



Hunger • Nutrition • Climate Justice • 2013

*A New Dialogue : Putting People  
at the Heart of Global Development*

15-16 April 2013 - Dublin, Ireland

# Conference Report





Video



Speech



Case Study



Resource

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# Executive Summary

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# Executive Summary

Real progress has been achieved in fighting global poverty since 2000 under the framework of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Yet, the reality is that one billion people still live in extreme poverty<sup>1</sup>; 870 million people are undernourished<sup>2</sup>; almost one in three children in the world lacks the nutrients they need to develop to their full potential; and malnutrition is the underlying cause of the deaths of some 7,000 children under five every day<sup>3</sup>.

Climate change is a multiplier of this hunger and undernutrition, intensifying the effects on the poorest and most vulnerable communities across the globe. The injustice of this is that those who are most affected by the negative effects of climate change contribute least to the causes of the problem.

The world's population will reach 9 billion by 2050<sup>4</sup>. To feed this population, investment in agricultural production in developing countries will have to increase by about 60%<sup>5</sup> to meet demand if current patterns and levels of consumption in the 'rich' parts of the world continue to expand, and food wastage at farm and household level is not addressed. Climate change compounds the crisis: it makes natural disasters more frequent and intense, water more scarce and difficult to access, and increases in productivity even harder to achieve. The implications for people who are poor and already food-insecure and malnourished are immense<sup>6</sup>.

It is now more critical than ever to coherently address the linked challenges of global hunger, nutrition and climate change.

With just two years left to achieve the MDGs, and as work begins to shape a new framework for global development post-2015, the Government of Ireland, as part of Ireland's EU Presidency, and the Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice, in partnership with the World Food Programme

(WFP) and the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), convened the Hunger-Nutrition – Climate Justice conference in Dublin on 15 and 16 April 2013.

In the Conference papers' welcome note, Mr Eamon Gilmore TD, Tánaiste (Irish Deputy Prime Minister) and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Mrs Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland, President of the Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice, made a bold statement: *"This conference promises to be different"*. By focusing on people, trust, relationships and not just policy processes, the Hunger – Nutrition – Climate Justice conference sought to ensure that future policies are grounded in the challenges, hopes and experiences of people who struggle to feed their families in a time of great uncertainty, amplified by a changing climate.



The Conference partners believe that international policy processes do not sufficiently involve the people most affected by the challenges these very processes are designed to address. To redress this imbalance, the Conference took a 'business unusual' approach - placing key leaders in global development side-by-side with people from marginalised communities



affected by hunger, undernutrition and climate change.

The aim was to listen and to learn from local views, practices and coping mechanisms in order to contribute to the process of negotiating the post-2015 global development framework.

The event brought together key policy makers and grassroots representatives of communities in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, the Arctic, the Caribbean and the Pacific. A unique mix of people from different walks of life – farmers, pastoralists, herders, community leaders from rural and urban areas, political leaders, international and national policy makers, academics, civil society and the private sector – engaged in dynamic discussions, looking at the linked challenges of hunger, undernutrition and climate change. Highlights from the plenary sessions, which took place over the two days of the Conference, are outlined in Chapter 5.

By listening to the realities of people living on the front line and their experiences of both the problems and the solutions that work, policy makers and political leaders were provided with critical evidence to make post-2015 policy development more relevant, responsive and effective.

Through the learning circles on the first day, the Conference examined hunger, undernutrition and climate change through the lenses of risk, rights, knowledge and empowerment, identifying linkages and commonalities, as well as scalable solutions. With these discussions in mind, learning circles on the second day focused on local experience informing national level policy and joined-up approaches to policy-making, with a view to framing key messages and recommendations for the post-2015 development agenda.

The learning circles were essential in giving voice to those people who all too often go unheard. By bringing together small but diverse groups of people for these engaging sessions, global policy makers listened to and learned from the people who their

decisions affect the most. Highlights from the learning circles are described in Chapter 4.

The key messages which emerged from the respectful dialogue at the Hunger-Nutrition-Climate Justice conference were:

- 1** Bringing together grassroots practitioners and policy makers works and we need to do it more often if we are to effectively respond to the hunger – nutrition – climate justice challenge throughout the post-2015 development agenda and beyond. People should be placed at the centre of policy-making and solutions: the unique mix of policy makers and grassroots practitioners at the Conference brought about influential learning that could only have been achieved through a respectful, all-inclusive listening process.
- 2** Grassroots practitioners and vulnerable communities cannot engage in the post-2015 development process if they don't know about it. There is a need to raise awareness of the processes in train, so that a real opportunity is provided to move away from business as usual, and inject real solutions to the post-2015 discussions.
- 3** Strengthening institutions and establishing platforms for real dialogue among all stakeholders is necessary to catalyse change, using accessible language and innovative means of communication.
- 4** Women are at the heart of effective solutions – there can be no solutions without the involvement of women at all levels. The Conference showed what can be achieved when women are given an opportunity to contribute.
- 5** Politics and difficult issues should not be dodged – this includes the social and cultural constraints that stop us from making progress when other barriers are removed. The Conference discussed a number of issues at the core of hunger and injustice, including land ownership, power struggles, inequality, the rule of law and the need to uphold human rights.

**6** The private sector has an important role to play in addressing the linked challenges of hunger, undernutrition and climate justice, and was encouraged to engage on these issues, particularly at local level. Assistance in processes like the commercialisation of crops can be key to improving nutrition, for example.

**7** The negative impact of climate change on the food and nutrition security of vulnerable households is an injustice, as they have contributed least to the problem and bear the greatest burden of its impacts.

**8** Developed countries must take the lead on reducing greenhouse emissions and provide finance for adaptation – this could be channelled directly to the district level so that local communities can access resources.

**9** It is critical to connect policy processes. The MDGs, the post-2015 development agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) processes cannot be looked at as separate entities run by separate groups with separate mandates. The Conference called on policy makers to connect the dots and work together.

**10** We should not be afraid to empower people or protect rights – it is not a zero sum game. Giving power to another will not make you powerless. It might instead lead to positive change.

**11** By placing people at the centre, the clearest picture of the challenges facing the most vulnerable people emerges. This conference proved that empowering grassroots practitioners and giving them the right platform to discuss their realities

and solutions to hunger, undernutrition and climate change makes them the most convincing advocates for the policy solutions required.

These key messages can be read in more detail in Chapter 2.

As the Conference concluded, a selection of panellists outlined their commitments in advancing these messages – their commitments to lead can be viewed and read in detail in Chapter 3. Among these commitments, the Government of Ireland pledged to take these messages to a range of high-level international meetings in the coming months. Mrs Robinson committed to continue to give space to grassroots voices, and to amplify them on the global development stage.



In organising the Hunger – Nutrition – Climate Justice conference, the organisers learned valuable lessons about how to manage and coordinate a meeting of this type and scale to achieve the best results (see Chapter 6). The Conference has been an important turning point – a first attempt towards a ‘big re-connect’, and a new model for international debate, where policy and people meet.

Global development is at a critical juncture where a change away from ‘business as usual’ on policy development could have a potentially large impact on the lives and livelihoods of future generations. Our collective hope is that the messages generated by this conference will be used by the international community to inform the post-2015 development agenda.

# 1

# Conference Objectives and Achievements

Objectives and Achievements

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# Conference Objectives and Achievements

Hunger – Nutrition – Climate Justice was convened in order to create space for a new dialogue on the post-2015 development agenda. The Conference was built around the view that global policy processes such as the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and discussions among the world's leading economic powers have not put enough emphasis on involving the people that these processes aim to serve.

The first objective of the Hunger – Nutrition – Climate Justice conference was to enable listening and learning from local experience with the aim of creating stronger links between these experiences and international policy making in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

This was achieved by placing key leaders in global development side by side with people sharing local experiences of hunger, undernutrition and climate change. More than 100 delegates (one third of all participants), representing organisations and local communities, including farmers, pastoralists, herders and fisherfolk, were sponsored to attend the Conference. Policy makers and political leaders were asked to listen to local experiences, to learn and to lead responsibly. By using interactive and participative technology, such as electronic voting<sup>7</sup>, as well as traditional convening techniques (but seldom used in international policy dialogues), such as 'learning circles', and pairing of high-level policy makers with on the ground local experts, a genuine and direct dialogue was initiated. This also enabled grassroots practitioners to learn from each other.

