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**SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL
AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE**

Fourteenth meeting
Nairobi, 10-21 May 2010
Item 4.1.1 of the provisional agenda*

**REPORT OF THE HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY: THE
CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIOENERGY (3-5 JUNE 2008, ROME)**

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. In paragraph 30 of decision IX/1, the Conference of the Parties welcomed the organization by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations of a high-level meeting to be held in June 2008 on “World Food Security and the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy” and invited the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to provide the report to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.
2. Accordingly, the Executive Secretary is circulating herewith, for the information of participants in the fourteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, the report of the Conference as submitted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.
3. The report is circulated in the form and language in which it was received by the Secretariat.

* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/1.



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
Nations

Organisation
des
Nations
Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY: THE CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIOENERGY

Rome, 3 – 5 June 2008

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE

**HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY:
THE CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIOENERGY****Rome, 3 – 5 June 2008****REPORT****TABLE OF CONTENTS****DATE AND PLACE OF THE HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE****INAUGURAL CEREMONY****OPENING OF THE HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE****HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT****COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE****ROUNDTABLES****ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE****ADOPTION OF THE DECLARATION ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY: THE
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Declaration on World Food Security: The Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy

DATE AND PLACE OF THE HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE

1. The High-Level Conference on World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy, was held at the Headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome, Italy from 3 to 5 June 2008.

INAUGURAL CEREMONY

2. Mr Jacques Diouf, Director-General of FAO, welcomed the distinguished delegates and observers, and expressed his deep appreciation for the generosity of the Government of Italy in hosting the High-Level Conference.

3. His Excellency Giorgio Napolitano, President of the Italian Republic, welcomed all participants to Italy and to the High-Level Conference, stressing the urgent need for the international community to reaffirm its commitment to achieving global food security.

4. His Excellency Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, in addressing the High-Level Conference, emphasized the essential need to work collectively to address the root causes of food insecurity and poverty. He stressed that the High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Crisis had advanced a Comprehensive Framework for Action to bring together technical and analytical capabilities, to support governments with the best information for agricultural decision-making, to boost production and productivity.

5. His Eminence Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Secretary of State of the Holy See, delivered a message from his Holiness Pope Benedict XVI to the High-Level Conference, urging participants to address food insecurity with the utmost determination.

6. In his statement, Mr Jacques Diouf, Director-General of FAO, emphasized the need for agreement on concrete and innovative measures to result from the High-Level Conference, and that substantial new investments in agriculture are required to achieve food security and poverty eradication commitments.

7. The full texts of the statements delivered during the Inaugural Ceremony are included in *Annex I*.

OPENING OF THE HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE

Election of the Chair and Vice-Chairs and Appointment of the Rapporteur

8. Mr Diouf declared the High-Level Conference open. He reported that, after consultations with the Regional Groups, unanimous consensus had emerged on the nomination of His Excellency Silvio Berlusconi, President of the Council of Ministers of the Italian Republic, as Chair of the High-Level Conference. His Excellency Silvio Berlusconi was elected Chair of the High-Level Conference by acclamation.

9. The Chair reported that, as a result of consultations held among participating countries before the High-Level Conference, a consensus had been reached with regard to nominations for the Vice-Chairs of the High-Level Conference and the appointment of the *Rapporteur*. The Conference then elected as Vice-Chairs:

His Excellency Denis Sassou-N'Guesso, President of the Republic of Congo;

His Excellency Masatoshi Wakabayashi, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan;

His Excellency Iztok Jarc, Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Food, Republic of Slovenia;

His Excellency Leonel Antonio Fernández Reyna, President of the Dominican Republic;

His Excellency Amin Ahmed Mohamed Othman Abbaza, Minister for Agriculture and Land Reclamation, Egypt;

Mr Mark E. Keenum, Under-Secretary, Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, United States of America; and

His Excellency Jim Anderton, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, New Zealand.

His Excellency Salvador Chio Jiménez, Secretary of State for Agriculture, Dominican Republic, was elected as *Rapporteur*.

10. Furthermore, the High-Level Conference agreed that, taking into account the long working hours of the Conference, the Vice-Chairs would be allowed to designate a senior member of their respective delegations to chair any session or part of a session of the Conference.

Welcome Address by the Mayor of Rome

11. Mr Gianni Alemanno, Mayor of Rome, Italy, delivered a short welcome address, stating that it was a great pleasure and honour for the city to host the High-Level Conference.

Adoption of the Agenda

12. The High-Level Conference adopted the agenda, as given in *Annex II*.

Establishment of the Committee of the Whole

13. The High-Level Conference established the Committee of the Whole, and elected His Excellency Denis Sassou-N'Gusso, President of the Republic of Congo, as Chair of the Committee.

HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT

14. Heads of State, Government and Delegations of 139 countries and of the European Community addressed the High-Level Segment, as did representatives from 6 United Nations organizations, 9 intergovernmental organisations and 4 non-governmental organisations. Five other entities, including the private sector also delivered statements..

