**PARTICIPATING IN FAO-CFS ANNUAL MEETING:   
OCTOBER 9-13, 2017**

October is always a full month for activity at FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization), headquartered in Room, together with two other UN specialized agencies, WFP (world Food Program) and IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development). Each year, the FAO CFS (Committee on World Food Security) holds its annual meeting and this year, the dates are 9-13 October. Last year, more than 1500 government and other (I was one of them) members attended.

Below I list three links to help you and your congregations to be aware of and participate in these activities. The first link will introduce you to WORLD FOOD DAY. This date is marked each year on 16 October. The main theme is ZERO HUNGER, Goal 2 of the UN 2030 Agenda, Sustainable Development Goals. But as link 2 informs us this year, for the first time, Pope Francis will attend the ceremony at FAO to mark World Food Day and he will deliver in person his message: *Change the Future of Migration*. Link 3 takes you to the FAO Webcast link; you will be able to tune in to a live webcast of Pope Francis’ message and other activities at FAO on World Food Day.

Finally, link 4 takes you to a special report put out each by the UN Specialized Agencies based in Rome and focused on Food security and nutrition. This year, joining FAO, WFP and IFAD in preparing and issuing the report are UNICEF (United Nations Children’s Fund) [formerly named United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund] and WHO (World Health Organization). The full report is 132 pages. However, in the middle of the first page, you can click onto DOWNLOAD MATERIAL. You will see you have choices of the Full Report-132 pages, In Brief- 32 pages, Flyer- 2 pages and Questions & Answers- 8 pages. I suggest you might at least download and look over the Flyer which lists in a succinct manner 12 Key Messages of the report. Just knowing these is so helpful. Also, if you can, read through the 18 Questions & Answers for a fuller understanding. This year, there is a very strong emphasis (and this is a new development) on situations of conflict and especially conflict combined with drought or floods. Conflict, says the report, ‘is a key driver of situation of severe food crisis and recently re-emerged famines…’ We know how Pope Francis has stressed the importance of peace and reconciliation in his trip to Colombia and in his plea to South Sudan where he would like to visit. How very much this focus of Pope Francis is on target is made clear in this last short quote from the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World: “*The UN 2030 Agenda makes an explicit link between sustainable development and peace and calls for a transformative approach, with improved collaboration on conflict prevention, mitigation, resolution and recovery.”*

1. <http://www.fao.org/world-food-day/2017/theme/en/> Change the future of migration.World Food Day—Towards Zero Hunger, Goal 2 (UN Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals)
2. <http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/wfd/2017/Programme_ceremony_WFD2017-EN-.pdf> On Monday 16 October the Programme begins at 9:30 am. The Director-General of FAO will be joined by Pope Francis and Ministers of Agriculture attending the Group of 7 (G7) meetings for the official ceremony of World Food Day. Traditionally a message from His Holiness is delivered during the WFD ceremony. This year for the first time Pope Francis will attend in person to deliver his message and will call on the international community to change the future of immigration.
3. <http://www.fao.org/webcast/home/en/item/4423/icode/> The FAO Webcast page provides information on live streaming of activities at FAO. And this will include both general sessions of CFS Session 44 and Side-events held each day.
4. <http://fao.org/state-of-food-security-nutrition/en/> This new edition of The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World gives updated estimates of the number and proportion of hungry people on the planet and includes data for the global, regional and national levels.

‘Zero Hunger’ is our goal; all of us can and must play a part in its fulfillment.

Ken Thesing, MM

Coordinator – ICR at FAO Working Group