

Parliamentary Network for Food Security and Nutrition in Africa and the Arab World(PNFSNAA)

Background on Parliamentary Network for Food Security and Nutrition in Africa and the Arab World(PNFSNAA) includes the Network's mission , vision , Action plan , priorities , and roles of parliamentarians in achieving food security

Contents

Part 1 :Background to Parliamentary Network for Food Security and Nutrition in Africa and the Arab World(PNFSNAA)	
Introduction	3
1.1 General Directions for the network	4
1.2 Mission statement	5
1.3 Vision	5
1.4 Network Membership	5
1.5 Reasons for establishing the Parliamentary Network for Food Security & Nutrition in Africa and Arab World	6
1.6 Network's Executive Office	8
Part 2 :Network's Action plan and priority issues	
2.1 Action plan, Mechanisms and Activities	9
2.2 Network's Priority Issues	11
2.3 Rabat Declaration on Food Security, 1 November 2019	13
Part 3 : Roles of Parliamentarians Towards Achieving " Zero Hunger "	16
3.1 Roles of Parliamentarians Towards Achieving " Zero Hunger " and the Dimensions identified by FAO organization.	
3.2 Proposals on the network	22

Part 1 :Background to Parliamentary Network for Food Security and Nutrition in Africa and the Arab World(PNFSNAA)

Introduction :

The Parliamentary Network for Food Security and Nutrition in Africa and Arab world (PNFSNAA) was established in accordance with the resolutions and recommendations of the " *Afro-Arab Parliamentary Economic Forum: For Building an Integrated Model for Regional Cooperation* " , which was organized by ASSECAA and the House of Counselors in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, on 25 and 26 April 2018, in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in particular, the resolution on the establishment of a parliamentary network for food security in Africa and the Arab world.

The participants in the Forum were keen to highlight through the Parliamentary Network for Food Security and Nutrition in Africa and the Arab World, the nature of food security issues faced by African and Arab countries, and to present proposals that would contribute to paving the way for joint parliamentary action undertaken by governments and other relevant sectors to support and encourage investments for the purpose of supporting and ensuring the sustainability, abundance and quality of food production. They were fully aware that scientific studies and research have shown that in the next 50 years, the world will see a sharp decrease in food production necessary to meet the growing needs of its population, and that the rate of food production is not commensurate to the population growth. They saw the need to establish the network, given the many obstacles to achieving the desired growth in terms of food production, especially those associated with drought, water scarcity, floods, soil erosion, desertification and the spread of diseases and epidemics resulting from climate change. These factors affect the stability of millions of citizens around the world, especially in the countries of the Southern Hemisphere, particularly in the Africa and the Arab world.

Furthermore, the participants were also enthusiastic to fulfill the commitments made by the Speakers and Representatives of the Parliaments at the Global Parliamentary Summit Against Hunger and

Malnutrition in Madrid, Spain, on 29-30 October 2018, and emphasized the right to adequate, safe, sufficient, nutritious food and freedom from hungers and the recognized need for specific legislative and policy measures to ensure the enjoyment of those rights.

The Parliamentary Network for Food Security and Nutrition in Africa and the Arab World was officially launched during the foundational meeting of the Network in which its constituent charter was approved and resolved that Morocco will take over the chairmanship of the Network ; This was during the international seminar on national reconciliations that led to the achievement of peace ,security and stability which was held at the headquarters of House of councilors of Morocco from 17-18 January ,2019 and organized by the House of councilors of Morocco in partnership with the Association of Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Council in Africa and the Arab World (ASSECAA) , the National Council of human rights of Morocco and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

1.1)General Directions for the network

The Parliamentary Network for Food Security and Nutrition in Africa and the Arab World (PNFSNAA) is a forum for consultation and exchange of information and experiences on strategies related to food security and nutrition, as well as a space for raising awareness and submitting relevant studies and proposals.

Through its discussions and proposals, the Network shall engage in addressing the issues related to food security and nutrition and works to explore ways of engagement and representation in the relevant global parliamentary effort.

The Network will engage with existing food security networks and international bodies working on food security to ensure policies and international efforts remain consistent and complementary; as well as generate technical and institutional support to strengthen the Network.