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

15. His Excellency Henri Djombo, Minister of Forests Economy of the Republic of Congo, opened the Committee of the Whole. Mr James G. Butler, Deputy Director-General of FAO, stressed the importance of the Committee finalizing the draft Declaration for consideration by the Plenary.

16. The Committee of the Whole received the *Report of the Co-Chairs of the Informal Open-ended Contact Group*¹, which contained the draft Declaration. It decided to continue deliberations

¹ HLC/08/3

on the draft Declaration under the guidance of the Co-Chairs of the Informal Open-ended Contact Group, Mr Ibrahim Abu Atilah (Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan) and Mr David Hegwood (United States of America).

ROUNDTABLES

High Food Prices: Causes, Consequences and Possible Solutions

17. His Excellency Henri Djombo, Minister of Forests Economy of the Republic of Congo, welcomed all participants, opened the Roundtable on *High Food Prices: Causes, Consequences and Possible Solutions*, and introduced the Co-Chairs of the Roundtable: The Honourable Ed Shafer, Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America, and His Excellency Moussa Mahaman, Minister of Agricultural Development of the Republic of Niger.

18. The Co-Chairs welcomed the panellists: Ms Barbara Stocking, Executive Chief, Oxfam International; Mr Willem-Jan Laan, Director, Global External Affairs, Unilever; and Mr Joachim von Braun, Director-General, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). After introductory statements by the Chair and Co-Chairs, the panellists addressed a number of key issues in relation to high food prices, causes, consequences, and possible solutions.

Climate Change and Food Security

19. The Chair of the Committee of the Whole introduced the Co-Chairs of the Roundtable on *Climate Change and Food Security*: His Excellency Muzahem Al Muheisen, Minister for Agriculture of Jordan, and His Excellency Erik Solheim, Minister for the Environment and International Development of Norway.

20. The Co-Chairs welcomed the panellists: Mr Martin Parry, Co-Chair of Working Group II of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), United Kingdom; Ms Ulla Holm, Global Director, Tetrapak, Sweden; and Mr Martin Khor, Director, Third World Network, Malaysia. The panellists addressed a number of key issues in relation to the impacts of climate change on food security.

Transboundary Pests and Diseases

21. The Committee of the Whole received introductory statements by the Co-Chairs of the Roundtable on *Transboundary Pests and Diseases*, The Honourable Sharad Pawar, Minister for Agriculture, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, India; and The Honourable Jim Anderton, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, New Zealand.

22. The Co-Chairs invited three panellists: Mr Hans R. Herren, President, Millennium Institute, Co-Chair of the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD), and World Food Prize laureate; Mr Declan O'Brien, Managing Director, International Federation for Animal Health (IFAH); and Mr M. Taghi Farvar, the World Conservation Union (IUCN) Governing Council Member, Chair of IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy and Co-Chair of its Theme on Sustainable Livelihoods, to provide their views on transboundary pests and diseases.

Bioenergy and Food Security

23. The Chair of the Committee of the Whole introduced the Co-Chairs of the Roundtable on *Bioenergy and Food Security*: Her Excellency Gerda Verburg, Minister for Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, The Netherlands; and His Excellency Guillermo Salazar Nicolau, Minister for Agricultural Development, Panama.

24. The Co-Chairs invited three panellists: Mr Pat Mooney, Executive Director of the Action Group on Erosion, Technology and Concentration (ETC Group); Ms Anne-Ruth Herkes, Vice-President, Policy and Strategic Issues of BP Biofuels; and Mr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Executive Director of The Rural Hub, West Africa, to address issues in relation to bioenergy and food security.

25. In the framework of the Conference, four fora took place on 3 and 4 June 2008: a Private Sector Forum, a Civil-Society Organisations and Non-Governmental Organisations Forum, a Small Island Developing States Forum and an Africa Forum which all made valuable contributions to the success of the Conference.

26. Sir John Holmes Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations for Humanitarian Affairs and Mr David Nabarro, Deputy UN System Coordinator for Responses to the Global Food Crisis, presented the draft elements of a Comprehensive Framework for Action that was being prepared by the United Nations Secretary General's Task Force on the Global Food Crisis.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

27. The Committee of the Whole approved its report and the Declaration on World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy for adoption by the High-Level Conference.

ADOPTION OF THE DECLARATION ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY: THE CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIOENERGY

28. The High-Level Conference adopted the Declaration on World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy by acclamation, as contained in the *Appendix*. The Chairperson noted that the statements made by Argentina, Cuba and Venezuela will be attached to the report. These are contained in *Annex IV*.

PARTICIPATION

259. Of 181 participating countries, 23 were represented at the level of Head of State, 3 at the level of Deputy Head of State, 13 at the level of Head of Government, 3 at the level of Deputy Head of Government, 89 at the level of Minister, 8 at level of Vice-Minister and 42 at the level of Ambassador or other. A list of countries and organizations participating in the High-Level Conference is given in *Annex V*.

