

## COMMITMENT SEVEN:

We will implement, monitor, and follow-up this Plan of Action at all levels in cooperation with the international community.

### OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

#### **OBJECTIVE 7.1: To adopt actions within each country's national framework to enhance food security and enable the implementation of the commitments of the World Food Summit Plan of Action.**

*To this end, governments will, where appropriate:*

The United States:

*(a) Review and revise, as appropriate, their national plans, programmes and strategies with a view to achieving food security consistent with the World Food Summit commitments;*

The United States is addressing these actions in its Action Plan on Food Security which is currently being developed. A report is expected to be issued in the Spring of 1998.

*(b) Establish or improve national mechanisms to set priorities, develop, implement and monitor the components of action for food security within designated time frames, based both on national and local needs, and provide the necessary resources for their functioning;*

A Food Security Advisory Committee has been established under the Board for International Agricultural Development (BIFAD). The Committee's members include representatives from non-governmental organizations, academia, and private industry. It will provide input to the U.S. Government on the development of the U.S. Action Plan on Food Security, participate in the implementation of the Action Plan, and aid in outreach to non-governmental sectors.

*(c) In collaboration with civil society, formulate and launch national Food for All Campaigns to mobilize all stakeholders at all levels of society and their resources in each country, in support of the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action;*

It is anticipated that a U.S. Food for All Campaign will be developed in the process of developing a U.S. Action Plan on Food Security.

*(d) Actively encourage a greater role for, and alliances with, civil society organizations in addressing food security;*

See 7.1 (b).

*(e) Strive to mobilize public and private resources to support community food security initiatives;*

See 7.1 (b).

*(f) Establish mechanisms to collect information on the nutritional status of all members of communities, especially the poor, women, children and members of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, to monitor and improve their household food security;*

The Office of Food for Peace with the Office of Health and Nutrition of USAID has worked with PVOs to develop generic indicators for assessing the impact of Title II programs including the collection, analysis, and reporting of nutritional status. A number of technical guides are available and training programs are being developed to ensure adaptation to diverse settings.

*(g) Complement existing national plans of action on nutrition, developed as a follow-up to the ICN, with action on relevant aspects of food security or, where necessary,*

With its partners, the U.S. has supported national-level micronutrient assessments, review of the current government health policies, and opportunities for strengthening these policies in selected countries. Provision of essential technical assistance to

*develop such plans in accordance with the recommendations of this Summit and the ICN, in partnership with all actors of civil society;*

better enable governments to implement nation-wide and targeted micronutrient surveillance systems (for vitamin A, iron, and iodine) is a next step.

To better understand and document the status of population and child health, the U.S. has supported the collection of data in more than 170 countries. Demographic Health Surveys have recently added modules on micronutrient nutrition and food consumption to provide more understanding in these areas in select countries. Conferences, both global and country-specific, have promoted the cooperation of public and private partnerships to promote more concerted attention to micronutrient deficiencies, particularly in countries where they are of public health significance.

*(h) Plan and monitor in a coordinated manner the implementation of relevant recommendations of all UN conferences aimed at eradicating poverty and improving food security and nutrition.*

The U.S. Government and civil society are working to harmonize World Food Summit follow-up with the ICN and other international conference and summit outcomes. As part of the Presidential initiative, The Greater Horn of Africa Initiative, the U.S. is working with African institutions to implement specific aspects of the plans of action in the context of food security and reestablish the livelihoods after emergencies.

**OBJECTIVE 7.2: To improve sub-regional, regional, and international cooperation and to mobilize, and optimize the use of, available resources to support national efforts for the earliest possible achievement of sustainable world food security.**

*To this end, governments, in cooperation among themselves and with international institutions, using information on food insecurity and vulnerability, including mapping, will, as appropriate:*

The United States:

*(a) Reinforce poverty eradication strategies and orient the development assistance policies of the international agencies of the UN system, with broad participation of the developing countries, so that resources are directed towards sustainable development, including agriculture for food security, and effectively contribute to the improved situation of food insecure households;*

Fully supports and is an active participant in the consultations organized by FAO on FIVIMS.

