunities to strengthen our collective response.

As President of the Economic and Social Council, my priorities are:

- 1) Tackling the root causes of displacement which also fuel global food insecurity.
- 2) Harnessing emerging technologies equitably to advance the SDGs and address hunger and food security.
- 3) Bridging the financing gaps critical to achieving our Sustainable Development Goals.



I look forward to further exchanges with you to advance these priorities within the work of the Committee.

Let us seize the potential for transformative change to achieve genuine and inclusive multilateralism and solidarity. We can still achieve SDG 2 by 2030.

Thank you.