CLOSURE OF THE HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE

30. The High-Level Conference on World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy, concluded its work and was declared closed on 5 June 2008 at 21:45 hours.

ANNEXES

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ANNEX I

Inaugural Statements

STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC, H.E. GIORGIO NAPOLITANO

FAO – Rome, 3 June 2008

*Mr Secretary General of the United Nations,
Mr Director-General of FAO,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

The High-Level Conference which Italy has the honour of hosting and which today I have the honour of inaugurating, represents an extraordinary opportunity for reflection and commitment on crucial issues of our time and is already a significant event on account of such a distinguished attendance, notably of Heads of State and Government. I read this as a sign of awareness and renewed willingness on the part of the leadership of all continents and, together with the world organizations, of the international community as a whole.

We cannot fail to note the dramatic nature of the crisis that exploded and its consequences, in particular for the poorest populations, for nearly one billion undernourished people but also for social groups everywhere who have lost serious purchasing power. This food crisis makes it even more difficult to achieve the targets of the Millennium Development Goals, especially the elimination of poverty and hunger.

We cannot fail to notice the eclipsing of the right to food that was centre stage at the first FAO World Food Summit in November 1996 in Rome. We cannot fail to understand that the current food crisis undermines recent progress in the continent that suffers most, Africa, even though, as Secretary General Ban Ki-moon emphasized, there are also rays of hope and reasons for optimism. This Conference will hear discussions in which open differences are expressed on the causes and characteristics of the food crisis. But there is no doubt that world opinion was taken by surprise by the remarkable string of food riots that erupted on account of soaring food prices. However, it is important that the discussions – especially on the part of the more developed countries and the international financial institutions – adopt a spirit of forthright critical analysis in seeking possible errors of underestimation and improvidence.

We were probably slow in anticipating the significant change that resulted from much higher food demand in major emerging economies. We were not prepared for a scenario – abetted by a combination of factors, including speculation – that presaged an end to the era of cheap food. We failed to properly evaluate the medium- and long-term impact of agricultural and trade policies on exports on the one hand, and on domestic consumption on the other; precisely where a balance between these two objectives was required. At the same time, we neglected the implications of allocating cropland to biofuel production.

Clear-minded analysis of the lessons from recent events leads us to conclude – in the words of the World Bank report – that “agriculture continues to be a fundamental instrument for sustainable development and poverty reduction”. And there emerges a general imperious need for policies that are coordinated worldwide, that focus on an alarming emergency –in the form of interventions to support food supply to countries hardest hit by the crisis – but that, at the same time, go beyond the emergency to lay the foundations for new investment in agriculture, wherever there is potential for more and better food production.

This implicitly means that we cannot rely on the balancing virtues of market forces to overcome the food crisis and hold out the prospect of real food security. We can and must recognize the

need for policies and interventions that are framed and delivered within the United Nations system.

We look with confidence to the commitment of the Task Force that Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has promoted and agreed to chair. We believe in the role of FAO, IFAD, WFP, the agencies that Italy has the honour of hosting; just as we look with firm conviction to contribution of the World Trade Organization, above all in a satisfactory conclusion to the Doha Round.

Among the contributions that Italy considers it has a duty and the ability to provide is the promotion – through its technical and scientific institutions – of training, consultation and assistance activities, which are essential for enabling agricultural enterprises, and especially the smaller enterprises of poorer countries, to advance in technical innovation and in the effective management of resources. There is also Italy's contribution to development cooperation programmes, whether this be bilateral or as part of the European Union's actions for the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific countries, targeting rural development, access to water and conservation of the environment.

I should like to conclude with a final general consideration. Analysis of the current food crisis reveals linkages with other major global issues: the problem of energy, of climate change and of environmental degradation. We see confirmation of the growing interdependence that characterizes globalization and that conditions our common future. In representation of our people and our countries, we must all be fully aware of our responsibilities and join forces in striving towards a more cohesive and orderly form of global development.

**ADDRESS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
OF THE UNITED NATIONS,
H.E. BAN KI-MOON**

FAO – Rome, 3 June 2008

*Your Excellency President Giorgio Napolitano,
Your Excellencies, Distinguished Heads of State and Government,
Your Excellency Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi,
Honourable Jacques Diouf,
Director-General of the FAO,
Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

You all know about the severity and scale of the global food crisis. Before this emergency, more than 850 million people in the world were short of food. The World Bank estimates that this figure could rise by a further 100 million. The poorest of the poor spend two-thirds or more of their income on food. They will be hardest hit.