*(b) Encourage relevant agencies within the UN system to initiate, inter alia within the framework of the ACC, consultations on the further elaboration and definition of a food insecurity and vulnerability information and mapping system to be developed in a coordinated manner; member countries and their institutions and other organizations, as appropriate, should be included in the development, operation and use of the system; FAO should play a catalytic role in this effort, within the framework of the ad*

See 7.2 (a)

*hoc inter-agency task forces on the follow-up of the UN conferences. The results of that work should be reported to the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) through the ACC;*

*(c) Improve the collection, through definition of common standards, and the analysis, dissemination and utilization of information and data, desegregated inter alia by gender, needed to guide and monitor progress towards the achievement of food security; in this context, the contribution of NGOs is recognized;*

See also 2.2 (a), 5.2 (a), and 7.3 (c).

*(d) Continue, within the framework of UNGA resolutions 50/120, 50/227 and the coordinated follow-up by the UN system to the major UN conferences and summits since 1990, the review of functions and capacities of the UN system, including the specialized agencies, programmes and funds, in their relation to food security; this review should aim at reducing duplications and filling gaps in coverage, defining the tasks of each organization within its mandate, making concrete proposals for their strengthening and for improving coordination with governments, and for avoiding duplication of work between relevant organizations, and implement these proposals as a matter of urgency;*

n.a.

*(e) Starting in 1997, review the adequacy and effectiveness of the allocation and use of financial and human resources for action required to ensure food for all as a follow-up to the World Food Summit, and reallocate available resources accordingly, with special reference to the needs of countries facing deteriorating food security, nutrition, health and resource degradation;*

The United States expects to participate within the context of the CFS in carrying out this activity.

*(f) Review and streamline existing mechanisms, increase cooperation and the sharing of knowledge and experience among developing countries and with developed countries, and improve coordination amongst and between all partners involved in order to maximize synergy for the attainment of food security;*

The United States welcomes the opportunity to work with other donor and developing countries, perhaps within the context of the CFS, to follow-up on this proposed activity.

*(g) Focus technical assistance more effectively on building-up and mobilizing national capacity, expertise and local institutions;*

See above.

*(h) Invite the ACC through its Chairman, the Secretary General of the UN, to ensure appropriate inter-agency coordination in accordance with UNGA Resolution 50/227 and, when considering the Chair of any ACC mechanisms for inter-agency follow-up to the World Food Summit, to recognize, in the spirit of ECOSOC Resolution 1996/36, the major role of FAO in the field of food security, within its mandate.*

n.a.

***With clear tasks given to each within its mandate and under system-wide coordination within the framework of the coordinated follow-up to UN conferences, in accordance with UNGA Resolution 50/120, FAO and the other relevant organizations of the UN system, as well as the international finance and trade institutions and other international and regional technical assistance organizations, are invited to:***

*(i) On request, assist countries in reviewing and formulating national plans of action including targets, goals and timetables for achieving food security;*

n.a.

*(j) Facilitate a coherent and coordinated UN system follow-up to the World Food Summit at the field level, through the resident coordinators, in full consultation with governments, and in coordination with international financial institutions;*

n.a.

*(k) Provide technical assistance to member countries to facilitate implementation of food security programmes in order to meet targets established by governments;*

Objective 7.2 (Continued)

n.a.

*(l) Assist in arranging partnerships for economic and technical cooperation among countries on food security;*

n.a.

*(m) Raise the global profile of food security issues through UN system-wide advocacy and sustain the World Food Summit commitments to world food security.*

n.a.

***In cooperation among themselves, governments and international financial institutions will:***

*(n) Make every effort to ensure that goals and programmes aimed at food security and poverty eradication are safeguarded in difficult times of economic transition, budget austerity and structural adjustment;*

The United States will make its best effort to support this action.