The second objective was to demonstrate the links between hunger, nutrition and

climate justice in order to inform the post-2015 development process. These challenges cannot be addressed effectively without explicitly recognising and dealing with their interconnectedness. Therefore a mix of people from different sectors ranging from international and national policy makers, academia, private sector, NGOs and civil society organisations were invited to participate. Importantly, the format of discussions meant the Conference was rooted in local experience. The Conference examined the themes through lenses - risk, rights, knowledge, empowerment, local to national and Joined-up approaches. It encouraged and inspired innovative thinking and solutions, in order to move away from traditional sectoral thinking and compartmentalisation of issues, which need to be dealt with coherently.

The Conference contributed to an improved understanding of the links between hunger, nutrition and climate justice: however, some delegates suggested that continued work is needed on articulating the interconnectedness of these global challenges. This is particularly important in the coming months and into next year, in order to inform the post-2015 development agenda. There was general agreement that approaches that link rather

<sup>7</sup> *Electronic voting* refers to an audience response system that was used during the Conference plenary sessions to pose questions to delegates. Each delegate had their own voting card. The system collected data and assessed responses from delegates. Voting results were displayed in real-time and findings fed into the discussions.



Irish Presidency EU2013

*Delegates listen to closing speeches at Hunger – Nutrition – Climate Justice. In their commitment form, which delegates were asked to complete at the end of the Conference, one anonymous respondent committed to: “sharing the message at all local, national and global forums that I participate in and also advocate for a gender equality focus in the post-2015 agenda”.*

than separate hunger, nutrition and climate justice are desirable<sup>8</sup>.

The third objective of the Hunger – Nutrition – Climate Justice conference recognised that global development is at a critical juncture where a change away from ‘business as usual’ in terms of policy development could have a potentially large impact on the lives and livelihoods of future generations. While the Conference proceedings have concluded, the organising partners and many of the participants will continue to engage with the international community on the design of the post-2015 development agenda by carrying forward the messages emerging from the Conference. This will involve engagement in the review process for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), the process for establishing Sustainable Development

Goals (SDGs) and on-going work under the UNFCCC to shape a new climate agreement – with a view to strengthening their combined contribution to address hunger, nutrition and climate justice<sup>9</sup>.

Through its innovative approach, the Hunger – Nutrition – Climate Justice conference represents a turning point – a new model for international debate, where policy and people meet and where top-down and bottom-up approaches are linked<sup>10</sup>.

By focusing on people, trust, and relationships – not just policy processes, the Hunger – Nutrition – Climate Justice conference sought to ensure that future policies are developed which are grounded in the challenges, hopes and experiences of people who struggle to feed their families in a time of great uncertainty, caused in part by climate change.

<sup>8</sup> See Chapter 2. Conference Key Messages, Page 9 and Chapter 3. Call to Action/Commitments, Page 14.

<sup>9</sup> See Chapter 3. Call to Action/Commitments, Page 14.

<sup>10</sup> See Chapter 6. Lessons Learned from Designing the Conference, Page 38.

# 2

## Conference Key Messages

Key Messages

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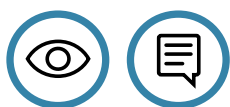
5 Highlights from  
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# Conference Key Messages

During the closing session of the Hunger – Nutrition – Climate Justice, Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland, President, Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice, summarised the key messages which emerged from the learning circle deliberations and plenary discussions over the two days of the Conference.

Summarising the key messages from the rich and detailed dialogue has been a challenge. This chapter may not address all the key messages that emerged from the discussions, so other key issues and strands of the dialogue are included, in more detail, in later chapters of the report<sup>11</sup>.



## Key Messages:

**1 Bringing grassroots practitioners and policy makers together to have a respectful dialogue works and should be done more often throughout the post-2015 development agenda discussions and beyond; by civil society, the private sector, governments and multilateral organisations.** Local people living on the front line of the hunger-nutrition-climate change challenge have first-hand experience of the problems policy makers are trying to solve and policy makers have a responsibility to address these problems at national and international level; decision makers can be more effective if they are informed by the realities on the ground.



Irish Presidency EU2013

*Etrida Luhanga, a smallholder farmer from Malawi, and Dyborn Chibonga, CEO of the National Smallholder Farmers' Association of Malawi (NASFAM), give their 'Thanks from Grassroots' speech. Both are involved in NASFAM, a farmer-directed business system based on the individual participation of more than 100,000 Malawian smallholders, most of them farming on less than a hectare of land.*

<sup>11</sup> Chapter 4. Highlights from Learning Circles, Page 17 and Chapter 5. Highlights from Plenary Sessions, Page 29.





Sophie Molins

Women comprised 46% of delegates at Hunger – Nutrition – Climate Justice. Many of the women who represented grassroots groups at the Conference are from regions where they experience fewer rights than men, particularly in the areas of farming and land ownership. When unpredictable climate patterns lead to increased food insecurity, their lack of rights are more harshly felt. Left to right: Aissatou Ndao from Senegal, Alima Mamadou and Aichatou Salaou from Niger; and Cecilia Kibe from Kenya.

**2** The approach taken in Hunger – Nutrition – Climate Justice facilitated new relationships and dialogue among people who wouldn't normally get to meet. **These respectful and meaningful encounters brought about influential learning** – by policy makers listening to real experiences, stories, ideas and solutions shared by the grassroots practitioners; and grassroots practitioners who had a rare opportunity to direct discussions with policy makers.

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Esther Jabesi from Malawi said – *“you have to listen to me because I have experience – what I know isn't written in your papers!”*

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**3** There is a need to **raise awareness at all levels of the processes that are in train for post-2015 development so that**

**people can engage with it.** In one of the 'Joined-up' learning circles, delegates expressed the need to *“kick it out of the elite!”* Two-way communication is needed to i) spread the word that there is an opportunity to move away from business as usual and ii) to capture real solutions and inject them into the post-2015 discussions.

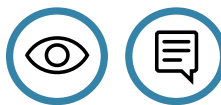
**4** The importance of **strengthening institutions and establishing platforms for real dialogue** among all stakeholders emerged from several learning circles. In order to catalyse change, accessible language and different methods of communication must be employed e.g. the 'Feeding my Family' movement in the Arctic uses Facebook and the 'Women and Land Initiative' in Niger uses drama to communicate and scale up local priorities and solutions.



**5 Women are at the heart of effective solutions.** The Conference showed what can be achieved when women are given an opportunity to contribute. Forty-six per cent of conference delegates were women, some of whom came to present case studies in the learning circles. It was noted, however, that women should be able to benefit from interventions to address hunger, nutrition and climate change without having their workload added to.

**6 Difficult political and cultural issues must not be avoided.** This was highlighted by HE Mr Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland, in his opening address. Issues at the core of hunger and injustice were aired and discussed, including land ownership, power struggles, inequalities, the rule of law and the need to uphold human rights. In the subsequent learning circles, delegates reiterated the need to talk about and address the difficult issues

that contribute to the linked challenges of hunger, nutrition and climate change.



**7 The private sector has an important role to play in addressing the linked challenges of hunger, undernutrition and climate justice.** During the delivery of the key messages Mrs Robinson called on the private sector to speak up and engage with grassroots practitioners and policy makers. The case study on scaling up access to legumes in Malawi demonstrated that the private sector had to be on board from an early stage to support commercialisation of crops that make an important contribution to improving nutrition.



Irish Presidency EU2013

*Eamon Gilmore TD, Tánaiste (Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister) and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, and HE Michael D Higgins, President of Ireland, greet Dolsie Lorna Kalmatak, a trainer with the Solar Dryer Project in Vanuatu, and Etrida Luhanga at the start of Hunger - Nutrition - Climate Justice. With one third of the 300-strong conference delegation representing grassroots communities, a platform for listening and learning from multiple stakeholders was created.*

**8 The negative impacts of climate change on the food and nutrition security of vulnerable households are an injustice**, as they have contributed least to the problem yet bear the greatest burden of the impacts. Developed countries have to take the lead on reducing greenhouse emissions – this is a basic tenet of climate justice, enshrined in the climate change convention.

**9 Developed countries need to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and deliver on commitments to provide financing for adaptation.** The issue of access to finance at local level was also raised and suggestions were made to deliver development and climate finance directly to district level so that local communities can access resources. The scale and level of available resources is a challenge; as well as being delivered to local level, issues such as underinvestment in agriculture also need to be addressed.

**10 Connect the 2015 international processes.** During the Conference, delegates learned of the importance of the MDGs, the post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs – and many highlighted that the UNFCCC is equally important. The key message is that these processes can no longer be looked upon

as separate territories run by separate people with separate mandates.

**11 Do not be afraid to empower people or protect rights.** This message arose from perceptions that there is a fear amongst some actors of addressing rights and embracing rights-based approaches. Participants stressed that empowering others to act is not a zero sum game; giving power to another will not make you powerless. This empowerment might instead lead to positive change.

