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MEDIA RELEASE

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FOOD SECURITY FOR PEACE

Australia could strengthen its efforts for enhancing peace and stability by devoting an increasing proportion of its aid budget to food security.

This is a key message of an address by The Hon John Anderson AO, Australian farmer, former Deputy Prime Minister and recently appointed Chair of the Crawford Fund.

Mr Anderson is addressing a national forum on *"Food Security, Biosecurity and National Security"*, being co-hosted by the Crawford Fund and the Australian Institute of International Affairs in Canberra on 22 February.

"A sharper aid focus on food insecurity, drawing on solutions from the unique capabilities of Australian scientists in agricultural research and development, and using the tremendous existing good-will built from decades of partnerships and 'science diplomacy,' will reinvigorate Australian foreign policy with uniquely Australian character and know-how," said Mr Anderson.

"Recent history provides evidence of a strong correlation between food insecurity and the outbreak of conflict, and there have been several instances where food insecurity has been a trigger to societal unrest and revolution," he said.

He noted that the Fund's submission to the Government's foreign policy white paper will go further into the argument of the connection between hunger and food insecurity and threats to regional stability.

"Investment in international agricultural research is aid that works but it also provides benefits to Australia and the opportunity for us to be "Doing Well by Doing Good" for peace," said John, who has been a member of the Fund's Board since 2010 and recently replaced The Hon John Kerin AM, former Minister for Primary Industries and for Trade and Development, who has retired after six years in the role.