

GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



THIS SPECIAL EDITION OF *GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT* FOCUSES EXCLUSIVELY ON COVERAGE OF THE FAO WORLD SUMMIT ON FOOD SECURITY, HELD NOVEMBER 16-18, 2009.

For on-going coverage and commentary on the Summit and other issues related to agricultural development, please visit the new [Global Food for Thought blog](#).

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KEY DOCUMENTS FROM SUMMIT

Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security

“In adopting this declaration we agree to undertake all necessary actions required at national, regional and global levels and by all States and Governments to halt immediately the increase in – and to significantly reduce – the number of people suffering from hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity. We will reinforce all our efforts to meet by 2015 the targets of Millennium Development Goal 1 and the World Food Summits. We commit to take action towards sustainably eradicating hunger at the earliest possible date.”

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/Summit/Docs/Final_Declaration/WSFS09_Declaration.pdf

Feeding the World, Eradicating Hunger, *World Summit on Food Security Background Paper, FAO*

By the middle of this century, the world’s population is projected to reach 9.1 billion, 34 percent higher than today. Nearly all of this increase will occur in developing countries. About 70 percent of the world’s population will be urban (compared to 49 percent today). Income levels will be multiples of what they are now. In order to respond to the expected demand of this larger, more urban and, on average, richer population, food production (net of food used for liquid biofuels) must increase by about 70 percent.

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/Summit/WSFS_Issues_papers/WSFS_Background_paper_Feeding_the_world.pdf

Issues Briefs:

Feeding the World in 2050

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/Summit/WSFS_Issues_papers/WSFS_feeding_E.pdf

Food Security and the Financial Crisis

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/Summit/WSFS_Issues_papers/WSFS_Financial_E.pdf

Foreign Direct Investment – Win-Win or Land Grab?

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/Summit/WSFS_Issues_papers/WSFS_FDI_E.pdf

New Challenges – Climate Change and Bioenergy

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/Summit/WSFS_Issues_papers/WSFS_Climate_E.pdf

Non-distorting Farm Support

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/Summit/WSFS_Issues_papers/WSFS_NDS_E.pdf

Sub-Saharan Africa – Realizing the Potential

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/Summit/WSFS_Issues_papers/WSFS_Africa_E.pdf

The Contribution of Technology

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/Summit/WSFS_Issues_papers/WSFS_tech_E.pdf

The Investment Imperative

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/Summit/WSFS_Issues_papers/WSFS_investment_E.pdf

Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/Summit/WSFS_Issues_papers/WSFS_TBD_E.pdf

Global Governance of Food Security

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/Summit/WSFS_Issues_papers/WSFS_Global_E.pdf

COMMENTARY

A Deficit of Political Will?, *Per Pinstrup-Andersen, Global Food for Thought, November 19*

The Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security agreed to by Summit participants on November 16, 2009, states as its first strategic objective to “Ensure urgent national, regional and global action to fully realize the target of Millennium Development Goal 1 and the 1996 World Food Summit goal, namely to reduce respectively the proportion and the number of people who suffer from hunger and malnutrition by half by 2015.” Unfortunately, countries have already agreed to this commitment on many occasions, and little progress in alleviating the problems of global hunger and malnutrition has been made.

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2009/11/expert-commentary-a-deficit-in-political-will.html>

The Food Summit Distraction, *Robert Paarlberg, Global Food for Thought, November 19*

Rome has always been the wrong place to hold “Food Summits.” The world’s most urgent food problems are not visible in the Eternal City, where you cannot get a bad meal. These problems also cannot be corrected through un-funded, consensus-based resolutions, which are the leading product of United Nations conferences. At the current World Summit on Food Security, the delegates negotiated a compromise and approved a watered-down “final declaration” in the opening hours of the first day, hoping to send a reassuring message of global harmony.

