

## **Statement by FAO at Asia-Pacific Ministerial Dialogue, Bangkok 26<sup>th</sup> August 2013**

We appreciate the Royal Thai government and UNESCAP for the organization of this important dialogue which is very timely just after the release of the Secretary-General's report. The Report identified important key development agenda which we generally support.

In addition, we would like to emphasize the importance of "End hunger and malnutrition" has a potential addition to the development agenda, which is specifically relevant to Asia and the Pacific Region.

Indeed, the region is the home of 62%, nearly two-thirds of the world's chronic hunger population, with continued negative impacts on child and maternal health. This situation might be further affected by rapid population growth for which a 60% food production increase is needed to meet the demand as at 2050. If we look only at developing countries, where the majority of the population growth is expected to occur, food production has to be increased by 77% by 2050, against various constraints, such as scarcity of water, decline of arable land, negative impact of climate change and natural disasters.

We should not forget the existence of large food losses and waste which accounts for nearly 30% of total food production.

Malnutrition is a complex problem, which involves undernourishment and over-nourishment. We have 1.2 billion overweight population who suffer from non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, hypertension etc., while 870 million people continue to suffer from lack of food or sufficient nutrients, on the other side of society. This is a fundamental injustice in our modern world.

We require a concerted effort with the combination of sustainable agricultural productivity growth, income and employment generation, promotion of social protection, and strengthening child and maternal health care.

There is no peace if there is no food. There is no social and political stability if people are hungry. UN Secretary-General has launched the Zero Hunger Challenge during Rio Plus 20 conference last year, which calls for our strong commitment under the post-2015 agenda towards the elimination of hunger and malnutrition.