**12 Place people at the centre.** The Conference celebrated diversity and the need to recognise and respect different ways of life. It demonstrated the effectiveness of a people centred approach and the need to bring more farmers, pastoralists and fisherfolk to the table to negotiate the post-2015 development agenda. The Conference showed that when empowered and given the appropriate platform, grassroots practitioners articulate their reality and their solutions and are the most convincing advocates for the policy solutions required.

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To conclude Mary Robinson quoted the words of Nelson Mandela “*Overcoming poverty is not a task of charity; it is an act of justice.*”

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# 3

## Call to Action/ Commitments

Call to Action/Commitments

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# Call to Action/Commitments

During the closing session, a panel including representatives of government, policy, business and civil society, outlined their commitments to advancing the Conference messages within their own organisations as well as on the international stage, particularly in influencing the post-2015 development agenda. They did this by reflecting on the key messages and promising future leadership on Hunger – Nutrition – Climate Justice.

**Mr Joe Costello TD, Irish Minister of State for Trade and Development**, committed to taking the messages from the Conference to the Spring Meeting of the World Bank and the Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



The Minister concluded his commitment by saying, *“what we are talking about today is certainly not going to stop from a political point of view. The Irish Presidency and Ireland will move it [messages from the Conference] forward to the next stage and try and ensure that it is incorporated into the post-2015 development goals for the next generation”*.

**Mrs Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland, President, Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice** committed to continuing to amplify and give space to grassroots voices. She also committed the Mary Robinson Foundation to continuing to develop and advocate for this model of dialogue with partners around the world.



Mrs Robinson stressed the urgency of the issues stating, *“We are running out of time. These voices need to be listened to and implemented”*.

**Dr David Nabarro, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Food Security and Nutrition** represented Ban Ki moon, the United Nations Secretary-General, at the Conference. He committed to advise the Secretary General that the UN should commit to three justices: hunger justice, nutrition justice and climate justice.



Dr Nabarro said, *“We should certainly have a vision as a result of this meeting that for everybody to be able to access, source food all year round, all their lives is an absolute human right”*.

**Dr Frank Rijsberman, CEO, CGIAR** committed his organisation to contribute to development outcomes. He stressed that development researchers will acknowledge that it is not enough for them to write publications; they need to be jointly responsible for development outcomes.



Dr Rijsberman said, *“The experts have a lot to learn from the people in this room”.*

**HRH Prince Seeiso Bereng Seeiso of Lesotho** committed to carry the dialogue and commitments from the Conference forward and to continue this work with grassroots practitioners and all levels of government in Lesotho.



His Royal Highness said, *“The youth need to be positively, mentally, physically engaged in dialogue. Otherwise instead of them being part of the solution, they will be part of the problem.”*

**Mr Richard Blum, Chairman and President, Blum Capital** committed to continue to invest in community projects in Nepal that are informed by and based on the needs and ideas of that community.



Mr Blum stressed, *“you should have much more involvement [with the private sector]... there are billions of dollars out there that can be directed towards the developing world if you do that”.*

**Closing Statement by Mr Eamon Gilmore TD, Tánaiste (Irish Deputy Prime Minister) and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade**

In his closing statement, the Tánaiste committed to taking the messages of

the Conference to the World Bank, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the UN, the European Council and other multilateral institutions. As well as partnering with the UK Government and the Children’s Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) on the Nutrition for Growth summit on 8 June 2013 in London, the Tánaiste promised that the messages from the Conference will be brought to the G8 summit being held in Fermanagh on 17 and 18 June 2013.

The Tánaiste committed to bring to the attention of the UN Special Event on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), to be held in New York in September 2013, the interlinked challenges of hunger, nutrition and climate justice and the views and solutions which emerged during the Conference.

The Tánaiste expressed his view that new global development goals post-2015 must bring together, in bold and specific terms, targets to end extreme poverty and hunger in a generation, and to protect our environment. He called for global goals, with a clear commitment to implementation at national level, with specific new targets on hunger and nutrition; a strong new emphasis on agriculture, especially climate-sensitive agriculture; and a stronger and much more specific approach on the rights of women and girls.



The Tánaiste emphasised the importance of local communities being heard at the negotiating table and promised where this will not be possible, they will be credibly represented – *“Ireland will be a voice for you... we must insist that international negotiating processes keep before them the reality of the life of smallholder farmers and the ambition to build a more just and equal and hopeful world for all of our children”.*



# 4

## Highlights from Learning Circles

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# Highlights from Learning Circles

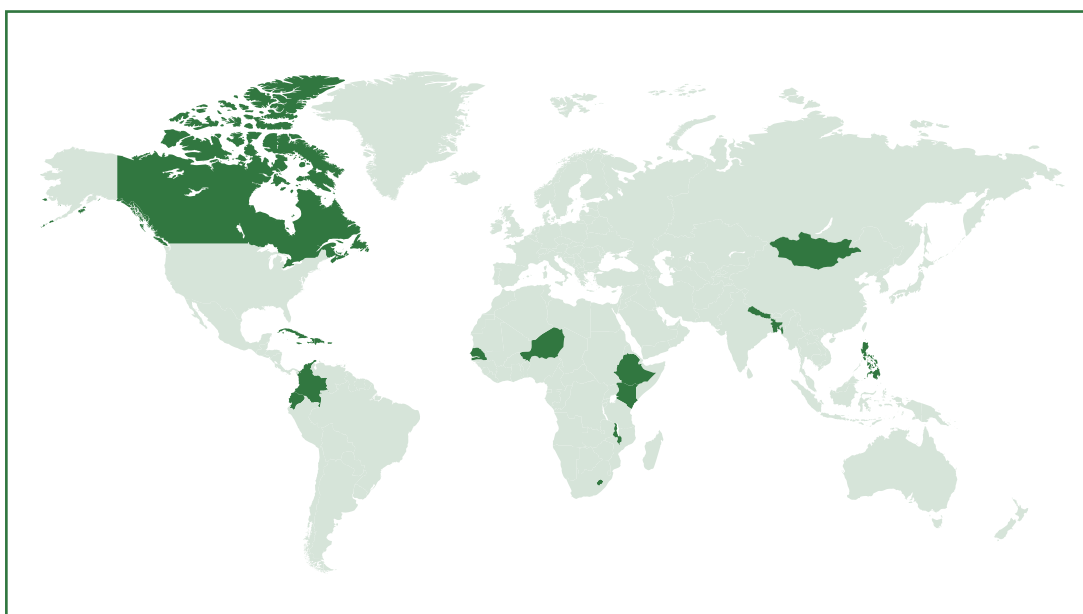
This chapter presents the key messages that emerged from learning circles on risk, rights, knowledge, empowerment, scaling up from local to national and taking joined-up policy approaches.

The Conference explored the links between hunger, nutrition and climate justice through the lenses of risk, rights, knowledge and empowerment in the first round of learning circles, to identify the linkages and commonalities and to identify scalable solutions. A second round of learning circles focused on local experience informing national level policy and joined-up approaches to policy making to frame key messages and recommendations for the post-2015 development agenda.

The case studies, presented in the learning circles, grounded the interactive discussions in reality and illustrated the interconnected causes and potential for linked solutions to hunger, nutrition and climate justice. The case studies came from all over the world (see below) and were documented as written papers in advance of the Conference and are available online.



*Case studies: a selection of images*



Krishna Krishnamurthy, WFP

*World map showing distribution of case studies.*

## 4.1 Risk

**Learning Circle Champion:** Ms Geeta Sethi, Programme Manager, Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme, World Bank

**Case study:** Food security in the face of climate risks – Mongolian herders' experiences

**Presenters:** Ms Bayarmaa Baljinnyam and Ms Batkhishig Baival



**Case study:** The Rural Resilience Initiative: building a risk management market for poor farmers

**Presenters:** Mrs Sophia Benalfew and Mr Desta Gebrekidan



### Key Messages on Risk

- Starting from the local context must be mandatory for risk management programmes and policies. To be effective, national as well as global policies should support a more effective inclusion and uptake of local solutions and knowledge to address risks.
- Governments have a particular responsibility to the most vulnerable segments of society and must ensure access to appropriate risk management tools, such as targeted programmes available for communities at risk (safety nets), improved weather forecasting, and insurance schemes for agricultural crops, livestock and infrastructure, etc.
- Information about risks, monitoring of changes in seasons, and evidence of the effectiveness of ways to manage risks are important to allow vulnerable communities prepare for, adapt to and reduce risk. Data should not only be for donors and governments; it should be adapted for use by communities.
- The voice of women is critical in addressing risk, especially in efforts that aim to ensure sufficient food and nutrition in households. Supporting women must be done in a way that does not increase the burden on women, and in a manner that respects traditional ways and social order.
- Managing risk needs to be locally owned, managed and led. However, with the increasing impacts of globalised risks such as climate change, local risk management must receive greater global support.
- Much more dynamic multi-sectoral responses that take into account local contexts are required. Where successes are found, there is a need for better cross-pollination of knowledge, at local, country and continent levels.