1.2)Mission statement :

The mission of the Parliamentary Network for Food Security and Nutrition in Africa and the Arab World is to mobilize efforts and actions towards achieving food security , and to contribute with international efforts to create practical & meaningful ways for solving and addressing the food security and nutrition issues in Africa and the Arab world .

The network aims to :

- Encourage the exchange of information, experience, discussion, dialogue and consultation on strategic issues related to food security and nutrition in the African and Arab regions.
- Activate and strengthen the role of parliamentarians in exploring ways and means of promoting Afro-Arab economic cooperation from a strategic, participatory and integrated perspective, based on strengthening economic, trade and humanitarian relations between Africa and the Arab world
- Make concerted efforts to find appropriate solutions through in-depth studies of the nature of food-related problems and directing various economic sectors towards investing in food security and nutrition
- Promote investment in sustainable food systems with high productivity utilizing available and potential technology to boost productivity and increase incomes of farmers in the African and Arab countries.

1.3)Vision :

The Network's vision is to be a regional and global parliamentary forum for consultation and exchange of information and experiences on strategies related to food security and nutrition, as well as a space for raising awareness on food security issues and how to address them .

1.4) Network Membership:

Article 3 states that the Network consists of representatives of Senates, Shooras and equivalent councils in Africa and Arab world. It also indicates that the membership is open to national parliaments, and regional unions in Africa and Arab world. In addition, national parliaments and unions at

the international level can gain an observer status after an application is presented to the executive bureau.

1.5)Reasons for establishing the Parliamentary Network for Food Security & Nutrition in Africa and Arab World

There are many reasons behind the establishment of the network, including the following:

1-Rise in global hunger and in Africa and the Arab world

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the number of people suffering from food shortages or chronic hunger has increased over the past three years. Between 2016 and 2017 alone, the number increased by about 17 million people. The latest global report on food crises, released in April ,2019 by the European Union, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Program (WFP).), indicated that the figure of 113 million people facing food crises is down slightly from the 124 million figure for 2017. However, the number of people in the world facing food crises has remained well over 100 million in the last three years, and the number of countries affected has risen. Moreover, an additional 143 million people in another 42 countries are just one step away from facing acute hunger. The same report indicted that nearly two-thirds of those facing acute hunger are in just 8 countries, five of which are in Africa and two Arab countries. In 17 countries, acute hunger either remained the same or increased.

The UN body cautioned that food insecurity situations at risk of turning into famines were identified in conflict-affected countries, namely Nigeria, Somalia and Yemen. Therefore, the foundation of the network was very necessary given the reported increase in global hunger, including Africa and the Arab World.

2- Contribution to regional and global efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular, the second goal on eradicating hunger by 2030, provide improved food security and nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.

3- Contribution to global and regional efforts at fighting climate change, given that natural disasters resulting from extreme weather events and changing climate patterns, including drought, floods, typhoons and cyclones, fundamentally affect agriculture. Natural disasters can wipe

out entire harvests. The effects can be devastating for rural communities and families that rely on their harvests for their daily food.

4-To increase food production in Africa and Arab world

Statistics indicate that the Arab world imports a large portion of their food consumption. This includes staple food. The region imports 70% of its maize consumption, 50% of its wheat and barley consumption, and 40% of its rice consumption. Together, Arab countries are the largest net importers of cereals around the world, importing roughly 65% of the cereals they consume.

However, this dependence on importing food is very risky. It makes the region highly vulnerable to global rises in food prices as a consequence of climate change and other factors.

5-Enhancement of sustainable agriculture and improvement of improving agricultural biodiversity

Many experts agree that relying upon unsustainable agriculture will, in the long term, increase global food insecurity. Studies involving small farms have indicated that sustainable agricultural practices can actually increase yield.

-Improving agricultural biodiversity through sustainable agricultural practices may also alleviate food insecurity. Industrial agriculture relies upon monocropping, in which one genetic type of crop is planted on large tracts of land, while sustainable farms frequently plant a genetically diverse array of both crop type and species.

