

Global Agenda Council on Food Security 2012-2014



Understanding/Context

The global economic crisis has exacerbated food insecurity, leaving 870 million people in hunger. Shortfalls and volatility in global food supplies and prices are likely to intensify due to higher costs of production, greater demand for food and energy, and climate change. Efforts to achieve food security historically have suffered from insufficient investment and a lack of coordination in a complex landscape of issues and stakeholders. The challenges remain the same today, although the threat of a food crisis is perhaps more real than ever. Yet, this risk can be alleviated through policy reforms, targeted investment and innovative ways to increase production and access to food. New initiatives, innovative financing and multistakeholder partnerships are gathering momentum in the fight against food insecurity.

Shaping the Agenda

The Global Agenda Council on Food & Nutrition Security has defined sustainable food and nutrition security for all as a strategic objective. It believes this can be achieved by:

- Increasing agricultural productivity with an emphasis on smallholder farmers, especially women and vulnerable groups
- Investing responsibly in agriculture for food and nutrition security
- Improving environmental sustainability through the efficient use of natural resources and reducing environmental degradation
- Reducing food loss and waste
- Enabling access to nutrition for vulnerable populations to ensure human capital for long-term growth
- Supporting public-private collaboration to accelerate the impact at international and national levels, including through global platforms such as the G20 and G8 and national multistakeholder cooperation

To aid in this process, the Council is exploring common measurement frameworks for sustainability and nutrition outcomes and effective strategies for responsible investment in agriculture for food and nutrition security. Together with the Council on Logistics

& Supply Chain Systems, the Council has supported the launch of a new initiative on value-chain efficiency for managing post-harvest losses that focuses on improving global food supply, economic returns and the environmental sustainability of food value chains. The Council is also advising the Forum's New Vision for Agriculture and Grow Africa initiatives, which facilitate multistakeholder-led, market-based action, harnessing the power of agriculture to drive food security, environmental sustainability and economic opportunity. The Council seeks to build a common agenda, help raise awareness, leverage support for priority actions, and develop synergies to strengthen the global response to the challenge through global platforms such as the G8, G20, UN Zero Hunger and SUN Initiatives, and others.

“The risk of another food crisis can be alleviated through policy reforms, targeted investment and innovative ways to increase production and access to food.”

During the next year, Council Members will continue to explore strategic areas related to food security, expand the networks of stakeholders that can influence food and nutrition security issues, and contribute to change in national agriculture sectors through public-private collaborations, especially in Africa and Asia.

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