## 4.2 Rights

**Champion:** Ms Nora Owen, Chair, Irish Aid Expert Advisory Group

**Case study:** The right to food security in a changing Arctic: the Nunavut Food Security Coalition and the Feeding my Family campaign

**Presenters:** Ms Leese Papatsie and Ms Leanna Ellsworth



**Case study:** Women's land rights in a changing climate: a case study from Maradi, Niger

**Presenters:** Ms Aichatou Salaou and Ms Alima Mamadou



### Key Messages on Rights

- Human Rights written on paper are not enough; they need to be supported by the resources and information required to make them alive and real. Securing rights on their own is not enough; they need to be a part of development and investment.
- Recognising the right to food is an important step in triggering more sustained action on food and nutrition security by governments and civil society. Once rights are established, additional support is needed to build climate change resilience and ensure food security.
- Addressing nutrition and poverty should be an act of justice, not of charity.
- Meaningful inter-sectoral engagement is needed to develop culturally appropriate solutions that improve lives and ensure the right to access safe and nutritious food in the context of a changing climate.
- Inclusive participation and collaboration by all major stakeholders is essential. Empowerment of communities and especially of women is critical. We need to stop fearing rights and tackle the difficult issues, recognising that rights can provide a new way to tackle old problems.
- Recognising traditional rights, knowledge and culture is likely to have the most impact on food security, and to be the most cost effective. Engaging local leaders and blending formal and customary law can help to realise rights. Local voices need to be heard and responded to in policy making.
- We need to use simple language and appropriate means of communication to make rights positive and accessible to all.
- Unifying communities and encouraging them to speak up on their right to food can help lobby the government and private sector and raise household awareness on health, food and nutrition.
- Rights belong to us all – from people to businesses and government. Avoiding extreme climate change will not only protect communities but will also protect the planet.

## 4.3 Knowledge

**Champion:** Dr Shenggen Fan, Director General, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

**Case study:** Promoting empowerment and knowledge through smallholder farmers' associations in Malawi

**Presenters:** Mr Dyborn Chibonga and Ms Etrida Luhanga



**Case study:** Harnessing local innovation to improve food security, nutrition and climate resilience in Ethiopia

**Presenters:** Dr Eyasu Abraha and Mr Kidanu Girmay



**Champion:** Dr Bruce Campbell, Programme Director, CGIAR Research Programme on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security

**Case study:** Communicating seasonal forecasts to farmers in Kaffrine, Senegal for better agricultural management

**Presenters:** Mr Ousmane Ndiaye and Ms Aïssetou Ndao



**Case study:** Less hunger, better health and more wealth: the benefits of knowledge sharing in Malawi's Orange-Fleshed Sweet Potato project

**Presenters:** Dr Putri Ernawati and Mrs Fanny Mafuli



### Key Messages on Knowledge

- Food producers and local knowledge should be at the centre of all approaches to address hunger, nutrition and climate change and women's knowledge and contribution is particularly central to success. Knowledge is a direct means of empowerment, including through education. Smallholder farmers' participation should be central to informing what new knowledge and science is generated and how.
- When farmers are better organised, they can use knowledge more effectively. Farmer associations can give farmers greater bargaining power, particularly in negotiating with political and market systems; and can provide an effective platform to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and best practice. This contributes to empowerment.
- Knowledge creation is a dynamic process and in facing the growing challenges ahead all stakeholders have to be included and good analysis needs to be done on what is working and what is not, to inform our future responses.
- Research should be much more demand-driven, responding to the current and future needs of farmers under climate change. This requires a reconfiguration of how research agencies and funding agencies work, so that they can pick up directly and quickly on the priorities of smallholder farmers. This can also speed up the translation of research and knowledge into practice.
- Innovation is critical and comes from the creativity of individual and small groups. Sharing innovation to reach scale requires us to connect much more effectively – to have knowledge systems that link across communities and sectors.



We need to find ways to break down the barriers between the health, nutrition, agriculture, food security and climate change communities of practice.

- There is a need to make modern techniques for knowledge creation and management more readily and easily accessible, while also recognising that the farmer/pastoralist/fisher woman is often one of the best conduits and sources of technology and learning.
- New ways of communication can make a big difference, whether at national or local level. Radio, theatre, SMS, and even fabric design (e.g. fabric for women's dresses that promotes sweet

potato) can be effective ways of sharing the message.

- Treating farming as a commercial venture and making it attractive to young people while raising productivity can play a significant part in working towards nutrition security – even if greater productivity is not the same as nutritional security.
- Incentives need to be provided to communities to allow them to adapt to the changing climate. Production of the most nutritious foods needs to be subsidised to offset market failure and to prioritise the most nutritious foods.



Sophie Molins

*The learning circles bridged grassroots representatives with global policy makers, allowing a respectful dialogue to emerge. Dr David Nabarro, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Food Security and Nutrition; is seen here with Leesie Papatsie, from Nunavut, the Canadian Arctic, a region that has experienced rapid climate change, which in turn has threatened traditional food sources. In Nunavut, household food insecurity rates are five to six times higher than the national average.*

## 4.4 Empowerment

**Champion:** Mr Kevin Farrell, Ireland's Hunger Envoy

**Case study:** Empowering a local community to address climate risks and food insecurity in Lower Nyando, Kenya

**Presenters:** Mr Chris Macoloo and Ms Hellen Were



**Case study:** Biogas for climate justice: a story of change in Nepal

**Presenters:** Mr Ugan Manandar and Ms Maya Yogi



**Champion:** Mr Nick Dyer, Director of Policy, UK Department for International Development

**Case study:** Getting a seat at the table: fisherfolk empowerment for policy change in the Caribbean

**Presenters:** Mr Mitchell Lay and Ms Vernel Nicholls



**Case study:** Bangladesh's Enhancing Resilience programme

**Presenters:** Ms Runa Khatun and Mr Hasan Kabir Khasru



### Key Messages on Empowerment

- Empowerment is about power and the process of power. Who makes decisions
- and how are those decisions made? Processes are empowering when they are inclusive and break down barriers. Empowerment is a process that must be supported and sustained over time. Empowerment also entails respecting peoples'/ communities' ideas of development (which can be very different from governments' visions and priorities).
- Community action is important, but there is also a role for government in creating a 'receptive' and supportive environment for empowerment; participatory approaches are crucial for ownership and sustainability. Participation is critical and needs to be encouraged and supported at all levels; those most affected must be involved in designing solutions. Creating a receptive environment for empowerment efforts needs to be done at all levels - national, regional and right down to the individual level.
- Having a voice, being heard and being able to influence processes is valuable and empowering. Empowerment includes the right to disagree.
- Partnerships are key for building capacities that empower people. Having rights (e.g. right to organise), knowledge, education and skills, as well as income and savings, are key elements of empowerment. A minimal level of organisation – formal or informal – is important for being heard. Getting a critical mass can be the key to success.
- The opportunity costs of engagement in collective action (e.g. time away from work or children) must be addressed. Empowerment takes time and effort. Attempts to empower communities need to be inclusive, particularly of women and marginalised groups.
- There must be recognition and facilitation of the time required for people to partake in empowerment processes. People



Sophie Molins

*The importance of listening to local voices, giving all stakeholders a say in decision making, and using effective means of communication to give voice to all were some of the points raised by champions from the learning circles on risk, rights, knowledge and empowerment, when they gave their feedback on the sessions. Left to right: Dr Shenggen Fan; Nora Owen; Kevin Farrell; Geeta Sethi; Nick Dyer; Bruce Campbell and Super Champion Jay Naidoo.*

- must be clear about what is in it for them when investing their time and energy into community endeavours. Engaging both sides is important - with both those who need to be empowered and those who are blocking or obstructing the process. There is no zero sum game; it is possible to empower others without losing power yourself.
- Ensuring basic food and nutrition needs and human rights may not in itself be empowerment – but it can create the foundations for empowerment.
- Empowerment can mean very different things in different contexts (e.g. having even a small income can empower women in contexts where they have, traditionally, very little rights) – but not all development is empowerment.
- We need to talk about and address power issues (in households, families, communities, politics etc.) and to address what disempowers people.
- Control and access to resources are key issues in empowerment. Income and access to resources such as climate finance can be important triggers or enablers for empowerment. In addition to external resources, increased control of decisions about own or local resources is an important enabler of empowerment as well as being an indicator of increased empowerment.
- Countries affected by climate change need to be supported in holding countries with high carbon footprints to account. Developed countries need to be held to account for commitments made, both financial and other. National goals within the post-2015 development framework could, potentially, be empowering for countries.