Improving the Enabling Environment for Private Sector Investment

-High Impact Value Chain Activities and Investment

-To help reduce malnutrition and improve household resilience of vulnerable populations, agriculture and nutrition programs will focus on a) improving access to diverse quality food, b) improving nutrition-related behaviors within vulnerable households, c) developing community mechanisms to identify and address their food and nutrition problems, and d) strengthening coordination of government and other actors to meet food security and nutrition objectives.

-To improve the nutritional status of women and children, nutrition programs will focus on:

-Improving nutrition-related behaviors and community norms regarding nutrition

-Expanding community-based treatment of acute malnutrition of children

-Expanding the accessibility of safe, quality foods

In addition to these three core areas, environment, natural resource management, climate change, and gender are incorporated as cross-cutting issues in all programs.

1.6)Network's Executive Office:

The Executive Office of the Network consists of the following members :

- H.E. Naam Miyara, Speaker of the Moroccan House of Counselors and ASSECAA President : Chairman of the Network.
- Dr. Jihad Abdullah Al-Fadhil, Member of the Shura Council, Kingdom of Bahrain: Vice-Chairman.
- Mr. Khoabane, Senator of the Kingdom of Lesotho, Network Rapporteur for African States
- Mr. Bashir Al-Hosh, Member of the Supreme Council of State in Libya :Network Rapporteur for Arab States
- ASSECAA General Secretariat : Network secretary

Part 2 :Network's Action plan and priority issues

2.1)Action plan, Mechanisms and Activities:

Out of its belief in the role of parliaments in achieving food security, as well as from the collective responsibility to achieve the 2030 Agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals based on new approaches and creating an effective institutional framework for impact , the Parliamentary Network for Food Security and Nutrition in Africa and the Arab World intends to contribute and influence global efforts affecting food security in these ways:

- Arranging a high-level meetings , seminars and workshops focusing on food security issues and the role of parliamentarians towards addressing these issues.
- Setting up a network website as a tool for the members to communicate, share information and relevant works, announce upcoming events and actions, present relevant work and promote our Network.
- The network will provide a platform for consultation and exchange of information and experiences on strategies related to food security and nutrition and how to ensure food security in Africa and the Arab world . Moreover , it seeks to mobilize efforts , political support , share knowledge and good practices, discuss successes and challenges on issues related to food security, as well as a space for raising awareness and presenting relevant studies and proposals.
- Producing reliable data on the dimensions and issues of food security and the areas where members of parliaments could direct efforts aimed at achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG 2) to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.
- The Network will engage with existing food security networks and international bodies working on food security to ensure policies and international efforts remain consistent and complementary.

-Creating political commitment in taking food security agenda forward , making it as a priority in political and legislative agenda in Africa and the Arab world and how parliamentarians can assume their responsibilities and powers to effect legislative , budgetary and policy advances in the promotion of food security .

- Capacity building and training of parliamentarians ,officials and policy-makers in order to be engaged in issues relevant to food security. To ensure that laws and legislative proposals are passed and implemented , parliamentarians should have technical grounding in food and nutritional security. This will be achieved through holding workshops and training courses for parliamentarians by experts . This is because parliamentarians are not always specialists in the fields of food security and nutrition .

-Through its discussions and proposals, the Network shall engage in addressing the issues related to food security and nutrition and works to mobilize efforts and actions to explore ways of engagement and representation in the relevant global parliamentary effort.

- Creating innovative methods to enhance food availability through investment in technology to support scientific research and taking advantage of technical and scientific achievements provided by artificial intelligence.

-Preparation of studies ,work papers and researches relevant to food security and nutrition in Africa and the Arab world .

-Establishing alliances with other stakeholders , partners and civil society towards common goals; The network will encourage its members to engage in effective legislation and policies and raise awareness that contributes to transformative change at the national ,regional and international levels.

- Establishing connections between experts by bringing together specialists in food production, food security, and nutrition and health.

- Developing and find a way to maintain presence and share up-to-date information.

- Reviewing of existing policy environments and regulatory and legal obstacles to enhance food security.

-Promoting the objectives of the Network at the international level through participating in international forums and meetings on food security and nutrition and exchanging of experiences and knowledge in such issues.

- Raising awareness and promoting information exchange on food security and nutrition .