I have seen this for myself. In Liberia recently, I met people who normally would buy rice by the bag. Today, they buy it by the cup. In Cote d'Ivoire, the leaders of a country recovering from conflict and trying to build a democracy told me how they feared that food riots could undo all their hard work. We fear the same in other countries that, with UN help, have made gains in recent years: Afghanistan, Haiti and Liberia, to name but a few. And let us not forget the millions who suffer in silence and will go hungry unnoticed.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The threats are obvious to us all. Yet this crisis also presents us with an opportunity. It is a chance to revisit past policies. While we must respond immediately to high food prices, it is important that our longer term focus is on improving world food security - and remains so for some years. That is why I am so pleased that we are here. I thank Dr. Jacques Diouf, Director-General of the FAO, for his leadership. The world needs to produce more food. Food production needs to rise by 50% by the year 2030 to meet the rising demand. We have an historic opportunity to revitalize agriculture - especially in countries where productivity gains have been low in recent years. Governments have already begun to respond. Some countries are helping farmers pay for basic agricultural inputs, such as seeds and fertilizers, the price of which has been so significantly affected by the rise in oil prices. We urgently need to find ways to support these initiatives, politically and financially.

That is why last month I set up a High-Level Task Force to come up with a Comprehensive Framework for Action. I want us to have a shared understanding of both the problems and solutions, and to move forward together, with urgency.

I would like to share some of the Task Force's recommendations with you.

First, we must improve vulnerable people's access to food and take immediate steps to increase food availability in their communities.

This includes:

- expanding food assistance through food aid, vouchers or cash;

- scaling up nutritional support and improving safety nets and social protection programmes to help the most vulnerable;
- boosting smallholder farmer food production through an urgent injection of key inputs (including seeds and fertilizers) in time for this year's planting seasons;
- improving rural infrastructure and links to markets, and expanding micro-credit programmes;
- adjusting trade and taxation policies to minimize export restrictions and import tariffs, and helping the free flow of agricultural goods;
- skillfully managing the impact of rising food prices on inflation and macro-economic policy;
- supporting balance of payments of net food importing countries where necessary; and
- helping to ensure that short term measures to respond to food price rises are financially sustainable for governments.

To guide us, we must improve food security and nutritional assessment systems, to ensure that we receive early warnings of hardship and are ready to respond.

Some countries have taken action by limiting exports or by imposing price controls. As I have said before, I say again now: Beggar Thy Neighbor food policies cannot work. They only distort markets and force prices even higher. I call on nations to resist such measures, and to immediately release exports designated for humanitarian purposes.

Second, we must act for longer term resilience and contribute to global food security.

This means:

- addressing structural issues that impede agricultural development;
- ensuring long term investment in smallholder farming in developing countries, including technical and financial support;
- helping governments to reinforce social safety nets for the neediest and most vulnerable people;
- looking at rural infrastructure needs, as well as new financing mechanisms;
- eliminating trade and taxation policies that distort markets - not least through rapid resolution of the Doha round; and
- supporting promising research into optimal food crops and better animal production systems, and adapting known technologies to existing food chains.

And we should also reach a greater degree of international consensus on bio-fuels.

These are parallel tracks - immediate needs must not be met at the expense of long-term solutions. The international system is already contributing to immediate needs.

The FAO has called for \$1.7 billion in new funding to provide low-income countries with seeds and other agricultural support and has initiated a programme to counter soaring food prices.

The World Food Programme has raised the additional \$755 million it needs to meet existing commitments this year. We owe a great debt of thanks to 31 generous donor-nations, most notably the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It will, of course, need significant extra resources to respond to new needs arising from the impact of the food crisis.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development is giving an additional \$200 million to poor farmers in the most affected countries and will want to do more as further resources become available.

The World Bank has established a new \$1.2 billion rapid financing facility to address immediate needs and boost food production, including \$200 million in grants targeted at the world's poorest nations.

I have set aside a reserve of \$100 million from the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund to help fund new humanitarian needs arising from soaring food prices.

The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, NGOs and various civil society groups have mobilized as well. They are sponsoring new feeding programs to combat hunger and malnutrition, paying for medicine and sending children to school. Private sector groups are engaged too.

We will work together to scale up these efforts and to ensure that national authorities are able to coordinate their implementation.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me conclude by noting that the world's population will reach 7.2 billion by 2015. Today's problems will only grow larger tomorrow unless we act now.

I call on you to take bold and urgent steps to address the root causes of this global food crisis. We want a firm commitment to moving ahead.

This will not be easy. It may require big increases in financial support - often in the form of grants and material assistance, not lending. The UN Africa MDG Steering Group has estimated the requirements to realize a Green Revolution in Africa at some \$8 to 10 billion annually, just to boost productivity. This suggests that the overall global price tag for national governments and international donors could exceed \$ 15 to 20 billion annually, over a number of years. Whatever the final figures, this will require enormous political will.

We will build on what we achieve here in Rome, at the G-8 Summit in July and the UN General Assembly in September. To the extent that climate change figures in this emergency, we must take it into account at our upcoming negotiations in Poznan and Copenhagen for a comprehensive agreement on global warming.

We must therefore leave this conference with a sense of purpose and mission, knowing that we are allied in our determination to make a difference. Only by acting together, in partnership, can we overcome this crisis, today and for tomorrow. Hundreds of millions of the world's people expect no less.

Nothing is more degrading than hunger, especially when man-made. It breeds anger, social disintegration, ill-health and economic decline.

