



## KEMAL DERVIS

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Thanks for assembling for this session on food security and water. As you know, one of the key SDGs is ending hunger, and it was the second SDG adopted by the high-level General Assembly at the UN. In terms of fighting poverty, it remains perhaps the most crucial objective. In terms of moving beyond poverty, without progress in ending hunger and food insecurity, we will never succeed in providing not only economic but social security and stability. I am not a specialist on Syria, but maybe some of our distinguished panel have views on that. A long period of drought was one of the things that preceded the tragedy in Syria.

In many other parts of the world, this does remain a key problem. In terms of hunger, it is primarily an African problem, but there are other parts of the world, particularly the South Asian sub-continent, where hunger remains a very serious challenge. There are also war zones, like in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria, which are also threatened in that way. The issue is closely linked to many things, and I do not think it is a one-dimensional issue. Water and climate protection is a very important issue that needs to be tackled with the food security issue.

Finally, before turning to our very distinguished panel, I would like to underline an optimistic note. New technologies are becoming available that if combined with good institutional set-ups and policies can help a lot. Some of the new technologies include satellites that can tell you where to deploy water resources in the most productive way. They can locate the poorest people and it is quite amazing what this technology may offer in terms of promise in the fight against hunger.

I will turn to our panel who you all know already. We have Mostafa Terrab, who is the President of the OCP, which has always given this issue a big priority in terms of its research and activity as a world citizen. We have Minister Arkebe Oqubay from Ethiopia, who advises the Prime Minister on these issues and is one of the economic leaders of Ethiopia. We also have Kostas Stamoulis, who is the director responsible for Food Security and Nutrition at the FAO. I hope this will be an interactive discussion, when we will also have time to turn to the audience. I turn now to Mostafa Terrab, the President of OCP.