-Facilitating joint or collaborative efforts to share, collect , analyze and disseminate information on food and nutrition security .

- Achieving gender-based and ecologically- sensitive food security.

- Building a global alliance :For achieving the SDG 2 and in order to become a priority on regional and global political agendas , it is necessary that stakeholders and decision-makers come together to formulate a common vision for the future. This is to be realized by participating actively at international forums, maintaining an open dialogue with regional and international parliaments , organizations and agencies tasked with matters of food security and nutrition.

- Publication of books , studies , researches and work papers on food security and nutrition .

2.2)Network's Priority Issues :

The network has identified these thematic priorities:

-Climate change and natural disasters :

Climate and natural disasters pushed another 29 million people into acute food insecurity in 2018. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the world will experience a temperature rise between 6.5 and 7 degrees by 2100 ; The world will also witness a significant drop in rainfall. This will cause a dramatic rise in world food prices by 12% in 2030 and up to 70% in 2080.

Climate-related disasters, such as drought, floods and tropical storms are among the main drivers of food insecurity, both in the aftermath of a disaster and in the long run.

Land governance and Ecological agriculture: Considering land as a key driver of development and food security.

-Water deficit:

According to the United Nations annual report on blue gold, the world will face a total water deficit of 40% as of 2030. It is worth-mentioning that climate disasters - particularly drought - have been a major cause of food crises in 23 countries, two thirds of which are in Africa. Some 39 million people suffered from severe food insecurity (Global Food Crisis Report - 2019).

-Population increase :

The world population is likely to reach 10 billion by 2050, representing a 30% increase in the demographic size of our planet. In a moderate economic growth scenario, this increase in population will increase global demand for agricultural products by 50% compared to the present levels. The steady increase in population is offset by limited agricultural land, where the population exceeds the average growth rates of agricultural production, and the migration of people from the countryside to the cities leads to a decline in agricultural production.

- Pollution of the oceans and seas :

A staggering 8 million tons of plastic end up in the world's oceans every year. By 2050 there will be more plastic in the oceans than there are fish ,which poses a major threat to biodiversity and fisheries, which can make complementary contributions to food and nutrition security.

-Conflicts and their impact on food security:

Conflict remains the key driver of food insecurity in 18 conflict –affected countries , 15 countries affected by this crisis were in Africa or in the middle east . Some 74 million people – two thirds of those facing acute hunger – were located in 21 countries and territories affected by conflict or insecurity. Around 33 million of these people were in 10 countries in Africa; over 27 million were in seven countries and territories in West Asia/Middle East; 13 million were in three countries in South/South-east Asia (global report on food crisis , 2019).

- Import of Food :

Food deficit leads to food import in order to cover this deficit , which in turn poses a great danger to the economies of countries ; it leads to local

currency depreciation and debt increase which consequently affects political , economic and cultural aspects.

-Urbanization: according to studies and researches, today more than 50% of the world's population is living in the urban and peri-urban areas. It is expected that this figure will reach more than 70% by 2050 .
Rapid urbanization and migration from rural areas will affect negatively food security .

-Nutrition: being aware of the fact that 820 million people in the world are still undernourished today, and that number of overweight children and adults are in increase in developing countries.

-The significance of food security for development and economic growth.

- Role of parliaments in achieving Sustainable Development goal 2 (SDG2) to end hunger , achieve food security and improved nutrition , and promote sustainable agriculture.

2.3) Rabat Declaration on Food Security, 1 November 2019

The most important points in this Declaration are :

The parliamentarians commit to :

Strengthening coordination, cooperation, and South-South solidarity between Africa ,the Arab world, Latin America, and the Caribbean at the bilateral levels, boosting regional integration mechanisms, ways of intra-cooperation, especially on the spheres of education, scientific research, possession and transfer of technology , enhancement of food security, economic exchange, sustainable development, and sustained coordination through permanent institutional channels;

-Building joint, beneficial partnerships , launching dynamics of human and social development projects by expediting the formulation of cooperation strategies based on the values of solidarity, justice and common interests;

-Backing the action of the United Nations agencies, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Health

Organization (WHO), and the World Food Program (WFP), in association with all countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), mainly SDG2 related to eliminating hunger and undernourishment and boosting sustainable agricultural production by 2030;