In the name of the development goals we all set at the Millennium, the right to food and our common humanity, I urge you to act together now.

Thank you.

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS BENEDICT XVI

FAO – Rome, 3 June 2008

*Mr President of the Italian Republic,
Distinguished Heads of State and Government,
Mr Director General of the FAO,
Mr Secretary General of the UN,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I am pleased to address my respectful and cordial greeting to you, who, in different capacities, represent the various components of the human family and are gathered in Rome to negotiate suitable solutions to face the problem of hunger and malnutrition.

I have asked Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, my Secretary of State, to express to you the particular attention with which I am following your work and assure you that I attribute great importance to the arduous duty that awaits you. Millions of men and women look to you while new snares threaten their survival and worrisome situations put the security of their Nations at risk. In fact, the growing globalization of markets does not always favour the availability of foodstuffs and the systems of production are often conditioned by structural limits not to mention by political protection and speculative phenomena that relegate entire populations to the margins of development processes. In light of this situation, one must strongly repeat that hunger and malnutrition are unacceptable in a world that, in reality, possesses production levels, resources and sufficient knowledge to put an end to these dramas and their consequences. The great challenge of today is "'to globalize' not only economic and commercial interests, but also the expectations of solidarity, with respect for and valuing the contribution of each component of society" (cf. *Address to the Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice Foundation*, 31 May 2008). To the FAO and to its Director General, therefore, go my appreciation and my gratitude, for having again drawn the international community's attention to what obstructs the fight against hunger and for having solicited it to take action, an action that must be united and coordinated in order to be effective.

In this spirit, to the high-level Personages participating in this Summit I should like to renew the wish that I expressed during my recent Visit to the UN Headquarters: it is urgent to overcome the "paradox of a multilateral consensus that continues to be in crisis because it is still subordinated to the decisions of a few" (*Address to United Nations' General Assembly*, 18 April 2008). Furthermore, may I invite you to cooperate in an ever more transparent manner with the organizations of civil society committed to filling the growing gap between wealth and poverty. Again I exhort you to continue with those structural reforms that, on a national level, are indispensable to successfully confront the problems of underdevelopment, of which hunger and malnutrition are direct consequences. I know how arduous and complex it all is!

Yet, how can one remain insensitive to the appeals of those who, on the various continents, are not able to feed themselves enough to live? Poverty and malnutrition are not a mere fatality caused by adverse environmental circumstances or by disastrous natural calamities. On the other hand, considerations of an exclusively technical or economic character must not prevail over the rights of justice toward those who suffer from hunger. "The right to nutrition responds principally to an ethical motivation: 'give the hungry to eat' (cf. Mt 25: 35), that prompts a sharing of material goods as a sign of the love which we all need.... This primary right to nutrition is intrinsically linked to the safeguarding and to the defence of human life, the solid and inviolable rock upon which the whole edifice of human rights is founded" (*Address to the new Ambassador of Guatemala*, 31 May 2008). Each person has the right to life: therefore it is necessary to

promote the effective actualization of such rights and the populations that suffer from lack of food must be helped to gradually become capable of satisfying their own needs for sufficient and healthy nutrition.

At this particular moment, in which food security is threatened by the rise in price of agricultural products, new strategies need to be worked out in the fight against poverty and the promotion of rural development. This must also happen through structural reform processes, that would enable the challenges of the same security and of climatic changes to be faced. Furthermore, it is necessary to increase the food available by promoting industrious small farmers and guaranteeing them access to the market. The global increase in the production of agricultural products, however, can be effective only if production is accompanied by effective distribution and if it is primarily destined to satisfy essential needs. It certainly is not easy, but it would allow, among other things, to rediscover the value of the rural family: it would not be limited to preserving the transmission, from parents to children, of the cultivation methods, of conserving and distributing foodstuffs, but above all it would preserve a model of life, of education, of culture and of religiosity. Moreover, from the economic profile, it ensures an effective and loving attention to the weakest and, by virtue of the principle of subsidiarity, it could assume a direct role in the distribution chain and the trading of agricultural food products reducing the costs of intermediaries and favouring small scale production.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today's difficulties show how modern technology by itself, is not sufficient to provide for the lack of food, neither are statistical calculations nor, in emergency situations, the sending of food supplies. All this certainly has a great impact, yet it must be completed and oriented to a political action that, inspired by those principles of the natural law which are written on the human heart, protect the dignity of the person. In this way, also the order of Creation is respected and one has "the good of all as a constant guiding criterion" (*Message for the World Day of Peace*, 1 January 2008, n. 7). Hence, only by protecting the person is it possible to overcome the main causes of hunger, such as being closed to one's neighbour which dissolves solidarity, justifies models of consumeristic life and unravels the social fabric, preserving, if not actually deepening the furrows of unjust balances and neglecting the most profound demands of good (cf. Encyclical Letter *Deus Caritas Est*, n. 28). If, therefore, respect for human dignity were given its worth on the negotiation table, in making decisions and accomplishing them, it would be possible to rise above otherwise insurmountable obstacles and it would eliminate, or at least diminish, the disinterest in the good of others. Consequently, it would be possible to adopt courageous measures that would not stop before hunger and malnutrition, as if they were simply considered unsolvable, endemic phenomena. It could help if, in the defence of human dignity, international action - even emergency action - were to estimate the superfluous in the perspective of the needs of others and to administer the fruit of Creation according to justice, placing it at the disposition of all generations.

