

Mr. President

People's fundamental right to adequate food and freedom from hunger is at the core of our work as the ACT alliance and the Lutheran World Federation.

To reiterate this Council's resolution 25/14, it is intolerable that 1 billion people today are suffering from serious malnutrition, while the planet produces enough food to feed everyone. Hunger today is not caused by the limits of our planet but by societal limits in the ways we have chosen to produce, share, buy and sell our food. Hence, hunger is not a question of scarcity but a matter of injustice.

One of the injustices that drive food insecurity and hunger in many parts of the world is the lack of recognition of a right to land for many rural communities. Access to land and security of tenure are essential for the enjoyment of right to food. Scientific evidence shows that when communities have access to land and tenure security, household food productivity level increases, poverty is reduced and the land is used more responsibly. Regrettably, what we see today in many parts of the world is the promotion of large-scale industrial farming in which communities are displaced from their lands, most often by force, in order to grow exportable non-food crops. It is no wonder, therefore, that 80% of the hungry people in the world today live in rural areas where rights to land are not recognized or respected.

Therefore, in order to realize the right to food for everyone, we strongly recommend that this council continue:

- To push for communities' access to land and tenure security.
- Call upon member states to review and correct development policies that lead to evictions and mass rural landlessness.
- Pay special attention to the unique situation of marginalized groups such as women, minorities, and indigenous communities.

Thank you, Mr. President!