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2009/11/the-food-summit-distraction.html>

The Urban Poor Are Going Hungry, *Jonathan Crush, Op-Ed, Globe and Mail, November 19*

The new food security agenda has a major flaw, one that may prove fatal to the millions it ignores. Underlying this agenda, and the food summit itself, is the idea that food insecurity is exclusively a rural problem and that the solution is to get small farmers to grow more food. The agenda's rural bias, however, threatens to sideline a rapidly growing global constituency: the urban poor.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/opinions/the-urban-poor-are-going-hungry/article1370383/>

The Many Roads to Food Security, *Financial Times*, November 17

The latest in a series of fairly fruitless international gatherings ends on Wednesday in Rome, as the United Nations food security summit draws to a halt amid a plethora of platitudes about feeding the poor. The world is in what is essentially a pause in a continuing food crisis. Most of the elements that produced the food price spikes in 2007 and 2008 are still there: a trade system marred by protectionism; production incentives distorted by subsidies; artificial demand for biofuels competing with food production; low agricultural productivity in the poorest regions, especially Africa; and an emergency food aid system that gets humanitarian relief too slowly to the locus of famine.

http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/53faf3ce-d39a-11de-8caf-00144feabdc0.dwp_uuid=a955630e-3603-11dc-ad42-0000779fd2ac.html

The 'Fat Map': Putting World Hunger Into Perspective, *Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein*, *Huffington Post*, November 16

Hunger now scars the lives of over 1 billion people -- a new record. Today, Monday the 16th, world leaders will gather at a UN food summit in Rome to debate what to do about it. There will be more media attention on the politicians than on the issues, an abundance of speeches, and a series of oddly fancy luncheons -- with more speeches.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/princess-haya-bint-al-hussein/mapping-starvation-and-th_b_357352.html

A Hungry World Will Not Wait, *Financial Times*, November 12

International summits often produce more photo-opportunities than progress. That could be the fate of next week's World Food Summit. Pre-meeting talks have removed two targets from the draft of the declaration to be signed then. This weakens its force and urgency at the very moment that past advances are being lost. There are more than 1bn chronically undernourished people in the world, mostly in Africa and south Asia. The proportion of undernourished people in the developing world has risen to almost one in five -- the level of 1990.

http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/07b1093c-cfc5-11de-a36d-00144feabdc0.dwp_uuid=a955630e-3603-11dc-ad42-0000779fd2ac.html

NEWS COVERAGE

If Words Were Food, Nobody Would Go Hungry, *Economist*, November 19

In 2008-09 food problems were masked for a while by the financial crisis. But as Jacques Diouf, head of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), said this week, "when the recovery picks up, we will be back to square one." Jeffrey Currie of Goldman Sachs argues that while most recession-hit industries in the rich world are operating at 60-70% of capacity, agriculture is at full capacity, in the sense that last year's cereals crop was the largest on record and there is little fallow land ready to be taken under the plough. If there were another supply or demand shock, the farm-trade system would not cushion the blow.

http://www.economist.com/world/international/displaystory.cfm?story_id=14926114

African Leaders Left Disappointed at End of UN Food Summit, *VOA News*, November 18

A three-day United Nations food summit ended in Rome Wednesday without securing substantial new funds to combat world hunger. Speaking to VOA, African ministers said world leaders are not doing enough to reduce soaring hunger levels on the continent.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/a-13-2009-11-18-voa56-70423832.html>

World Leaders' Low Turnout Hits UN Food Summit, *Reuters*, November 18

An absence of many world leaders undermined this week's U.N. food summit from the start, and its final declaration shows little progress was made in the fight against hunger.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFIOE5AH00Z20091118>

Food Summit Ends With Sweeping Pledges, Little Action on Hunger Share Business, *Bloomberg*, November 18

World governments pledged a renewed effort to halve world hunger by 2015 at a United-Nations backed summit that even the host said failed to produce concrete measures to achieve the goal. "This declaration does not contain any quantified objective nor any precise deadline which would have made it possible to better track its implementation," Jacques Diouf, director general of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization, said at the closing of the three-day meeting in Rome.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601092&sid=aTVURpBIQ7bw>

UN Food Summit Ends with 'Crumbs' in Hunger Fight, *Associated Press, November 18*

The head of a U.N. food agency expressed regret Wednesday that an anti-hunger summit failed to result in precise promises of funding, and critics said the meeting had only thrown crumbs to the world's 1 billion people without enough to eat.

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/E/EU_UN_FOOD_SUMMIT?SITE=MATAU&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

UN Food Boss Urges Fast Action to Eradicate Hunger, *Agence France Press, November 18*

The head of the UN food agency, Jacques Diouf concluded the World Summit on Food Security Wednesday by affirming it was possible to eradicate world hunger but called for "fast action" to be taken. "I am convinced that together we can eradicate world hunger, but in order to do so we must move from words to actions", the head of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation said.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jewy1x5BMouuoIrd-s08-GQa8WNg>

Foreign Investors Rush to Lock Up Food Supply, *Globe and Mail, November 17*

Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi calls it the "new feudalism." Groups representing peasant farmers call it "land grabs." The United Nations literature dispersed at this week's UN food summit in Rome calls it "direct foreign investment."