-Enhancing dialogue among parliamentarians at the national, regional and international levels to share experiences and best practices and eliminate the obstacles they face, in addition to promoting broader cooperation, consolidating cooperation with strategic partners, including with civil society organizations, universities, research centers and the private sector for the purpose of realizing SDG2 and enforcing the right to adequate and healthy food and nutrition;

Boosting the business of Arab, African and Latino parliaments, particularly senates, and equivalent councils with their various components and competencies, with the goal of bolstering their oversight over government performance, and their commitment to fulfilling national and international obligations on food security, and assuming their role in enacting legislation in such a manner that underpins economic and trade cooperation between Africa, the Arab world, Latin America, and South countries in general;

-Creating South-South parliamentary observatory for food security with the aim of enhancing communication and coordination among parliaments and federations of commerce, industry and agriculture , providing them with observed information and variables on food security , building up bridges between such bodies and concerned food security agencies at the regional and international level to maintain seriousness and vigilance in terms of following upon such a significant issue;

They call upon governments , the private sector and all concerned institutions in our countries to :

-Enhance joint action among governments, parliaments and the private sector through a plethora of coordinated and harmonized efforts to deal with the issue of food security as an essentially strategic interlude to a promising cooperation between the two regions in a way closely related to the Sustainable Development Goals and fighting climate change,

-Motivate the private sector to invest in agriculture and scientific research on relevant issues by enacting laws incentivizing the granting of preferential loans to investments in agriculture, and customs and tax incentives to the private sector in such a manner that help it compete, in addition to making laws that support the establishment of transportation networks, and facilitate movement and transport across common borders;

-Adopt effective, sustainable mechanisms that ensure food security and improved nutrition , upgrade agriculture, encourage scientific research centers on food production, and develop sustainable and climate change-sensitive agricultural methods so as to overcome the impacts of climate change, desertification, rain water scarcity, and other climatic factors.

Part 3 : Roles of Parliamentarians Towards Achieving " Zero Hunger "

3.1) Roles of Parliamentarians Towards Achieving " Zero Hunger " and the Dimensions identified by FAO organization¹:

Parliamentarians are critical partners in the fight to eradicate poverty and malnutrition, given their legislative, budgetary and policy oversight roles; they also represent an important stakeholder in the development process. Thus, parliamentarians are critical actors in establishing an enabling political and legislative environment to achieve food and nutrition security. In other words, the work of parliamentarians enables the creation of an effective and wide-ranging institutional framework that can secure the right to food and consolidate the management of agricultural development.

Parliamentarians have increasingly been engaging in debates both within and outside parliaments, as well as participating in the creation of national and international networks aimed at achieving food security.

The recent successful experiences of the Parliamentary Fronts against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Pan-African Parliamentary Food Security and Nutrition Alliance have made an invaluable contribution to the global effort towards food security.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has forged close collaboration with Parliamentarians, building upon the experiences of the Parliamentary Front against Hunger for Latin America and the Caribbean (PFH LAC), which was established in 2009.

FAO has since engaged Parliamentarians in Africa and Europe, which resulted in the Pan African Parliament establishing the Pan-African Parliamentary Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition (PAPA-FSN) and several members of the European Parliament establishing the European Alliance 'Fight against Hunger. Similar national and regional initiatives have also been implemented in other countries and regions, such as Spanish Cooperation, through its Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID).

Furthermore, the World Summit Against Hunger and Malnutrition held in Madrid, Spain, on 29-30 October 2018, affirmed its commitment to the

Source : FAO website ¹

realization of the goals of sustainable development as a plan of action for a better future for all, with a particular focus on Goal 2 pertaining to eradication of hunger by 2030.

It also stressed the importance of the many international and regional instruments that formed the backbone of collective efforts to eliminate all forms of undernourishment and to ensure the realization of the right to adequate food for all.

The Summit called on parliaments, parliamentarians and Governments to support and strengthen the work of the UN international agencies such as FAO, IFAD and WFP, and to work together with all States to achieve sustainable development goals, in particular to ensure the elimination of hunger by 2030.

FAO supports parliamentarians in their efforts to promote laws on food security.

