

Excellencies,  
ladies and gentlemen,

Two months have passed since the Pre-Summit in Rome. What has happened since? In Afghanistan, for example, another humanitarian disaster is looming. In the coming twelve months, half of all children will suffer from malnutrition. 18 million people need humanitarian aid. 15,000 children still die from starvation every day worldwide.

We had been making good progress. Since 1990, the number of hungry people had gone down by 200 million. Now it is rising. COVID has disrupted supply chains, made people jobless and driven up prices. These consequences of COVID are killing more people than the virus itself. And wherever people are starving, you have conflicts. And where there are conflicts, you have hunger. So, fighting hunger is not just emergency assistance, it is a policy for peace.

It was a wise decision that the World Food Program was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Last year alone, Germany supported WFP with more than one billion euro. However, aid agencies are underfunded. What we need is a permanent UN emergency and crisis fund of 10 billion dollars. But we have to move away from response, toward prevention! We need to prevent crises, not manage them.

We need to act – now! I have a clear message: A world without hunger is possible. We know how to get there. And we know what it will cost. We can do it – we have to have the will to do it. Research tells us: We need 40 billion dollars in investments every year up to 2030 – from industrialized countries, developing countries and the private sector.

But means are not enough. We need implementation. For real investments in agriculture. That requires five points:

- Technology transfer.
- Energy for the agricultural sector.
- Loans for farmers and secure land rights.
- Supply chains that move from free to fair, with more value addition on the ground. And
- Production. We must help to build industries, create local brands.

We have to develop the right tools for this, with clear leadership, also within the UN.

Action is needed more than ever. Now.