<http://v1.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/GAM.20091117.FOOD17ART2310/TPStory/TPComment>

Over One Billion Go Hungry Every Day, Summit Told, *The Irish Times, November 17*

Speaking in Rome last night, the United Nations' secretary general Ban Ki-Moon expressed his concern that even though the world has "more than enough" food, just over a billion people still go hungry. Mr Ban was speaking to reporters at the end of the first day of a three-day UN world summit on food security in Rome.

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/world/2009/11/17/1224258983354.html>

U.N. Chief: Hunger Kills 17,000 Kids Daily, *CNN, November 17*

The summit opened with the leaders adopting a declaration to renew their commitment to eradicating hunger. They promised to do so by promoting investment, reversing the decline in funding for agriculture and tackling the effect of global warming on food security.

<http://www.cnn.com/2009/WORLD/europe/11/17/italy.food.summit/>

Critics say UN Food Summit Wasteful, Ineffective, *Associated Press, November 17*

The meeting was branded a failure within a couple of hours of its start after the 192 participating countries unanimously rebuffed the United Nations' appeal for commitments of billions of dollars in yearly aid to develop agriculture in poor nations. None of the leaders of the Group of Eight leading industrialized nations attended except for Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jeEimi-fD79vUG9uVWzcG7e-A9oAD9C1GRV00>

Some Nations Successful in Global Hunger Fight: *FAO, Agence France-Press, November 17*

Some countries have already been successful in the fight against hunger which affects more than one billion people worldwide, the UN food agency said. But despite the progress, analysts said countries trying to combat the scourge still faced numerous hurdles and their efforts could bring them into conflict with global trade regulations.

http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hObQud_I4xUDD8HQaGZZYm1AKEPg

Disagreement Over Goals at U.N. Meeting on Hunger, *New York Times, November 16*

A United Nations summit meeting on combating hunger that opened in Rome on Monday underscored the split between rich and poor countries on the issue, with the industrialized nations balking at concrete targets.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/11/17/world/17food.html>

UN Links Climate with Hunger, *Financial Times*, November 16

The world cannot achieve food security without first tackling global warming, the United Nations secretary-general said on Monday, warning that failure at next month's international climate change negotiations would result in a rise in hunger. The warning by Ban Ki-Moon at the start of a three-day UN world food summit in Rome came one day after Barack Obama, US president, backed European and UN views that the Copenhagen summit would not produce a legally-binding agreement to tackle global warming.
<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/99bc96e0-d293-11de-af63-00144feabdc0.html>

Food Summit Opens With Censure of Greed, Speculation, *Bloomberg*, November 16

A United Nations summit on food security opened with leaders slamming rich nations for worsening world hunger by allowing speculation in agricultural markets and using subsidies that hurt production in developing nations.
<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601085&sid=alu8hiyAkZCw#>

Richest Countries Ignore Hunger Summit, *Deutsche Welle*, November 16

More than 60 world leaders will attend the World Summit on Food Security organized by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization this week. But the leaders of most of the world's leading economies won't be there.
<http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,4896301,00.html>

World Food Summit Opens Amid Charges It May Be 'Waste of Time', *Bloomberg*, November 16

World leaders start a United Nations summit on food security in Rome today that international aid agencies say may be a "waste of time" because it won't commit donors to provide more money to end world hunger.
<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601102&sid=aZoajDvtuj.0>

UN Chief Urges Unity Over Hunger, *BBC News*, November 16

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has called for a "single global vision" from world leaders to address the problems of world hunger and pollution. Mr Ban's comments came at the start of a UN conference in Rome aimed at stabilising world food prices.
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/8361770.stm>

At UN Food Summit, Ban Ki-moon Warns of Rise in Child Hunger Deaths, *Christian Science Monitor*, November 16

At the start of a global food security summit in Rome, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged donors to help the 1 billion people on the planet who do not have enough to eat. He particularly underscored the plight of children, saying that more than 17,000 children die of starvation every day. "One every five seconds. Six million children a year," he said in his opening remarks to the conference. "This is no longer acceptable. We must act."
<http://www.csmonitor.com/2009/1116/p06s04-woeu.html>

