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Now, let me turn to Mr. Krisnamurthi, with his vast experience of both policymaking and academic issues, who will continue to tour this global issue with us.

Bayu Krisnamurthi

Thank you. Mr. Chair, honorable panelist, distinguished participant, friend and colleagues.

Indonesia is considered to be a success story among the countries in the world in combatting food insecurity. We recognized the problem back in the sixties, and with many hardships we gained relative food security after almost 25 years, in 1985. But yet, we have faced food insecurity again along our history.

For us in Indonesia, we see that food insecurity is a dynamic global problem, and that has been with us for a while. In 2019, about 30% of the global population faced lacked access to adequate food with the prevalence of moderate to severe food insecurity. Even though that does not include Indonesia, we see this situation as a permanent threat to our own food security.

About 2.3-2.5 billion people di the planet are food insecure, and 200 million are in food crisis, with a highly stressed and critical lack of food access, with high and above usual malnutrition problem. The interesting part is that 70% of those 200 million people is located only in seven countries; from Congo, to Afghanistan and Haiti. And the sad fact is this list of countries has been the same for the last 20 years. I want to underline what a previous speaker mentioned, we are failing to make this a priority and we fail to solve it.

The second point are Covid and the war. The lockdown, global supply chain disruptions, economic crisis are making this problem of food insecurity even worse. With the lockdown and supply chain disruption problem, as well as refugees problem involved in that, 20 million more people are entered food crisis in the last six months.

Food inflation is another problem. Almost all countries face food inflation of more than 5%, regardless of whether they are low-, middle- or high-income countries, they are all



experiencing the same thing. The UK is experiencing 17% food inflation, Turkey 90%, just to mention a couple. We can see a decrease in food production caused by Covid or war, but the inflation mostly caused by disruption of trade and logistic.

The paradox is that the policy response of governments to this problem is protectionism. About 20 country has banned food exports and 12 countries are limiting food exports, which is making the problem even worse.

Looking into the near future, we will face an even greater problem. The price of fertilizers and fertilizer shortages will make food production costs higher while lowering productivity. Ukraine and the region is part of is a major food producer, and I just cannot imagine when the production recovery will happen there any time soon.

So, in short, the impact of the last three years situation is as follows: 345 million people are in immediate danger from acute food insecurity, up from 200 million; 820 million people go hungry every night; 3 billion people are entering food insecurity, basically one-third of the human population.

That is not mentioning that climate change has impacted productivity and the farmers' ability to produce food; 30% of food productivity in Greece was wiped out by climate change. In the next 15 years, we will have 1 billion more mouths to feed.

I think we need to do something more drastic than business as usual in dealing with this problem. I would recommend that we should strengthen global food governance. First, let us do our utmost to resume and maintain open food trade, build trust again that food is not just a business but part of a shared moral obligation, it is a part of humanity. Exclude food trade from any sanction and, in the case of the Ukraine war, at least maintain the continuity of the Black Sea Grain Initiative.

Second, we need more investment in food systems. Our colleague from the FAO already laid out many issues related to food systems but at the end of the day we need more resources to put into that system. We need more investment in technology for production and logistics. We need more investment in climate resilience food agricultures. We need an investment to empower more human capital, especially for women in agriculture. We also need to improve our agricultural infrastructures.

We also need to educate a lot of people in our part of the world, to give them the knowledge and knowhow about what is a good way of food consumption, including the reduction of loss and waste. To put it into context, we need to broaden the Global Alliance on Food Security initiated by the G7 and do more on the practical side after recognizing clear messages from the G20.

All of these cannot happen without the involvement of the private sector. Governments should empower businesses to be able to transform its food business and at the same time solve the global problem of food security.

As I said, Indonesia may be one of the few countries with a large population that has been relatively successful in building its own food security, but as long as there is hunger in the world that will always a threat for our own domestic food security.

Thank you.

Jean-Michel Severino

Thank you very much, Mr. Krisnamurthi, for this very valuable contribution that also highlights the persistence of the issue over the years, as well as a very precise although long list of concrete proposals on how to proceed from now on. Let me just highlight, because you mentioned the lack of investment as part of the challenge, that the agricultural agenda has not found its real place in public policy, both global and local, over the past decades and I will give a couple of examples. In Africa public spending for agriculture is around 0.5% of GDP, which is extraordinarily low and, by the way, much lower than the proportion that OECD countries dedicate to their agriculture, which is around 1.5%, if I am not mistaken. At the level of international support, ODA has also ranked agriculture as nearly the lowest item on its agenda, much lower than health and education, not to mention infrastructure.