

# GLOBAL PARLIAMENTARY SUMMIT AGAINST HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION

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## Introduction

The number of people suffering from hunger has fallen significantly in the past 20 years, however, this trend has seen a reversal in 2016 as a consequence of the increasing number of conflicts, climate change and declining economic growth, among others.

According to United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates, a total of 815 million people were undernourished in the world in 2016, up from the 777 million in 2015.

In Africa, Asia and Latin America, hunger indicators have either worsened or stagnated.

Many of those who are suffering from hunger are concentrated in marginalized and vulnerable territories.

The triple burden of malnutrition where food insecurity, undernutrition, and overweight and obesity co-exists has seen these problems being compounded by growing rates of excess weight and obesity, a phenomenon that is becoming increasingly widespread among children in almost every region, and among adults throughout the world. In 2016, 41 million children under the age of five were overweight.

The situation is even worse in North America, Europe and Oceania, where 28% of adults are obese, in comparison to Asia (7%) and Africa (11%). In Latin America and the Caribbean, approximately a quarter of the adult population is considered obese.

In light of this scenario, the United Nations 2030 Agenda calls on countries to redouble their efforts to address objective 2 (ODS2), which seeks to “end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture” in order to build a world where “no one is left behind”.

## The Role of Legislators in Ensuring the Right to Food

Evidence has shown that where strong legislative frameworks exist and are implemented, the rate of hunger and malnutrition decreases. As legislators, Parliamentarians are therefore in a position of advantage and can, therefore, provide impetus to promote enabling environments that ensure the food and nutrition security of the societies they represent.

They also play a central role in key aspects areas such as overseeing policy, accountability, proposing and approving laws and budgets for food and nutrition security.

Thus, the work parliamentarians carry out nationally and regionally can directly contribute to the reduction in hunger and malnutrition and ultimately the realisation of the right to food.

Increasingly, legislators throughout the world are becoming involved in intra and inter-parliamentary dialogue to eradicate malnutrition in all its forms and are participating actively in national and international networks on the subject. These include the Parliamentary Fronts against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean (PFH LAC), the Latin American Parliament (PARLATINO), the Pan-African Parliamentary Alliance for Food and Nutrition Security, and the European Parliamentary alliance that have all committed to achieve SDG2.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) have been providing technical assistance to the aforementioned Parliamentary bodies and the national alliances.

## Interactions among Parliamentary Alliances

Parliamentarians from different regions have already had previous opportunities for interaction and dialogue on Zero Hunger issues. On the occasion of the ICN2 a

## BUILD-UP TO THE SUMMIT

**2005** The Hunger Free Latin America Latin and the Caribbean Initiative (HFLAC 2025) was launched in the context of the Latin American Summit on Chronic Hunger carried out in Guatemala in 2005. The HFLAC 2025 is a political commitment of countries in the region to harness all political and social forces to eradicate hunger.

**2009** The Parliamentarian Front against Hunger of Latin American and the Caribbean (PFH of LAC) was launched with the support of HFLAC and the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament. (PARLATINO).

**2014 November, Italy.** On the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), a Parliamentary Meeting was organized under the title *Parliaments for better nutrition*.

**2016 April, Brussels.** Several European Parliamentarians convened the first meeting of the European Alliance ‘Fight against Hunger’ dedicated to discussing specific issues of food security.

**June, Spain.** Work meeting with PFH LAC and the Spanish Parliament with the support of FAO and AECID.

**October, Egypt.** The Pan-African Parliamentary Alliance was officially launched during the regular Session of the Pan African Parliament in the presence of approximately 125 Members of Parliament. The ceremony of the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with FAO took place immediately after

**November, Mexico.** Submission by the Spanish Parliament of a proposal to hold the First World Parliamentary Summit against Malnutrition at the 7th Forum of the PFH LAC.

**2017 June, Spain.** Work meeting with PFH LAC, FAO, AECID and the Spanish Parliament. A roadmap is defined for the organization of the summit.

**April, France.** Participation of the PFH and Pan-African Alliance for Food and Nutrition Security at a meeting of the Global Alliance for Resilience Initiative (AGIR) together with the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA) where both parliamentary groups made a commitment to continue working together.

**October, Italia.** Official launching of the Summit proposal at the 44th period of sessions of the Committee on World Food Security, at the side event known as “Commitment and contribution of Parliaments towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 2: Zero Hunger.”

## October, Uruguay

Ratification of the endorsement by the 19 countries that belongs to the PFH in order to hold the Summit at the Eighth Forum of Latin American and the Caribbean PFHs.

Parliamentary Meeting – “Parliaments for better nutrition” was organized in Rome by the Inter-Parliamentary Union in November 2014 where senior policy makers gathered and collectively committed to eliminating global hunger and preventing all forms of malnutrition worldwide. FAO attached great importance to the role of Parliamentarians in ensuring that the political commitments reached at the ICN2 was implemented at the national level.

In this regard, the VI (2015) – VII (2016) and VIII (2017) Forum of The Parliamentary Front against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean (PFH), co-organized by FAO in the context of the Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative, jointly with the PFH supported the creation of a space for dialogue and contribution among parliamentarians from Asia, Africa, European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean, considering parliamentarians as relevant actors for the development and implementation of policy and regulatory frameworks for Food Security and Nutrition.

In line with this, parliamentarians from Latin America and the Caribbean and Africa, including other key actors, such as the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), participated in a side meeting (April 2017) of the Global Alliance for Resilience Initiative (AGIR) together with the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA) and both parliamentary groups made a commitment to continue working together.

### ***The Spain – FAO alliance and the Fight against Hunger***

The Spain-FAO alliance to support the Hunger-Free Latin America and Caribbean 2025 Initiative (HFLAC 2025) focuses much of its action on providing technical assistance to the PFH LAC, which, since 2009 –with the support of the Spanish Cooperation Agency and other partners that have come on board in recent years, such as the Mexican and Brazilian cooperation agencies- have placed the right to food at the top of their government agendas.

In view of the experience gained in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Spanish Parliament has embarked on a series of collaborative efforts with the fronts and their partners to promote what has been accomplished worldwide.

### ***Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition***

The Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition Madrid – 2018 aims to bring together Parliamentarians from across the world to consolidate parliamentary political commitment for the achievement of SDG2 on the following specific objectives:

- Highlight the role legislative bodies can play to achieve a hunger-free world by 2030.
- Identify and share political experiences, legislation and good practices which are fundamental in the fight against hunger and malnutrition.
- Build a network of parliamentary alliances that contribute to the achievement of SDG2: Zero Hunger, progress towards the commitments of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), and the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition, paying particular attention to the most vulnerable people and territories.

In essence, the Summit will provide a great opportunity to share experiences on legislation enacted in parliaments throughout the world and their implementation, and the creation of linkages amongst Parliamentarians and Parliaments for collaboration.

The summit will also provide the opportunity to identify the needs of parliamentarians in order to address the challenges associated with the fight against hunger and malnutrition.

The ***Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition*** is being organized by arises from commitments to which the Spanish Parliament, the PFH LAC, FAO, PARLATINO and the Spanish International Cooperation Agency for Development (AECID) have committed themselves.

The Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition is to not only convene parliamentarians from the fronts and alliances that have already expressed their commitment to the issues at hand, but also invite new legislators interested in food and nutrition security.

This proposal therefore seeks to involve all relevant stakeholders in the fight against hunger and malnutrition, through a new way of dealing with and addressing the challenges put forth in the 2030 Agenda.