In the light of these principles, I hope that the Delegations present at this meeting will take on new commitments and be resolved to accomplish them with great determination. The Catholic Church, for her part, desires to join in these efforts! In a spirit of collaboration, drawing on ancient wisdom, inspired by the Gospel, she makes a firm and heartfelt appeal that is very relevant for those participating in the Summit: "Give to eat to the one who is starving of hunger, because, if you do not give to him to eat, you will kill him" (cf. *Decretum Gratiani*, c. 21, d. LXXXVI). I assure you that, along this path, you can count on the support of the Holy See. Although it differentiates itself from States, it is united to their most noble objectives to seal a commitment that, by her nature, involves the entire international community: to encourage every People to share the needs of other Peoples, placing in common the goods of the earth that the Creator has destined for the entire human family.

With these sentiments, I express my most fervent wishes for the success of your work and invoke the Blessing of the Most High upon you and upon those who are committed to the authentic progress of the person and of society.

From the Vatican, 2 June 2008

BENEDICTUS PP. XVI

STATEMENT OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF FAO, JACQUES DIOUF

FAO – Rome, 3 June 2008

*Your Excellency, the President of the Italian Republic,
Excellencies Heads of State and Government,
Mr Secretary-General of the United Nations,
Distinguished Ministers and Heads of Delegation,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

We are gathered here in the eternal city of Rome for a *de jure* High-Level Conference that has become a *de facto* Summit. We have before us a world food crisis that has recently had tragic social and political consequences in different continents, with riots and deaths that can endanger world peace and security.

Those sad events are however but the chronicle of disaster foretold. In 1996, in this very chamber, 112 Heads of State and Government and the representatives of 186 Members of the Organization solemnly pledged to reduce by half the number of hungry in the world by the year 2015 and adopted a programme to achieve that target. But already in 2002, we had to convene a second world summit to draw the international community's attention to the fact that resources to finance agricultural programmes in developing countries were decreasing, instead of rising. With such a trend, the Summit target would not be reached in 2015, but in 2150. An "anti-hunger programme", with financial requirements estimated at 24 billion dollars per year, had been prepared for that meeting.

Today, the facts speak for themselves: from 1980 to 2005, aid to agriculture fell from 8 billion dollars (2004 basis) in 1984 to 3.4 billion dollars in 2004, representing a reduction in real terms of 58%. Agriculture's share of Official Development Assistance fell from 17% in 1980 to 3% in 2006. The international and regional financial institutions saw a drastic reduction in resources allocated to the activity that constitutes the principal livelihood of 70% of the world's poor. In one telling case, the loan portfolio to agriculture of one institution plummeted from 33% in 1979 to 1% in 2007.

In cooperation with FAO, the developing countries did in fact prepare policies, strategies and programmes that, if they had received appropriate funding, would have assured world food security.

Global food production must be doubled to feed a world population currently standing at 6 billion and expected to rise to 9 billion by 2050.

Thus, following a meeting of African experts in December 2001 in Rome, the Ministers for Agriculture met at the FAO Regional Conference for Africa in Cairo in February 2002, and again in Maputo just before the July 2003 African Union Summit. On that occasion, the Heads of State and Government adopted the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and its companion documents prepared with the support of FAO. The Programme requires an investment of 25 billion dollars per year for water control, rural infrastructure, trade capacity, increased crop production and reduced hunger, agricultural research and the dissemination of technology, animal production, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture.

In this context, 51 African countries, with the support of FAO, prepared National Medium-Term Investment Programmes (NMTIPs) and Bankable Investment Project Profiles (BIPPs).

The Regional Economic Communities - UEMOA, ECOWAS, SADC, COMESA, IGAD and AMU - have, with FAO's support, also prepared regional food security programmes which focus on intra-regional trade and WTO sanitary and phytosanitary standards, based on the rules established by WHO and FAO for consumer protection in the framework of the Codex Alimentarius and the International Plant Protection Convention.

Following implementation of the pilot phases of national and regional food security programmes in the countries of CARICOM, Central and South America, the Ibero-American Summit approved in November 2006 in Montevideo, Uruguay, the Initiative "Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean by 2025".

Similar regional programmes were prepared, in cooperation with FAO, in Central Europe and Central Asia for the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and the Economic Cooperation Organization.

Plans, programmes and projects - well and good - therefore exist to address food security, even though they may require further refinement and updating.

But sadly the international community only reacts when the media beams the painful spectacle of world suffering into the homes of the wealthy countries.