*(o) Encourage the multilateral development banks to enhance their support of developing country efforts to increase food security, especially in Africa.*

The United States supports this action.

**OBJECTIVE 7.3: To monitor actively the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action.**

*To this end, governments, in partnership with all actors of civil society, in coordination with relevant international institutions and, in conformity with ECOSOC Resolution 1996/36 on the follow-up to the major international UN conferences and summits as appropriate, will:*

The United States:

*(a) Establish, through the CFS, a timetable, procedures and standardized reporting formats, which do not duplicate similar reports to the UN, FAO and other agencies, on the national, sub-regional and regional implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action;*

Is collaborating within the CFS to implement these actions.

*(b) Set out in the CFS a process for developing targets and verifiable indicators of national and global food security where they do not exist;*

*(c) Report to the CFS on national, sub-regional and regional implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action, drawing on a food insecurity and vulnerability information and mapping system, once established, as an analytical aid;*

With this report, is complying with the action. See also 2.2 (a), 5.2 (a), and 7.2 (b).

*(d) Invite the Secretary-General of the UN to request the ACC to report to ECOSOC in accordance with established procedures progress on the follow-up by UN agencies to the World Food Summit;*

n.a.

*(e) Monitor through the CFS the national, sub-regional, regional and international implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action, using reports from national*

Is collaborating within the CFS to implement this action.

*governments, reports on UN agency follow-up and inter-agency coordination, and information from other relevant international institutions;*

*(f) Provide regular reports on implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action through the CFS via the FAO Council to ECOSOC;*

*(g) Encourage the effective participation of relevant actors of civil society in the CFS monitoring process, recognizing their critical role in enhancing food security;*

*(h) By 2006, undertake, in the CFS and within available resources, a major broad-based progress assessment of the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action and a mid-term review of achieving the target of reducing the number of undernourished people to half their present level no later than 2015. This progress assessment and review should be in the context of a special forum of a regular session of the CFS and involve active participation from governments, relevant international organizations and actors of civil society.*

See 7.3(c)

The U.S. government, in partnership with civil society actors, has played a leading role in efforts to encourage civil society participation in the CFS monitoring process.

The U.S. government has adopted the World Food Summit target of reducing domestic food insecurity by half no later than 2015. Many NGOs are seeking an accelerated domestic timetable.

**OBJECTIVE 7.4: To clarify the content of the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, as stated in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other relevant international and regional instruments, and to give particular attention to implementation and full and progressive realization of this right as a means of achieving food security for all.**

*To this end, governments, in partnership with all actors of civil society, will, as appropriate:*

*(a) Make every effort to implement the provisions of Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (the Covenant) and relevant provisions of other international and regional instruments;*

*b) Urge States that are not yet Parties to the Covenant to adhere to the Covenant at the earliest possible time;*

*(c) Invite the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to give particular attention to this Plan of Action in the framework of its activities and to continue to monitor the implementation of the specific measures provided for in Article 11 of the Covenant;*

*(d) Invite relevant treaty bodies and appropriate specialized agencies of the UN to consider how they might contribute, within the framework of the coordinated follow-up by the UN system to the major international UN conferences and summits, including the World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna 1993, within the scope of their mandates, to the further implementation of this right;*

The United States:

Understands and accepts that calls for action under particular treaties are germane only to States that are party to those treaties. Moreover, any specific actions called for can only be within the mandates of the organizations or bodies concerned. The United States does not understand this paragraph as support for the development of any treaty, international agreement, or code of conduct regarding food security.

The United States is committed to achieving global food security and reducing hunger and malnutrition. It has a long humanitarian tradition of providing food to the needy at home, through both public and private institutions, and of supporting international efforts to do so. The United States is also committed to an open trading system to help assure that the global community has access to the agricultural abundance of the United States.

