



Kofi Annan Commission
on Food Security

Reimagining Global Governance for Food Security



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Executive Summary

Every day, 733 million people face hunger worldwide. Nearly one in ten people globally are undernourished, and almost a third experience moderate to severe food insecurity. These figures reveal a devastating truth: global systems are failing to deliver on food and nutrition security.

The United Nations' **Sustainable Development Goal 2** aims to “end global hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture” by 2030. However, progress is so far off track that achieving this goal under current policies, programs and commitments appears impossible.

A radical transformation in how the international community addresses food and nutrition security is urgently needed. This transformation must focus on the shared responsibilities of governments, multilateral agencies, and the wider global governance on food security.

The **Kofi Annan Commission on Food Security** calls for a “common commitment” by these key actors to reimagine global governance institutions and strategies. This requires rethinking how multilateral

agencies and organizations collaborate and how government representatives – particularly from those nations who hold the most power – reach decisions.

This report outlines actionable recommendations for reforming the global governance architecture for food and nutrition in light of the challenges of today, including conflict, climate change, and post-pandemic financial pressures.

Based on a wide-ranging review of existing governance institutions, the **Commission** identifies four headline “governance shifts” that are required to revive the ambition of zero hunger and ensure that food and nutrition security are governed in the interests of all peoples. Ten primary recommendations, each with clear pathways for implementation, are presented under these headline shifts.



GOVERNANCE SHIFT 1

Reorienting Action on Agenda 2030

Accelerate Progress on SDG 2 by Enabling More Accountable and Informed Governance

Global commitments to end hunger have fallen short, exposing a critical gap between words and action. This gap has fueled a growing distrust between governments, their citizens, and the multilateral system. Governments and global food and nutrition actors must respond more effectively to the economic, social, and political barriers to food and nutrition security, and they must be held to account.

1 Enhance the coherence and accountability of food security focused multilateral agencies and programs through a more streamlined and inclusive governance framework. The multilateral system requires a more coherent overarching governance framework that can help national and international actors regain momentum on SDG 2 and the realization of food and nutrition security as a basic human right.

2 Enhance food systems governance through more effective management of, and access to, relevant data. Accelerating the push for zero hunger requires improved tools for measurement and more effective governance of the resulting data to inform and enable actors to make bold and decisive interventions.



GOVERNANCE SHIFT 2

Delivering on Prevention

Prevent the Slide into Hunger through Peacebuilding for Food Security and Social Protection

Attempts to secure food and nutrition for all are often based on either humanitarian aid or development interventions. While both have crucial roles to play, they fail to address the underlying drivers of food and nutrition insecurity. Early preventive action is a much more effective strategy, in terms of both costs and outcomes, than responding to in-country crises which have already descended into extreme distress. Yet, the multilateral system frequently delays comprehensive action that would prevent the slide into hunger. Two such actions in particular would help to address this:

3 Build Peace for Food Security. UN agencies and NGOs that are working to strengthen local governance structures for food security in conflict zones must be supported. Greater support for peacebuilding interventions by food security actors is required, along with a greater emphasis on food in peacebuilding mechanisms. Additionally, stronger voices are needed to address infringements on the right to food in conflict settings.

4 Mainstream Social Protection for Food Security. Social protection is central to achieving long lasting food and nutrition security, and both governments and international organizations must do more to address the full spectrum of food insecurity drivers. This requires both new and dedicated international mechanisms, such as the G20 Global Alliance on Ending Poverty and Hunger, and universally bolstering critical social protection interventions in areas such as mother and child nutrition.



GOVERNANCE SHIFT 3

Food as a Global Public Good

Elevate Food Systems Sustainability as a Global Responsibility

Building a more sustainable global food system relies upon successfully integrating food and agriculture into other global governance agendas, particularly those concerning climate, finance, and trade. These areas have a significant impact on national capacities to deliver on food and nutrition security.

- 5 Fully integrate food systems into climate and nature governance agendas.** Governments must abide by existing commitments to align climate governance agendas with food systems transformations. This includes strengthening international coordination and directing greater volumes of climate finance to sustainable food and agriculture. This will not only be critical to reducing emissions, but also secure an adaptive food future which is informed by sustainable and regenerative technologies.
- 6 Provide a clear strategy for financing food systems as a global public good.** The Rome-based agencies are experiencing their most severe funding shortfalls in recent history, with over half of the required funding for tackling hunger going unmet. The global financial architecture must be reformed to align with the imperative to guarantee access to safe and nutritious food as a global public good. At the same time, food and agriculture specific investments and investment vehicles are needed to support food and nutrition security transformations in an era of climate change.
- 7 Governments to cooperate to ensure a more equitable food trade regime.** A free and functioning trade system is essential to ensuring food security for all. Governments must play a more responsible role in trade negotiations, including by relieving the pressure on WTO negotiations imposed by tariff and nontariff barriers and subsidies, and by working together to reduce unpredictability.



GOVERNANCE SHIFT 4

Shaping the Future

Manage Future Food and Nutrition Needs through Anticipatory Approaches

The future of global food security will be defined by challenges related to persistent and multidimensional crises. Anticipating these challenges, and utilizing technological innovation to help solve them, will reduce pressure on food supply and foster a more efficient food and agriculture system.

- 8 Engage the private sector for more resilient and healthier food economies.** The private sector plays a crucial role in achieving the right to food and driving long-term food system resilience. Effective investment environments are critical to ensuring greater and more responsible private sector contributions to global food security, including in the areas of technological development and scale up.
- 9 Empower farmers to create sustainable food futures.** Farmers require support in adopting sustainable practices and contributing to long-term resilience. This support must include access to the right research, technology, and innovation while addressing the distinct needs of different types of farmers (e.g., smallholders or larger actors). This will equip them with the tools they need to contribute to sustainable markets and food systems.
- 10 Advance digital and innovative governance approaches to meet the needs of women and youth on an unequal planet.** Planetary transformations, such as urbanization and climate change, are placing greater pressure on the livelihoods of marginalized groups. Food security governance must prioritize the needs of these marginalized groups, especially women and young people, and empower them to be part of global solutions to food challenges.

A Common Commitment to Freedom from Hunger



733m

people worldwide are facing hunger, with Africa and Asia being the hardest-hit regions. Women experience consistently higher levels of food insecurity than men.



29%

of the global population faced moderate or severe food insecurity in 2023.



12.8m

people are facing high levels of food insecurity in Sudan since the civil conflict.

About the Report

About the Commission

The **Kofi Annan Commission on Food Security** was established to address critical gaps in global food security governance. Comprising seven prominent leaders, the Commission aims to analyze current challenges, identify opportunities for governance improvements, and propose actionable pathways for reform, building on previous efforts within the multilateral system.

For more information, please visit kofiannanfoundation.org/fixfoodgovernance

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