*Learning circles: first round outcome videos*

## 4.5 Local to National

**Champion:** Mr Tom Arnold, Chair of the Convention of the Irish Constitution

**Case study:** Linking local agriculture into national policy by studying climate change economics in Colombia

**Presenters:** Ms Ana Maria Loboguerrero and Mr Argemiro Romero



**Champion:** Ms Dessima Williams, Permanent Representative of Grenada to the United Nations

**Case study:** Seeds for change: a certified seed project in Malawi is boosting local incomes and supporting emerging national agricultural policy

**Presenters:** Mr Felix Sichali and Miss Ester Chikuwi



**Champion:** Dr Hans Herren, President, Millennium Institute

**Case study:** Scaling up an integrated watershed management approach through social protection programmes in Ethiopia: the MERET and PSNP schemes

**Presenters:** Mr Berhanu Woldemichael and Mr Getnet Hailegnaw



### Key Messages on Local to National Approaches

- Local to national connections are important for achieving socio-economic

and environmental development. Policy coherence at both local and national level is a priority. Sustainable and successful local initiatives should feed into national goals, strategies and frameworks. National policies should be aligned with international goals.

- Good governance and mutual accountability are key to linking local to national structures. Community groups are essential entities in linking communities to national institutions. Institutional capacities (community, government and research institutions) and mechanisms of accountability should be strengthened in scaling up initiatives from local to national level. Farmer and other community-based institutions need to be given the resources, time and political space to grow, contributing to necessary institutional diversity to enable change.
- The use of resources at different levels should be tracked beyond the national level and linked to grassroots level accountability processes. Continuous engagement by all relevant stakeholders at multiple levels is necessary and requires dedicated resources and governmental commitment.
- Local people know much more than they are given credit for, and this can contribute to successful results. Farmers, pastoralists, fisherfolk and women need to be brought to the international table. There is a need to take the local mind-set to the global level.
- Rebuilding and/or strengthening institutions (local and regional government; learning and extension institutions; and farmer and consumer organisations) at all levels is essential to equip them with the resources to deal with the challenges of hunger, nutrition and climate change. Policies need to be decided in a multi-stakeholder process.





Sophie Molins

*The experiences of smallholder farmers from countries around the world were highlighted to policy makers at the Conference. Like other vulnerable householders, these farmers have seen climate change have a devastating effect on their food security and nutritional intake. Left to right: Bruce Campbell, Programme Director, CGIAR Research Programme on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security; Simon Masila from Kenya; Kidanu Girmay, a farmer and researcher from Tigray, Ethiopia; and Berhanu Wolde Michael, Director, Food Security Coordination Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ethiopia.*

- We need to ensure that community-driven implementation of hunger, nutrition and climate justice interventions allow feedback for refinement of policies and accountability of all actors. This feedback must be evidence-based, and so, continuing to monitor and evaluate the process is essential.
- The complexity of the linked challenges of hunger, undernutrition and climate change demands a systemic, integrated and coordinated approach among all stakeholders and a long-term commitment from government and development partners. It takes time to build community trust and establish long-term goals to ensure that underlying causes are addressed.



## 4.6 Joined-up Approaches

**Champion:** Mr Paulus Verschuren, Special Envoy, Food and Nutrition Security for Development, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Case study:** Lessons from Lesotho: how a ‘Joined-up’ approach, centred on keyhole gardens, is tackling linked issues of hunger, nutrition and poverty

**Presenters:** Ms Rita Billingsley and Mr Motsoteng Mothunyane



**Champion:** Jamie Cooper-Hohn, President and CEO, Children’s Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF)

**Case study:** Enhancing climate resilience in Ecuador’s Pichincha Province and the Jubones River Basin

**Presenters:** Ms Alexandra Olivo and Ms Veronica Alvarado



**Champion:** Lord Ewen Cameron, Chairman, UK Government’s Global Food Security Programme and All Party Parliamentary Group on Agriculture and Food for Development

**Case study:** Building resilient cities from the community up: lessons from Manila

**Presenters:** Ms Patricia Credo Hererra and Ms Josephine Castillo



### Key Messages on Joined-up Approaches

- There should be coherence and synergy between international climate and development processes.
- There should be integration between regional and international approaches to hunger nutrition and climate justice in order to avoid working in silos.
- There are no quick fixes: planning for and implementing joined-up approaches takes significant time, resources and creativity. There should be clearly defined roles and responsibilities between all stakeholders to avoid duplication of efforts. Ownership and buy-in from all stakeholders reinforces the commitment to a common agenda which increases the effectiveness of initiatives and decreases the occurrence of contradictory initiatives.
- Understanding the costs, benefits and political economy of an issue or situation is critical to the success of joined-up approaches that tackle the linkages between hunger, undernutrition and climate change. This analysis and knowledge-sharing amongst farmers, government, private sector and donors informs decision-making processes. A case-study presentation by women from DAMPA, a federation of people’s organisations in the Philippines, demonstrated how their work links communities to different stakeholders and opportunities (e.g. borrowing money at low interest rates within community organisations).
- Women and children were highlighted as being key agents of joined-up approaches and change. Children and youth are

champions of change – schools should act as a platform for raising awareness of undernutrition and climate change, making smallholder agriculture attractive to young people.

- While there may be tension between innovation and ownership, success is linked to the mixing/blending of local solutions and knowledge with international scientific knowledge and technology.

- There was widespread support for joining up the concepts of hunger, nutrition and climate justice, while recognising a need for more detailed discussion on the linkages.
- Policy makers must include detail on how to implement the policies, laws and investments they design – they should not stop at answering ‘the what’ and ask how to achieve the policy changes they propose.



Learning circles: second round feedback session



Learning circle outputs and post-2015



Sophie Molins

The need to place people at the centre by bringing all voices to the table in policy negotiations was strongly enforced in learning circles where delegates from all backgrounds were given a voice and were listened to.



# 5

## Highlights from Plenary Sessions

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# Highlights from Plenary Sessions

## 5.1 Day 1, 15 April 2013

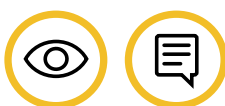
The plenary discussions reflected the energised environment in which the Hunger – Nutrition – Climate Justice conference took place. Before the opening of the Conference, the co-hosts and organising partners shared their expectations. The Tánaiste, Eamon Gilmore TD, and Minister Joe Costello said that *“learning from local people in a way that allows us to address the challenges of hunger and undernutrition in a changing climate is a hugely important priority for Ireland’s EU Presidency”*. Mrs Robinson expressed ambitions for a *“different conference”* with local participation, stressing that the Conference took place at a very good time *“because we are in a period where we are rethinking development - it is the end of the Millennium Development Goals period – those goals have served us, but not well enough.”* Mr Frank Rijsberman also highlighted the need for this Conference, pointing out that *“we have ignored agriculture for decades”*.

During the official opening of the Conference, HE Mr Michael D Higgins, President of Ireland, welcomed delegates to Dublin and set down a key challenge stating that *“the source of this hunger is not a lack of food, but the moral affront of poverty, created and sustained by gross inequalities across the world”*. President Higgins highlighted challenging issues such as land acquisition, biofuels, corruption, economic speculation on food and international trade agreements that undermine smallholder livelihoods. President Higgins noted that *“when commitments are betrayed in the name of interest, national or global, the hungry and poor of the world are twice smitten”* and that *“global consciousness has not yet engaged the contradiction*

*between our compassionate instincts and the structures of narrow interests it chooses to support through silent indifference or even collusion.”* On the injustice of climate change, President Higgins called for the international community and politicians to stop treating climate change as an abstract phenomenon or arcane science, when in fact *“it is present everywhere and perhaps most harshly and adversely in environments where people are least equipped to meet its force and ill effects – and least responsible for its causes.”*



In his key note opening address, Mr Eamon Gilmore, TD, Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade stated that *“it is essential that the voices of the people most impoverished and marginalised are amplified and heard in the policy making process,”* highlighting that in today’s globalised world, *“we depend on each other, and we need to act together”*. The Tánaiste also reminded participants *“We [Irish people] still have a memory in this country of what famine did to our people and nation,”* and reflected on the deep conviction and commitment that Ireland has to end hunger in other nations and societies.



