

SPECIAL SESSION 8

Advancing Zero Hunger in the Arab region: The challenges and the way forward

Thursday 17 March 2022, 11:45 AM – 1:15PM (Beirut time)

Background and objective

The Arab region suffers from a triple burden of malnutrition, including persisting high rates of stunting and wasting, overweight and obesity and diet-related non-communicable diseases. Around 141 million people in the region are moderately or severely food insecure.

The League of Arab States and its partners introduced the 'Strategic Framework for Zero Hunger in the Arab region' launched in February 2022. The initiative aims at strengthening collaboration between Arab countries, supporting the regional policy dialogue, and developing strategies on sustained food and nutrition security, agricultural inclusive growth and socioeconomic development.

The objectives of this session are to:

- (i) Raise awareness on the situation, progress, challenges and good practices to accelerate actions towards ending hunger and preventing all forms of malnutrition.
- (ii) Mobilize support for the implementation of the 'Strategic Framework for Zero Hunger in the Arab region' at the national and regional level.

Questions to be addressed

1. What is the strategic rationale for the Regional Initiative on Zero Hunger in the Arab Region and what are the possible accelerators to achieve zero hunger in the region to help in building back better from COVID-19?
2. What are the priority issues to be emphasized in the implementation of the Regional Strategic Framework Action Plan (RSFAP) for Zero Hunger by member countries?
3. What are the priority actions that need to be undertaken to address the nutrition crisis and build back better?
4. What are the relevant recommendations for the Arab Region to accelerate achieving SDG 2 goals?

Moderator

- **Mr. Jean-Marc Faures**, Regional Programme Leader, FAO, Regional Office for Near East and North Africa

Opening remarks

- **Ms. Nada El Agizi**, Director of SD and International Cooperation, League of Arab States
- **Mr. Abdulhakim Elwaer**, FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Near East and North Africa
- **Ms. Corinne Fleischer**, Regional Director, WFP regional office for Middle East and North Africa

Keynote speaker

- **Dr. Wadid Erian**, Professor, Cairo University and Senior Advisor for Sustainable Development at the League of Arab States.

Panelists

- **Ms. Rasha Al-Ardi**, Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF Sudan
- **Mr. Saad Hatem Al-Maaini**, Chairman of the Committee for Developing the National Food Security Strategy, Ministry of Agriculture, Iraq
- **Ms. Fatima Elhassan Eltahir**, Secretary General, Technical Secretariat for Food Security, Sudan
- **Professor Mohamed Ait-Kadi**, President of the General Council of Agricultural Development, Morocco

This Special Session will be organized in HYBRID format. Register in advance for this Session via [this link](#). In-person participants of AFSD can attend the session in Committee Room 1, B1 level.