Improvements in food security and nutrition are the result of numerous policies and the contribution of multiple actors operating on a long-term basis. They therefore require lasting consensus and adequate resources; in other words, they need solid political commitment that translates into effective action.

To achieve lasting results, we need to consider the four key dimensions identified by FAO:

1. policies, programmes and legal frameworks;
2. governance and coordination;
3. evidence-based decision-making; and
4. implementation.

The following are ideas for areas where members of parliament could direct efforts aimed at achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG 2): to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.

1-Legislators should establish the principles that guide policy towards ending hunger and malnutrition

Eliminating hunger and malnutrition requires policies, strategies, laws and investment plans that guide the action of all sectors, taking into account that these policies can contribute to the achievement of food security. One of the keys to implementing these programmes and policies is to adopt a legislative mechanism used to address multisectoral issues.

Establishing general principles and obligations through framework legislation guide action in the different sectors . Formal legal frameworks serve to support policy and provide continuity and transparency during the electoral process.

Following this general approach to ensure coherence, sectoral policies and laws must also consider food security and nutrition from within their specific areas.

A country's constitution is its supreme law, the foundation on which its citizens' rights and the state's obligations are built. By including the right to adequate food (whether implicitly or explicitly) in their constitution, countries give this goal the greatest guarantee of success.

2-Legislators should establish the rules of the game when it comes to overseeing laws and organizing their implementation

Legislators should criticize, question, and authorize other branches of government, including the executive branch.

The tools that they have at their disposal for ensuring and demanding accountability include question time sessions, the approval of budgets and select committees. In this way, they can demand that budgets are allocated to policies aimed at ending hunger and malnutrition.

Parliaments play an essential role in improving coordination and governance in food security and nutrition because:

- 1) through legislation, they can develop governance structures and mechanisms;
- 2) through budget allocation, they can ensure that the former have adequate resources to operate; Parliamentarians can make government fund nutrition interventions to fight malnutrition , in addition to donor funding . As most of nutrition interventions are funded by external donors , there is a need to get government to consider nutrition as a development priority ;and
- 3) by monitoring government action, they can encourage greater coordination.

3-Members of parliament should draft laws that take food and nutritional security into account while also considering the needs of different industries

Ensuring food and nutritional security requires the involvement of the various industries that make up the food system. This means considering the needs of small farmers, pastoralists and artisanal

fishers, and helping them to build capacity through social protection initiatives that target the weakest links in the food system.

4-Parliaments could take advantage of the knowledge held by national and international academic bodies, such as universities and research institutes:

Legislators need to understand the extent of a problem and be able to measure the impact of policies. To allow them to do so, they can capitalize on the expertise of the academic community while drafting, implementing and overseeing legislation or public policy relating to the right to adequate food.

Without data, it is impossible to know the extent of a problem or to evaluate whether a specific programme has had an impact. Good decision-making comes from analysing data based on reliable statistics and information and making the analyses and information reach members of government and the parliament in an understandable and timely manner.

At the same time, understanding current policies, programmes, legislation and investments is essential for overseeing and evaluating their real impact on reducing a country's rates of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. In other words, identifying whether a law is really having the desired impact requires monitoring it, assessing whether it has served to bring about progress and, if necessary, correcting any errors, in all cases basing our efforts on reliable data. That is why it is also essential for governments and parliaments to support the work of statistics and evaluation agencies and to have solid and reliable reports on the situation of food security and nutrition and on policy and programme performance. Without these efforts, it is impossible to analyze whether there has been progress.

5-Parliaments should maintain a dialogue with civil society, businesses, and the executive and legislative branches of government

For the process of creating laws to be successful, it requires not only political will, but also participatory governance. Members of parliament should open up the debate to group working in food- and nutrition-related areas to ensure laws are passed on the basis of consensus and receive input from all of society.

The process of developing effective laws against hunger and malnutrition should be based on multiple elements. Together with the political will to propose legislation aimed at containing the problem, it is often necessary

to consolidate parliamentary action through multisector cooperation and collaboration and by strengthening the knowledge of legislators. In order to be able to address such broad and complex issues, it is important for parliaments to collaborate with national and international knowledge hubs and for there to be mechanisms that facilitate constant dialogue between stakeholders, from consumers to producers – including governments, civil society organizations, universities and the private sector – so that the decision-making process reflects the interests and needs of everyone, especially the most vulnerable.