Speakers referred to turning the tables, where policy makers listen and learn from local experiences, but as Mrs Robinson put it, *“Listening does not always come naturally to politicians and policy makers”*, stating that we need to understand the issues of hunger,



Sophie Molins

*The panel discussion on Risk, Rights, Knowledge and Empowerment began the cross-dialogue between policy makers and grassroots representatives. Left to right: Olivier De Schutter, UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food; Dolsie Lorna Kalmatak, a trainer with the Solar Dryer Project in Vanuatu; Augustine Njamnshi, Executive Director, Bioresources, Development and Conservation Programme, Cameroon; Simon Coveney, Ireland's Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine; William Ole Seki Laitayock, Coordinator of the Ngorongoro Pastoralist Development Organisation, Tanzania; and Erik Solheim, Chair, Development Assistance Committee, OECD.*

nutrition and climate justice the same way as those experiencing them do and design people centred responses that solve real problems. Through a video message, HE Mrs Joyce Banda, President of the Republic of Malawi, told the audience that “governments should do more towards improving food and nutrition security, including through safety nets, social protection and micro insurance” and spoke of the necessity to “especially recognise the climate change impact on the poor”.



Ms Ertharin Cousin, Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP), agreed, and said that much work remains to be done but that “in this room we have the means and the power to make a difference - and shame on us if we don't.” Ms Cousin also highlighted a key theme of the Conference – nutrition

– underlining that “it's not just about the calories. Are we meeting the micronutrient needs of those we serve?” and made a strong plea to help smallholder women reach their full potential as “the secret weapon in the fight against hunger”.



The Conference benefitted from the perspective of two members of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, Mr Andris Piebalgs and Ambassador Patricia Espinosa, who jointly expressed the need for a strong food and nutrition security element in the post-2015 development agenda, emphasising that climate change must be integrated into this new framework.

Mr Andris Piebalgs, EU Commissioner



for Development, assured the audience that *“food and nutrition security feature highly in the political debate”* and that *“the Commission is committed to helping shape a post-2015 framework that can rid our world of poverty and hunger for good.”*



Ambassador Patricia Espinosa reiterated that *“the issue of hunger, malnutrition and food security will receive high attention”* and expressed a personal conviction that *“the post-2015 development agenda has to be people centred and include equity and justice and the rights of people as central principles.”*



When policy makers and grassroots people were paired together in plenary panel discussions to discuss the themes of risk, rights, knowledge and empowerment, there were rich and energetic exchanges. Mr Erik Solheim, former Norwegian Minister of the Environment and International Development, and current Chair of the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD, spoke on ‘risk’ and reminded the audience that good things are happening on adaptation to climate change and food security across the world, but that *“we must mobilise political will... we cannot continue to neglect the smallholder farmer”*. His

counterpart, Mr William Ole Seki Laitayock, Coordinator, Ngorongoro Pastoralist Development Organisation, Tanzania, spoke of climate change as adding an extra burden on an already stressed livelihood and environment. Mr Laitayock explained that *“we are finding it more and more difficult to live entirely on livestock”* and that well-intentioned government policies often had a constraining impact on the pastoralist livelihood and way of life.

Highlighting the role of governments and states, when speaking on the theme of ‘rights’, Olivier De Schutter, the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food, explained the responsibility of states to ensure its citizens have access to food. Mr De Schutter also pointed out the great injustice of climate change as *“those most affected by climate change are least responsible for causing it”*.



Meanwhile, tweets using the hash tag ‘hncj’ were fed into the discussions; @Meaduva supported the panel setup writing that *“Good 2 see global thought leaders + grassroots change makers in dialogue. Should be norm, not exception.”*

Others picked up on key issues in the discussions – @JustinKilcullen wrote, *“Hunger is a political issue. Without political accountability there will be no solution”*.

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**meaduva** @meaduva 15 Apr  
Good 2 see global thought leaders + grassroots changemakers in dialogue. should be norm, not exception. #HNCJ [ow.ly/k49XG](https://ow.ly/k49XG)

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**Justin Kilcullen** @JustinKilcullen 15 Apr  
Hunger is a political issue. Without political accountability there will be no solution. #HNCJ

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The panel continued to discuss the theme of ‘knowledge’ and Mr Augustine Njamnshi, Executive Director, Bioresources, Development and Conservation Programme, Cameroon, noted that “we need to balance modern and traditional knowledge on farming” and that the world had been plagued by a lot of well-intended developmental “quick fixing” which failed because they were not based on the realities at the ground level. Mr Simon Coveney TD, Irish Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, placed knowledge as a critical foundation for responding to “the challenges we face in terms of feeding ourselves, in terms of nutrition and climate change”, and without knowledge we will not be able to find new ways of “producing more with less”. The need for a better understanding by policy makers and to bridge the gap between food security and climate change policies was discussed. This currently is not happening to the degree necessary. From the audience, Mr William Chilufya, a Scaling up Nutrition (SUN) civil society group member from Zambia said that “Zambians know food, but less about nutrition”.

Turning to the theme of ‘empowerment’, Ms Cousin stressed that empowerment is the opportunity for people to make a change and challenged the Conference to “let our voices create the public will that leads to justice, equity and opportunity – particularly for those who depend on us the most”. Ms Cecilia Kibe, Coordinator of Kenya Climate Justice Women Champions, talked about her experiences in empowering women

in Kenya, and specifically mentioned a conversation with a man in a local community who said to her “I cannot empower my wife. She is already a problem to me,” to which Ms Kibe responded, “If you can’t empower your wife, please empower your sister and your mother”.

The first day also saw the power and innovation of youth in contributions from World Vision Youth Ambassadors Mr Alex Nallo from Sierra Leone and Mr Salah Hussein from Palestine. Mr Hussein stated that “when hunger is present, the mind is absent”, expressing his conviction that young people must be part of the solution in a “practical human development approach”. Mr Nallo asked policy makers to listen to his voice as a representative of the youth around the world today, simply because the youth “will inherit the challenge of hunger, undernutrition and climate change and its consequences”. Echoing Mr Nallos’ plea, Mr Hussein asked policy makers to work with youth, “Young people always speak from the heart, so it is important to hear them,” and that “all young people have a flame of creativity, but they need someone to light it”.



Results from the electronic voting process reached a clear consensus on the need to involve the most vulnerable and poor in the hunger, nutrition and climate justice dialogue and to empower those who currently do not have a voice.

## 5.2 Day 2, 16 April 2013

The challenge for the second day of the Hunger – Nutrition – Climate Justice conference was to explore how to take local experiences discussed during the first day of the Conference and ensure they become part and parcel of future development processes. On the second day, reactions from twitter and blogs increased. Mr Lawrence Haddad, Director, Institute of Development Studies, expressed in his blog that, *“It was refreshing to be able to listen to so many African farmers”*



Ms Camilla Toulmin, Director of the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), moderated the day’s first panel and outlined challenges and

opportunities in the post-2015 development agenda. Here, Dr Lindiwe Sibanda, CEO of the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network, reiterated that the post-2015 development agenda *“will only be relevant and useful if it is developed through a meaningful, bottom-up process”*. Mr Phil Hogan TD, Irish Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, expressed his intention to use the EU Presidency to engage the European Union in a discussion on sustainable development. Minister Hogan also reminded delegates that we cannot *“take our eyes off the Millennium Development Goals”* just yet.

A tweet from @MaryFitzger, echoed this message: *“Hanging over today’s high-level confab in Dublin is the fact that progress towards MDGs has fallen far short. What will be achieved by 2015?”*

**Mary Fitzgerald** @MaryFitzger

15 Apr

Hanging over today's high-level #HNCJ confab in Dublin is fact progress towards MDGs has fallen far short. What will be achieved by 2015?

*Tweet summaries of Hunger – Nutrition – Climate Justice by:*



Irish Aid



Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice



World Food Programme

Panellists continued to give their view on how to break the political standstill and urgently inspire ambitious action. Vice President for Sustainable Development at the World Bank, Ms Rachel Kyte, argued that *“the frequency, intensity and indiscriminate geographical occurrence of extreme weather will make it impossible for the world’s elite to continue to fail to prioritise climate change”*. A local perspective on the issue came from Mr Mitchell Lay, Head, Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations, who argued that *“we must avoid talking about ‘2015 and*

*beyond’ and remind ourselves continuously that our concerns should be with ‘now’ and beyond”*.

Taking action now was seen as requiring sufficient financing and private sector engagement. This was at the heart of Mr Carlos Klink’s message; the National Secretary on Climate Change and Environmental Quality, Brazil, argued that poverty reduction and hunger eradication can be achieved by combining traditional methods of support with more innovative financial mechanisms and new ways of

partnering with business stakeholders to help achieve common goals.

