

**Statement on Sustainable Development Goals
by the International Agri-Food Network on behalf of the Private Sector Mechanism
October 13, 2015**

Madame Chair, Your Excellency, and Honoured Guests,

Quite simply, agriculture is the primary driver to abate hunger and reduce poverty. Throughout history, agricultural prosperity has led to successful economies. And food security has a direct impact on national and political security. It also addresses inequalities. For instance, we know rural women lag behind urban women and all men in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Rural development and farming is a key mechanism to address this devastating gap.

Throughout the Sustainable Development Goals process, the International Agri-Food Network has been engaged in the negotiations. As part of the Global Business Alliance, we have placed a priority on the 5 P's: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership.

Firstly, the SDGs place **People**-centred approaches at the core of the development aspirations of the UN. Agriculture programs are needed that are 'farmer-centred and knowledge-based' so that the full potential of farmers, both men and women can be harnessed. Farmers need access to land, water, knowledge, inputs, and credit to grow a crop and functioning markets to sell their products.

It starts with primary producers and touches every person on the planet.

P 2 is **Planet** – Of course, no one knows land, oceans, and water better than those people who work on them. There is no "one-size-fits-all" solution in agriculture, and we would like to emphasize that the CFS and the SDGs reflect a **broad diversity** of farming systems: from livestock to crop; horticulture to agro-forestry; modern to traditional; co-operatives to businesses; smallholders to large. Agriculture must produce more crop per drop; more food per acre; more output per input to feed the world and protect the planet.

P 3 - **Prosperity** – to achieve those goals agriculture and rural development should return to at least 10% of overseas development assistance and for countries to meet their national commitments under programs like CAADP. Private enterprise can also mobilise urgently needed funds, investing in producers themselves, their skills and training, and supporting services such as insurance, value addition, and infrastructure.

All of these are foundational to P 4 – **Peace**. Supportive policies are needed to encourage investments in local agriculture and innovation that lead to food security, economic development, stability and national security.

Finally, P 5 is **Partnerships** - The members of the PSM are action takers. We are those working with the oceans, soils and forests; we are farmers, fishers, food producers, investors and enterprises producing and moving food to where it is needed.

We hope CFS will be a vital part of SDG implementation, just as we plan to be. CFS should have a key role in reporting progress towards the goals and we hope it will submit a regularised report to the High Level Political Forum in New York. There will not be enough attention on goal 2, let alone the cross cutting role of agriculture, if CFS does not work as an active advocate for Zero Hunger.

In particular, PSM encourages CFS to use its convening powers to increase the number of - and alignment of - food security and nutrition partnerships. The goals are now clear. We need to encourage people to work together towards the goals, each partner bringing their expertise to the table to make our collective effort more durable. Together we can end hunger in 2030.

Thank you Madame Chair and we would like to commend your dedication to this august body as well as to the promotion of CFS values and products throughout the SDG process.