



Remarks by H.E. Bob Rae (Canada)

President of the Economic and Social Council

**Special Event on Addressing High Food Price Inflation for Food Security and
Nutrition**

22 July 2025

Excellencies and guests,

It is a great honour to join you today for this special event marking the launch of the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) report. This year's focus — on high food price inflation and its impact on food security and nutrition — could not be more timely or urgent. I want to thank FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, and WHO for their continued collaboration in producing this report.

And let me emphasize the importance, as our resources are shrinking, of this collaboration. It's something that is absolutely required among all the Agencies of the UN.

Ten years into the 2030 Agenda, we're in fact seeing some progress in some areas—child stunting and wasting are declining for the most part, and more young children are accessing diverse and nutritious diets.

But we must also face a hard truth that global hunger has been sharply rising since 2019 and remains alarmingly high. In 2023, nearly 1 in 11 worldwide faced hunger, that's close to 10 percent, and over two billion experienced food insecurity. These are not just numbers — they represent lives, futures, and communities at risk.



The inflation of food prices as well as the absence of the delivery of food are major parts of this challenge. In many countries, prices remain well above pre-pandemic levels, hitting the poorest and most vulnerable the hardest. For children, pregnant women, and others already at risk, the consequences can be long-lasting — affecting health, education, productivity, earnings, and human development.

We need to understand the root causes. And there are two global events we can point to in particular. One is the pandemic, which allowed prices to go up and become very sticky at the top. And the second is the Russian invasion of Ukraine which denied an awful lot of people of access to grain and drove grain prices way high. And we all know from the real world that prices come up, they are much slower at going down. They ratchet up quickly, they come down more slowly.

We need to understand the root causes — whether trade disruptions, climate shocks, or conflict — and we need to respond with the right policies.

I might just in relationship to one particular conflict, remind everyone that 26 states signed this statement yesterday on the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and I will quote from what they said: “The suffering of civilians in Gaza has reached new depths. The Israeli government’s aid delivery model is dangerous, fuels instability and deprives Gazans of human dignity. We condemn the drip feeding of aid and the inhumane killing of civilians, including children, seeking to meet their most basic needs of water and food. It is horrifying that over 800 Palestinians have been killed while seeking aid.”

The SOFI report offers analysis and practical options for action to minimize the impacts of inflation, end hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition. It reminds us that ending hunger and malnutrition isn’t just about producing more food — although that is important — it’s about ensuring access to healthy diets for all, especially in times of crisis.



This was repeated in the Fourth Financing for Development Conference, which was completed just a few weeks ago, calling for more innovative financing and a stronger, more responsive food security architecture. We have to build on that momentum.

Let me be clear: addressing food price inflation is not just about economics — it's also a moral imperative. We cannot allow the most marginalized people in the world, kids, to bear the brunt of global shocks. We have the tools, the knowledge, and the partnerships. What we need now is the political will to act.

ECOSOC stands ready to support Member States in this effort through knowledge sharing, coordination, and collective action. The High-Level Political Forum remains a key platform for tracking our progress on SDG 2 and for holding ourselves accountable.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to open and I look forward to hearing from my colleagues. Thank you so much.