In the afternoon, the focus of discussions went from learning to leading responsibly and making commitments to champion the outcomes of the Conference. Mr Anthony Lake, Executive Director of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), focused on putting nutrition centre stage and strongly suggested that *“stunting has to be in the post-2015 development agenda - it is a marker of progress and it is a maker of progress”*. On how we can do it, Mr Lake held up a t-shirt, emblazoned with a clear message on it *“Educate, Agitate, Organize”*, which was chanted across the panel as a way to take action and make everyone a champion. Mr Lake also explained why these three words were so important: *“outside the walls of this conference, undernutrition is the most under-reported, under-appreciated and under-addressed problem of our time”*.



Ms Amina Mohammed, Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General on Post-2015 Development Planning, urged that the international community must *“finish the job we set out to do”* on the MDGs, calling for a grounded and transparent dialogue on the post-2015 development agenda where *“what must be different this time is representation”*. Mr Jonathan Shrier, Acting Special Representative for Global Food Security, United States of America, underscored that we need solutions that are *“self-reinforcing and have the involvement of private sector as opposed to only government or donor influence”*. The importance of the private sector and academia working together with local communities was further highlighted by Mr Dyborn Chibonga, CEO, National Smallholder Farmers’ Association of Malawi (NASFAM), who noted that in the case of Malawi and the scaling-up of the use of new improved seeds *“we are not only improving the nutrition of the soil, but also the nutrition*

*of the farmers, who now also do value-added processing, and selling products instead of produce”*.

After the Conference, a thoughtful comment was provided in writing from the Spanish Secretary of State for International Cooperation and for Latin America, Mr Jesús Manuel Gracia Aldaz, who noted that *“From the diplomatic point of view, it is also interesting to scale up internationally, to share these good practices and lessons learned with partner countries in development. In Spain, we are focusing much attention on Triangular and South-South Cooperation, with emerging donors and international organisations,”* giving the example of a partnership between Brazil and WFP, which provides grains to Haiti and Mozambique in the aftermath of natural disasters.

Electronic voting continued on the second day. ‘Governance and accountability’ was the most popular answer among delegates (38%) when asked which issue they felt would be most important in tackling hunger, undernutrition and climate change. When asked if they believed the world possessed sufficient local knowledge and solutions to effectively address the hunger and climate justice challenge, 60% of delegates voted ‘No’. When responding to a question on the most important characteristics of responsive policy making, 30% of delegates aligned themselves with key note speakers, agreeing that development needs to be ‘people-focused’ and take a ‘rights-based approach’, while 28% believed the inclusion of local voices at national and international level was most significant.

Moving into the final hour of the Hunger – Nutrition – Climate Justice conference, the Master of Ceremony, Ms Áine Lawlor, Radio Teilifis Éireann (RTÉ), noted that *“the weather is changing faster than we as nations and institutions are able to do”* and called on Mr Joe Costello TD to introduce the Honourable Al Gore, former Vice-President of the United States of America, who was described by the Nobel Peace Prize Committee as *“the single individual who has done most*

to create worldwide understanding of the measures that need to be adopted” to address climate change.

Beginning his keynote remarks, Mr Gore noted that *“it is particularly important that so many farmers, fisher folks and herders, and women who work in communities that are impacted by climate are here, and have been given the opportunity to use their voices. It is all too rare in this world, for those who are representing the communities most vulnerable to climate change and the climate injustice and hunger malnutrition, to have the ear of policy makers and serve as true experts in ways that should be done more often”*.



Mr Gore continued on this path and spoke of the need to connect the dots on climate change and the consequences inflicted on today’s most vulnerable but also on future generations. Ireland was described as *“a leader among nations on nutrition,”* and Mr Gore pointed out a secret of the human condition stating *“suffering binds us together,”* referring to Ireland’s Great Famine in the period 1845-1850 and Ireland’s commitment to support those suffering from hunger today.

An important theme of Mr Gore’s keynote was to focus on reducing the causes of the climate change crisis. Stressing that while adaptation is critically important, human civilisation cannot *“treat the atmosphere as an open sewer,”* causing a massive disruption to the water cycle with extreme weather events making headlines like *“a nature hike through the book of revelation”*. However, despite these stories, Mr Gore pointed out, some do not connect this to climate change.

Linking climate events, such as droughts, to food price increases, Mr Gore noted that the international community must also make these links *“and get the balance right... supporting the kind of future that we want”*.

To do this, Mr Gore expressed a need to *“win the conversation”* on climate change



Irish Presidency EU2013

*“Giving a voice to grassroots is a wonderful contribution to this debate... Climate justice is the right focus for this conversation... We have to make our stand. We have to stand for climate justice.” Al Gore, former Vice President of the United States of America, gave the keynote speech on the second day of the Conference.*

and hunger, referring to a change in public consciousness and not accepting a continued *“sleep walking towards the edge of history’s cliff”*.

The power of youth was highlighted by Mr Gore. He made a reference to the Apollo Project’s mission to put a man on the moon where the average age of system engineers was 26 years, meaning that when young people heard the challenge, they were 18. In a similar manner Al Gore stressed that *“our generation must rise to the challenge”* of responding to hunger and climate change.

Mr Gore concluded his keynote address with a quote by Aristotle – *“the end of a thing defines its nature”* – and urged delegates to take action to avoid human civilisation falling off the *“climate cliff”*. Are humans, he asked, *“destined to destroy the conditions that led*



to our flourishing and to condemn future generations?”.

Ms Etrida Luhanga, a farmer from Malawi, gave the final word on behalf of grassroots participants. Ms Luhanga expressed her thanks for being given the opportunity to influence policy makers at the Conference and outlined what lessons she would be taking home to her community; *“climate change affects the whole world and because of that we have to take part as smallholder farmers”*. Ms Luhanga ended with great wit and power, stating that *“in the past, you’ve been talking to people who do not know anything about farming, you have only taken them because they know how to read and write”*, concluding with *“we are the owners of this work”*.



During his closing address, the Tánaiste posed the question *“where do we go from here?”* While recognising that the world had not been saved in Dublin through the Conference, the Tánaiste expressed great hope in the *“new spirit and energy found to help us face local and global challenges”* and explained that Ireland is *“determined to make a difference”*.



The Tánaiste echoed the core idea of the Conference; that representation of local voices and experiences must be heard at the negotiating table. When local people and their experiences were not represented, the Tánaiste promised that *“Ireland will be a voice for you”*.





# 6

## Lessons Learned from the Conference Approach

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# Lessons Learned from the Conference Approach

A key message that came out of the Conference was that more efforts to bring grassroots practitioners and policy makers together to listen to and learn from each other are needed. To make sure that a people centred approach to the post-2015 development agenda lives well beyond the Conference, and for those who wish to replicate this model of dialogue, we are sharing some of our insights and lessons learned.

## 6.1 Investing Resources and Building Relationships

Significant resource investment, both time and financial, is required to bring together grassroots practitioners with policy makers in a conference structure such as Hunger – Nutrition – Climate Justice.

Effective partners, with similar values but different expertise were necessary for the success of the Conference. This of course will bring its own challenges in reaching consensus. A steering committee and communications group were set up to include members of Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs, the Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice, the World Food Programme and CGIAR Research Programme on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security. The expertise of the International Institute of Environment and Development was engaged and vital financial support was provided by the Children's Investment Fund Foundation.

This was critical to ensuring strong representation from grassroots organisations.

Without pre-existing relationships with trusted local partners, we would not have been able to ensure grassroots practitioners were at the heart of this conference. The work to identify grassroots participants and prepare written case studies for the Conference papers started months in advance. All four organising partners drew on their extensive networks to identify case studies to inform the Conference dialogue. This process allowed organising partners to build relationships and trust with the grassroots participants, forge common understandings on key themes and prepare for their role in the Conference. Without this, the Conference would not have been able to give a central role to grassroots practitioners or ensure their engagement in the policy dialogue.

## 6.2 Be Brave and Turn the Tables

### 6.2.1 Plenary

The Conference aimed to strike a balance between policy makers' expertise and grassroots practitioners' experience by devoting time to each in plenary sessions and learning circles. This can only be achieved by designing a discussion platform and conference format that shifts the focus of policy dialogue out of traditional panels and presentations and into spaces that facilitate genuine and respectful dialogue. The plenary sessions, with the exception of the official conference opening, were designed to be dialogue orientated. The three plenary sessions were designed to allow for interaction with the audience through direct questions and interventions from the floor to the panel as well as electronic voting on key questions.

The best example of this innovative approach in action was the plenary session on risk, rights, knowledge and empowerment – where policy makers were teamed with grassroots practitioners to address each theme. Panels that mixed both perspectives achieved rich and fruitful dialogue. The interactive dialogue that took place in the plenary panels and learning circles actively engaged all participants and received good feedback from both policy makers and grassroots practitioners.