Based on world agricultural statistics and the projections that FAO is responsible for preparing, already last September, I alerted public opinion to the risks of social and political unrest due to hunger. On 17 December 2007, to avoid jeopardizing the 2008 agricultural season, I launched an appeal for the mobilization of 1.7 billion dollars in grants to enable the farmers of poor countries to have access to the fertilizer, seeds and animal feed that had risen in price by 98, 72 and 60 percent, respectively. All in vain, despite broad press coverage and correspondence to the Member Nations and the financial institutions. Some few countries such as Spain did offer their immediate support to agricultural production. I should like to pay tribute to those countries.

It was only when the destitute and those excluded from the banquets of the rich took to the streets to voice their discontent and despair that the first reactions in support of food aid began to emerge.

*Mr President,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

The causes and consequences of the present crisis have been explained at length so I shall not return to them.

What is important today is to realize that the time for talking is long past. Now is the time for action.

The UN Secretary-General has set up and chairs the Task Force of the United Nations system, the Bretton Woods institutions and other international organizations to bring a coordinated response to the food crisis. He saw fit to appoint the Director-General of FAO as Vice-Chair of that Task Force. I should like to take this solemn opportunity to thank him profoundly for that expression of confidence.

The Comprehensive Framework for Action prepared by the Task Force provides guidelines on the needs that will be specified, country by country, with the assistance of the local representatives of FAO, WFP, IFAD and the World Bank, in cooperation with the governments. In this connection, on 29 April in Berne, the Secretary-General of the United Nations presented to the press the communiqué approved by the United Nations Chief Executives Board (CEB) for coordination on

the immediate needs to deal with the food crisis. We must therefore mobilize the necessary resources now.

Of course, there was a pressing need, despite escalating prices, to maintain the volume of food aid for 88 million people. We must thank those countries that contributed so generously to meet the required 755 million dollars in this regard.

But there are 862 million people in the world who do not have adequate access to food. They need to enhance their living conditions in dignity, working with the means of their generation. They need high-yield seeds, fertilizer, animal feed and other modern inputs. They cannot continue to toil as in the Middle Ages under conditions of uncertainty and exposure to the whims of the weather. Investments are therefore needed: in rural infrastructure, especially for water control with irrigation and drainage, considering for example that 96% of arable land in sub-Saharan Africa depends on rainfall. They need storage facilities to avoid harvest losses that can amount to 40 to 60% for certain crops. Rural roads are essential to bring in modern factors of production and enable harvests to reach domestic and regional markets at competitive prices.

*Mr President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

The current food crisis goes beyond the traditional humanitarian dimension, which has an eminently ethical foundation. This time it also affects the developed countries. Rising inflation is 40 to 50% the result of higher food prices. In a context of high and accelerated growth of gross domestic product of the emerging countries, we must seek sustainable and viable global solutions that will narrow the gap between global food supply and demand.

If we do not urgently take the courageous decisions that are required in the present circumstances, the restrictive measures taken by producer countries to meet the needs of their populations, the impact of climate change and speculation on futures markets will place the world in a dangerous situation. Whatever the extent of their financial reserves, some countries might not find food to buy.

The structural solution to the problem of food security in the world lies in increasing production and productivity in the low-income food-deficit countries. That calls for innovative and imaginative solutions, besides official development assistance. Partnership agreements are needed between countries that have financial resources, management capabilities and technologies and countries that have land, water and human resources. Only in this way will it be possible to assure balanced international relationships for sustainable agricultural development.

The challenges of climate change, bioenergy, transboundary animal and plant diseases and agricultural commodity prices can only be met through frank dialogue based on objective analysis devoid of partisan and short-term interests. In the coming days, the interactive roundtables on these issues and information from the preparatory technical meetings will provide an appropriate framework for dialogue leading to consensus.

Yet, obligation to truth already compels me to note certain facts:

- Nobody understands how a carbon market of 64 billion dollars can be created in the developed countries to offset global warming but that no funds can be found to prevent the annual deforestation of 13 million hectares, especially in the developing countries whose tropical forest ecosystems act as carbon sinks for some 190 giga tonnes.

- Nobody understands how 11 to 12 billion dollars in subsidies in 2006 and protective tariff policies have had the effect of diverting 100 million tonnes of cereals from human consumption, mostly to satisfy a thirst for fuel for vehicles.

- Nobody understands how in a time of globalization of trade, with the notable exception of avian influenza that could lead us to human calamity, there has been no significant investment in the prevention of Newcastle disease, foot-and-mouth disease, Rift Valley Fever, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, the pest of small ruminants, bluetongue disease, African swine fever, tropical bont tick and the New World Screwworm, but also wheat stem rust that since 1999 has spread from Uganda to Iran and could reach India, Pakistan and China, the fruit fly and finally desert locusts, a scourge familiar since the time of the Pharaohs.