G8 to Desert U.N. Summit on Hunger, Skepticism Rife, *Reuters*, November 16

Government leaders and officials meet in Rome on Monday for a three-day U.N. summit on how to fight global hunger, but anti-poverty campaigners are already writing off the event as a missed opportunity.
<http://in.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idINIndia-43977620091116>

Canada Pushes Wealthy Nations to Keep Food Aid Pledges, *Globe and Mail*, November 16

Canada is using the United Nations food summit to put flesh on its new agricultural-spending commitments in an effort to embarrass other wealthy countries to do the same as one billion people, the highest number on record, go hungry.
<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/canada-pushes-wealthy-nations-to-keep-food-aid-pledges/article1365819/>

We Can Feed the World Despite Global Warming, says Pope Benedict, *Times Online, November 16*

Pope Benedict XVI today told a United Nations world food summit that "the Earth can sufficiently feed all of its inhabitants" despite the "devastation" caused by global warming, and blamed the "greed" of speculators in cereals markets for aggravating world hunger. In a speech to the opening day of the three day World Summit on Food Security organised in Rome by the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), the Pope said that "even if there are some regions where climate change has devastated production, globally speaking there is enough food to satisfy demand now and for the foreseeable future".

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/europe/article6918668.ece>

World Leaders at UN Summit Vow to Aid Farmers in Bid to Help Starving, *Times Online, November 16*

World leaders at a United Nations food summit in Rome agreed a strategy to help the world's one billion starving people by increasing aid to farmers in developing countries - but failed to pledge the specific funds the UN had hoped for.

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/europe/article6918616.ece>

Food Summit Turns Down UN Funding Appeal, *Associated Press, November 16*

Pope Benedict XVI decried the steadily worsening tragedy of world hunger on Monday after a global summit rebuffed a U.N. call to commit billions of dollars a year for a new strategy to help poor countries feed themselves. The meeting at the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization did unite nearly 200 countries behind a pledge to increase aid to farmers in poor countries to help the developing world lessen its dependence on foreign food aid.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jeEimi-fD79vUG9uVWzcG7e-A9oAD9C0RK6G0>

Climate Deal Key to Fight "Devastating" Hunger: U.N., *Reuters, November 16*

The United Nations said on Monday that agreeing a climate change deal in Copenhagen next month is crucial to fighting global hunger, which Brazil's president described as "the most devastating weapon of mass destruction." The sense of skepticism deepened at the weekend, when U.S. President Barack Obama and other leaders supported delaying a legally binding climate pact until 2010 or even later, though European negotiators said the move did not imply weaker action.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUSTRE5AF20W20091116>

Summit Disappoints UN Food Chief, *BBC News, November 16*

The head of the UN food agency, Jacques Diouf, says he is not satisfied with the final declaration of the UN world food summit in Rome. Mr Diouf criticised the declaration - which vowed "urgent action" to boost food security - for not including exact targets to reduce hunger. Aid agency Oxfam also condemned the statement as "un-costed, unfunded and unaccountable".

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/8363555.stm>

U.N. Hunger Summit Approves New Approach, *Wall Street Journal, November 16*

World leaders at a food summit on Monday rallied around a new strategy to fight global hunger by helping poor countries feed themselves, but rebuffed a United Nations appeal to put a pricetag on funding. The summit approved its final declaration during its first hours in a show of broad consensus. Countries pledged to substantially increase aid to agriculture in developing nations, so that the world's 1 billion hungry can become more self-sufficient.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125837774512750371.html>

U.N., Islamic Bank Make \$1B Farming Deal, *USA Today, November 15*

Funding from an Islamic bank will help develop agriculture in poor countries, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization said. The FAO, which is hosting a three-day summit starting Monday, said it had reached a deal with the Islamic Development Bank for \$1 billion in funding to help develop agriculture in poor countries that belong to both organizations.

http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2009-11-15-un-food-summit_N.htm

See Also: IDB, UN Earmark \$1.5 Bln to Boost Agriculture, *Reuters, November 16*

The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and United Nations' International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) have agreed to set up a \$1.5 billion three-year financing plan for agriculture and rural development.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSLG377029>

Iran's First Lady Makes Rare Speech at Rome Summit, *Associated Press, November 15*

Iran's first lady made rare public appearance and even more rare, a speech, at a Rome forum on the eve of a U.N. summit to fight hunger beginning Monday. The wife of Iranian Mahmoud Ahmadinejad almost never appears in public with her husband and is believed never to have previously addressed a public gathering.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jleu44iAXloop7Z5WGH9n6rz5ZzwD9C04FJ00>

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