#### 6.2.1.1 Challenges

Abandoning traditional formats that involve 'set piece' statements and interventions can be challenging; there has to be established trust between the host and the speaker to achieve full engagement. Equally, it is important that grassroots representatives feel comfortable being in direct dialogue with high profile speakers, in front of a large plenary audience.

Getting this balance right requires engagement with high level participants in advance of the Conference to stress the importance of attending to 'actively listen' and participate in the dialogue as opposed to fulfilling a speaking role. Conference organisers need to be innovative in designing different types of roles for high level participants that allow interaction and avoid 'statement' type interventions.

More space could be given to creative activities that surprise people, engage them and push them out of their comfort zone to stimulate deeper engagement. This could include using music, dancing, games, drama etc. to stimulate creative energies which remain underexploited in policy discussions.

### 6.2.2 Learning Circles

The format of traditional breakout sessions was rejected in favour of learning circles. The learning circles brought delegates together in an actual circle where all delegates participated as equals. This facilitated a respectful discussion on the Conference themes, informed by case studies and background papers, which framed the dialogue.

Participants were allocated to specific learning circles in advance of the Conference and remained in these groups for both days. This was done to ensure diverse representation by geographical region, gender, sector and professional environment in each group. This approach facilitated diversity and enabled participants to learn from each other and draw common recommendations for the post-2015 development agenda. Each learning circle group ate lunch together in advance of the first learning circle to help start this dialogue. Staying in the same group for

two days helped to build trust among learning circle participants and enabled the discussions to broach difficult cultural and political issues.

Selected grassroots practitioners presented case studies during the learning circles. The case studies were evidence-based experiences which brought the key conference themes to life.

A ‘champion’, selected because of expertise in the area, had responsibility to listen and report key messages to plenary sessions.

A moderator facilitated the dialogue while a rapporteur supported the champion by keeping a record of the discussions and assisting with the distillation of the key messages.

When champions reported back to the plenary sessions, delegates were encouraged to challenge and engage with the feedback from the learning circles. This was to ensure that the process was as rigorous as it could be in the circumstances, and that learning circle discussions were accurately communicated to the plenary.

### 6.2.2.1 Challenges

Accommodating the number of delegates in learning circles that could facilitate a meaningful dialogue was challenging. Learning circles of more than 40 people limited participants’ ability to interact and engage in analysis, whereas smaller groups allowed for a more inclusive dialogue. It is therefore important to select a venue with a good number of ‘break-out’ rooms to facilitate a greater number of smaller groups.

Experienced moderators with skills in facilitating discussions amongst multi-cultural groups are important as they play a pivotal role in stimulating and guiding the learning circle discussions. Keeping the discussion simple and avoiding policy jargon is central to keeping all participants actively engaged and in stimulating creative thinking. It is important not to over facilitate the discussions and ensure that there is sufficient time for champions to validate key messages with the learning circle participants.

Keeping participants in these groups for both days may however have prevented wider mixing and conversation among participants and the creation of networks beyond the smaller groups.

## 6.3 Preparing and Empowering

Preparing grassroots participants for their roles as case study presenters or panellists was **essential** for them to feel comfortable with the Conference themes and their roles.

A two day pre-conference workshop was organised to allow case study presenters, moderators and rapporteurs prepare and practice their presentations, test the learning circle format and get to know each other.

While recognising there is a financial cost associated with this, the workshop was essential to ensure a meaningful dialogue.

As this conference asked policy makers to do something different to what they are used to (delivering a speech), preparing them for their role as active listeners in the learning circles was equally important. If one or two set a precedent by actively engaging and listening, others would follow and this contributed greatly to the discussions.

### 6.3.1 Challenges

The pre-conference preparation of the case study presenters requires a financial and time investment both by the organisers and the participants.

Engaging with panellists (policy makers and grassroots practitioners) in advance of a conference can be difficult due to time constraints, so good briefing notes and established relationships are important.

Achieving a good geographical spread is important for presenting the fullest picture possible. When onsite participation is not possible, it would be wise to explore ways for virtual participation either through live link or recorded materials.



Sophie Molins

*The pre-conference workshop gave an opportunity to explore the issues contained in the Conference documents and prepare the presentations for the learning circles.*



## 6.4 Mixing Audiences

Engaging with actors such as the private sector, who may not have seen the immediate relevance of the Conference to their work, was also a challenge. In order to foster inclusive and diverse dialogue it

was important to actively engage with non-traditional stakeholders in advance to explain why the Conference was relevant to them and encourage their participation.

## 6.5 Languages and Dialogue

Having participants from the Arctic, Latin America, the Caribbean, South and Central Asia, Africa and the Middle East meant that a minority of grassroots participants spoke English as their mother tongue. Many grassroots participants had to count on one of their colleagues to translate during the plenary and learning circles. In such scenarios it is important that the person accompanying the grassroots person is clear that translation/interpretation is one of their primary functions.

Simultaneous translations could be made available, resources permitting, for the major languages like French, Spanish and Arabic as well as other regional languages like Amharic and Hausa, to fully enable those whose first language is not English to better participate in and benefit from discussions.

The six conference lenses were selected to help structure the case studies around common themes, but different interpretations of broad themes, such as 'rights' and 'empowerment', slowed the discussions down in some cases.



*Hunger – Nutrition – Climate Justice:  
video playlist*



*Conference blog report by CGIAR Research Programme  
on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security*



Irish Presidency EU2013

*Delegates, Hosts and organising partners at Hunger – Nutrition – Climate Justice. Back left to right: Dyborn Chibonga, CEO Nasfam Malawi; Ertharin Cousin, Executive Director of the World Food Programme; Etrida Luhanga, a farmer from Malawi; Frank Rijberman, CEO of the CGIAR Consortium; Augustine Njamnshi, Executive Director of Cameroon Bioresources Development and Conservation Programme. Front (L to R): Joe Costello TD, Irish Minister of State for Trade and Development; Irish Deputy Prime Minister (Tánaiste) Eamon Gilmore TD; Sabina Higgins, wife of President Higgins; President of Ireland Michael D Higgins; Mary Robinson, President of the Mary Robinson Foundation - Climate Justice; Dolsie Lorna Kalmatak, trainer for the Solar Dryer project in Vanuatu.*

# Executive Summary

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> World Bank, 2012. *World Development Indicator* (<http://data.worldbank.org/indicator>)

<sup>2</sup> FAO, WFP, IFAD. 2012. *The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2012*. FAO, Rome. (<http://www.fao.org/publications/sofi/en/>)

<sup>3</sup> United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation., 2011. Levels and Trends in Child Mortality. ([http://www.unicef.org/media/files/Child\\_Mortality\\_Report\\_2011\\_Final.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/media/files/Child_Mortality_Report_2011_Final.pdf)). UNICEF, New York.

<sup>4</sup> Lutz, W., & Samir, K. C. (2010). *Dimensions of global population projections: what do we know about future population trends and structures?* Philosophical transactions of the Royal Society of London. Series B, Biological sciences, 365(1554), 2779–91. doi:10.1098/rstb.2010.0133

<sup>5</sup> *United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)* ([http://www.agrogeneration.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=3&Itemid=3&lang=en](http://www.agrogeneration.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3&Itemid=3&lang=en))

<sup>6</sup> UN Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC), 2009: *Climate Change, Food Insecurity and Hunger: Key Messages for UNFCCC Negotiators*. (<http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/iasc/downloaddoc.aspx?docID=5031&type=pdf>.) UN IASC

## Delegates' Commitments

As well as hearing commitments from panellists during the Conference closing session, delegates were asked to complete commitment forms on what they would do to carry the messages of the Conference forward.



Key phrases emerging from delegates' commitments

Some examples of the commitments made by delegates include:

**Camilla Toulmin, Director, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)** “invest in local to national work to build engagement pre-2015 and to advocate for climate action, show connections, link between climate, food, water and local power (governance/rights)”.

**Asma Lateef, Director, Bread for the World** “better integrate climate justice and rights into our education and advocacy. Continue to bring developing communities and civil society voices into US policy dialogue”.

**Alex Nallo, World Vision Youth Ambassador** “create a universal dialogue of young people in taking responsibility with commitment to lead today and be in positions tomorrow”.

**Constance Achom Okollet, Housewife from Osukuru, Uganda and member of Climate Wise Women** “go back and mobilise and sensitize my community to hold government accountable and increase the budget of agriculture”.

**Anonymous comment from one delegate** “promote awareness campaigns on nutrition and climate justice in my country starting from local communities to national level, via media”.



**Hunger • Nutrition • Climate Justice • 2013**

*A New Dialogue : Putting People  
at the Heart of Global Development*

15-16 April 2013 - Dublin, Ireland

## Conference Report

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