A wide variety of activities and educational events will be carried out by civil society organizations during the observance of the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Economic, social, and cultural rights will be a particular focus of attention and discussion, including the right to food. NGOs hope that these activities will lead to new efforts to promote the U.S. government's obligation to respect, protect, promote, and fulfill the right to food. Within the United States, the federal government currently provides food assistance through the federal Food Stamp Program, the National School Lunch Program, and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and through surplus food distributions. Many state and local governments also provide food assistance to those in need. Private charities, religious, and other organizations are major providers of food to the needy. Internationally, the United States remains the single largest provider of food aid and is an important supporter of food research. As one of the world's major food exporters, the United States pursues policies that maintain its position as a reliable supplier.

U.S. food security policies are developed within the framework of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. The United States has been a principal architect of the global structure of human rights since World War II. Food security is embedded in the foundation of U.S. foreign policy and the concept of universal human rights. With regard to international standards, the United States subscribes to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 25(1) which states, "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and his family, including food ... ." The United States also promotes food security activities consistent with the principles set out in the 1949 Geneva Conventions and Article 11(1) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, although it is not party to that Covenant. The United States has ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and promotes means by which communities and civil society can better participate in shaping activities and government policies affecting food security.

U. S. activities in pursuit of its international obligations have been reinforced by various legislative enactments. The United States understands the progressive nature of the right to food as reflected in international instruments and believes that all countries can take additional practical measures to contribute substantially to achieving food security.

Some public statements at the U.S. National Consultations of Food Security expressed a strong sentiment that the United States should ratify the Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. The U.S. Government has signed that Covenant, which remains pending before the Senate for its advice and consent to ratification, and it fully embraces international efforts to provide food security and freedom from hunger. The Government believes, however, that the best route to food security, particularly in countries and populations that are most food insecure, is not through legal instruments, but through the adoption of sound policies and practical steps to expand food production and reduce hunger.

The U.S. Government continues to be willing to examine its current policies in light of the objectives of achieving food security, both at home and abroad. We hope other governments will do the same. The United States will promote policies, share information and expertise, and pursue air and open trading systems to advance food security and reduce hunger and malnutrition throughout the world. Food security will be achieved through comprehensive actions to encourage economic development, poverty alleviation, and universal access to balanced, nutritious food.

The United States believes that the term "voluntary guidelines" refers to voluntary programs to be implemented at national level to ensure that governments do not interfere with the effective opportunity or ability of their citizens to obtain safe and nutritious food, and which can be supplemented by other voluntary measures such as donor guidelines for humanitarian food aid.

*(e) Invite the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, in consultation with relevant treaty bodies, and in collaboration with relevant specialized agencies and programmes of the UN system and appropriate intergovernmental mechanisms, to better define the rights related to food in Article 11 of the Covenant and to propose ways to implement and realize these rights as a means of achieving the commitments and objectives of the World Food Summit, taking into account the possibility of formulating voluntary guidelines for food security for all.*

**OBJECTIVE 7.5: To share responsibilities in achieving food security for all so that implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action takes place at the lowest possible level at which its purpose could be best achieved.**

In implementing this Plan of Action, it is recognized that:

*(a) Individuals and households have a key role in decisions and actions affecting their food security. They must be enabled and encouraged to participate actively, both individually and also collectively, through producers, consumers and other organizations of civil society;*

*(b) Governments have the responsibility to ensure an enabling environment conducive to the achievement of food security;*

*(c) Regional cooperation takes advantage of geographic complementarities within regions and of economies of scale;*

*(d) In view of growing interdependence between nations and regions, international cooperation and solidarity between areas experiencing different levels of development are indispensable to achieving food security for all.*

**Notes:**

1. When "Government" is used, it means as well the European Community within its areas of competence.
2. In this document,"agriculture" and "agricultural" include livestock.
3. References in this Plan of Action to UNCLOS, UN Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and other International Agreements, do not prejudice the position of any State with respect to signature, ratification or accession to that Convention or to such other agreements.
4. Ibid.