

UNITED NATIONS



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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

PREFACE TO PROGRESS REPORT OF THE HIGH-LEVEL TASK FORCE
ON THE GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY CRISIS

November 2009

The spike in food prices during 2008 underscored in the most elemental way what experts have been telling us for many years: the world's food systems are in crisis. They are dysfunctional, and are failing too many people and many of our most vulnerable nations. Moreover, the situation is deteriorating at an ever increasing rate as a result of a worldwide contraction of market economies and the growing impact of climate change. For the first time, more than one billion people are hungry.

Over the past year, world leaders have expressed renewed political and financial commitment for food and nutrition security. In July 2009, 26 countries and 14 international bodies endorsed the L'Aquila joint statement on food security and agreed on the five principles that should be at the core of the Initiative: programmes must be country-led; approaches must be comprehensive; assistance must be strategically coordinated; multilateral agencies must have a strong role; and national efforts must be supported by a sustained commitment of financial resources.

The High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis (HLTF) has helped a broad group of intergovernmental entities in supporting national authorities as they respond to food and nutrition insecurity. This report documents the wide-ranging activities that have taken place since the establishment of the HLTF in late April 2008 and the elaboration of the HLTF Comprehensive Framework for Action a few months later. It shows how the UN System is helping to bring resources and expertise where they are needed most, in timely fashion.

Food and nutritional security are the foundations of a decent life, a sound education for children and, indeed, the achievement of all the Millennium Development Goals. As a cohesive UN system and as members of the international community, it is our collective responsibility to address the multiple demands of food insecurity so that all people can enjoy their right to food.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ki Moon Ban".
BAN Ki-moon

Foreword to Report of
HL Task Force on Food Security
Drafter: RA
Proofread by: RF
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Authorized: A handwritten signature in black ink, likely of the authorized official.
Date:
Signed on 6/11