6- Parliamentarians could improve the work they do by undergoing specialized training

To ensure that strong legislation and legislative proposals are passed and implemented, members of parliaments and their advisors should have a proper technical grounding in food and nutritional security.

Parliamentarians are not always specialists in the fields of hunger and malnutrition. By attending workshops (online or face-to-face) and training courses led by experts, they can strengthen and build on their skills.

For countries to translate their policies and investment plans into specific measures, they need to efficiently mobilize and allocate financial and human resources in support of food security and nutrition. There are multiple ways to achieve this, but, without doubt, improving the capacity to determine the costs of each intervention or programme and to evaluate the funding they might need is essential for implementing policies and plans. In addition, effective implementation requires strengthening the human and organizational capacities of institutions working on nutrition and food security issues. Without well-prepared professionals with the ability to deliver and the knowledge to act, it is impossible for any legislative measure to have an impact.

7- Parliamentarians should build and strengthen opportunities to share knowledge and experience.

Members of parliament don't always have the specialist food and nutrition-related skills needed to draft laws that comply with international standards. Building knowledge-sharing networks allows lawmakers to make progress in the implementation of legislation and legislate in accordance with their country's individual characteristics.

Parliamentarians should share their experiences of how and to what extent public policy in this area is progressing. They should reflect on how to improve the legislative process and create effective public policy.

8- Raising awareness and informing the public should be part and parcel of parliamentary work.

Sharing information promotes transparency and accountability, and ensures that organizations and the public are aware of the issues surrounding hunger, and able to assert their rights.

Journalists play a key role in this regard, as they can inform citizens of their rights, the country's food status and government programmes. In order for them to do so, legislators need to communicate and raise awareness, explaining clearly to the public why a given law has been passed and the consequences it will have. This increases the probability that citizens will support the work of lawmakers.

Raising the awareness of the general public as well as of the executive and judicial branches is also important in preparing for legitimate and lasting legislative change.

9- Legislators should form inclusive alliances.

According to SDG 17 of the 2030 Agenda, a successful sustainable development programme requires alliances to be established between governments, the private sector and civil society.

These alliances should have shared targets based on the public's wellbeing. Malnutrition in all its forms has to be tackled as a matter of priority through the exchange of knowledge and experience, regular meetings, and dialogue. This means overcoming ideological differences to achieve one goal: eliminating hunger.

10- Towards a shared objective: building a global alliance .

Parliamentarians have an important role to play in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as regional initiatives (e.g. the Malabo Declaration for a hunger free Africa), to end poverty and hunger. Parliamentary alliances are one important collaborative mechanism to achieve these goals.

For SDG 2 to become a priority on regional and global political agendas at the highest levels, it is essential that stakeholders of varying significance and with varying degrees of decision-making power come together to work towards a shared vision for the future. This is to be achieved by participating actively at international forums, maintaining an open dialogue with regional parliaments and agencies tasked with matters of integration, and supporting the monitoring of regional political commitments, such as the SAN-CELAC Plan. It is also important to work with specialist bodies, such as the agencies of the United Nations, as well as with the support of foreign donors.

11- Securing rights for investors on agriculture by legislations within national parliaments and governments.

Sources :

- 10 contributions parliamentarians can make towards achieving " Zero hunger " booklet published by FAO , sustainable development goals , FAO website: www.foa.org
- Parliamentary alliances against hunger and malnutrition
- Source ECWAS network
- Global Action Network Meeting
- **Food Security Information Network (FSIN)**
- AFRICAN FOOD SECURITY URBAN NETWORK
- Global Action Network on Sustainable Food from the Oceans and Inland Waters for Food Security and Nutrition
 - North Atlantic Seafood Forum (NASF)
 - International Food Security Network (IFSN)
 - Food Security Network
 - African Food Security Urban Network (AFSUN)
 - Global forum on food & nutrition security
 - Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC Global Programme Food Security
 - Food Security Information Network (FSIN)