- But above all, nobody understands how: first, the OECD countries have created a distortion of world markets with the 372 billion dollars spent in 2006 on supporting their agriculture; next, that in a single country food wastage can amount to 100 billion dollars annually; that the excess consumption by the world's obese costs 20 billion dollars annually, to which must be added indirect costs of 100 billion dollars resulting from premature death and related diseases; and finally that in 2006 the world spent 1 200 billion dollars on the purchase of arms.

Against that backdrop, how can we explain to people of good sense and good faith that it is not possible to find 30 billion dollars a year to enable 862 million hungry people to enjoy the most fundamental of human rights: the right to food, and thus the right to life. It is resources of this order of magnitude that would make it possible definitively to lay to rest the spectre of conflicts over food that are looming on the horizon.

In fact, the problem of food insecurity is a political one. It is a question of priorities in the face of the most fundamental of human needs. And it is the choices made by Governments that determine the allocation of resources.

*Mr President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I should like to thank most sincerely the Heads of State and Government and the other participants at this conference who have travelled thousands of kilometres so that, together and in a spirit of solidarity, appropriate solutions to the serious problems of world food security in a multilateral context may be found.

I should like to conclude by expressing my infinite gratitude to the Government and to the people of Italy for the generous hospitality that they have always displayed at these landmark moments in human history.

Thank you for your kind attention.

ANNEX II

Agenda

Tuesday, 3 June 2008			
Hour	Agenda Item	PLENARY	
9:00 – 10:00		<p>Inaugural Ceremony</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Address by the President of the Republic of Italy - Address by the Secretary-General of the United Nations - Message from His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI - Address by the Director-General of FAO <p>Opening of the High-Level Conference</p> <p>1 Election of the Chair and Vice-Chairs and Appointment of the <i>Rapporteur</i></p> <p>2 Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable</p> <p>3 Establishment of the Committee of the Whole and other Arrangements</p>	
10:00 – 13:30	<p>HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT</p> <p>Statements by Heads of State and Government</p>		
	<i>Lunch Break</i>		
13:30 – 15:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private sector Forum • Civil society and non-governmental organizations Forum 		
	HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT	Agenda item	COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (COW)
15:00 – 18:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Statements by Heads of State and Government - Statements by Heads of Delegations - Statements by Heads of UN agencies and Bretton Woods institutions 	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opening by the Director-General - Statement by the Independent Chair of the Council Review of the draft text of the Declaration

Wednesday, 4 June 2008			
Hour	HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT	Agenda item	COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
9:00 – 12:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Statements by Heads of State and Government - Statements by Heads of Delegations - Statements by Special Guests 	5 5.1 5.2	Discussion of substantive items related to the draft Declaration Roundtable 1: High food prices: causes, consequences and possible solutions Roundtable 2: Climate change and food security
	<i>Lunch Break</i>		
13:30 – 15:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SIDS Forum: From environmental to food security concerns in Small Island Developing States • Africa Forum: African livelihood responses to climate change and bioenergy 		
	HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT	Agenda item	COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
15:00 – 18:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Statements by Heads of State and Government - Statements by Heads of Delegations - Statements by Special Guests 	5.3 5.4	Roundtable 3: Transboundary pests and diseases Roundtable 4: Bioenergy and food security
19:00 – 20:30		4	Review of the draft text of the Declaration

Thursday, 5 June 2008		
	HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT	
9:00 – 12:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Statements by Heads of State and Government - Statements by Heads of Delegations - Statements by Special Guests - Statements by representatives of CSO/NGOs and the private sector 	
12:00	Press Conference by the Director-General	
	Agenda Item	COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
14:00 – 15:00	6	Adoption of the Report of the Committee of the Whole
	PLENARY: CLOSING MEETING	
15:00 – 17:00	7	Adoption of the Report and Declaration of the High-Level Conference

ANNEX III

Conclusions of the Roundtables

**CONCLUSIONS OF ROUNDTABLE 1
ON
HIGH FOOD PRICES: CAUSES, CONSEQUENCES AND POSSIBLE
SOLUTIONS**

Co-Chairs Report

The Roundtable was opened by the Chair of the Committee of the Whole, His Excellency Henri Djombo, Minister of Forest Economy, Republic of Congo. The co-chairs were His Excellency Ed Schafer, Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America and His Excellency Moussa Mahaman, Minister of Agricultural Development of the Republic of Niger.

The panellists were Mrs Barbara Stocking, Executive Chief, Oxfam, Mr Willem-Jan Laan, Director, Global External Affairs, Unilever and Mr Joachim von Braun, Director General, International Food Policy Research Institute. Mr Hafez Ghanem, Assistant Director-General of the FAO Economic and Social Development Department, acted as Secretary.

Panellists and discussions from the floor reflected on the following questions:

1. What policies should governments take in the short run to protect vulnerable populations from the negative effects of food prices?
2. What are the best ways to enhance short-term supply response by farmers to high food prices?
3. How consistent are trade and other policy measures taken to increase food supplies and/or keep prices low in domestic markets with international commitments in the World Trade Organization?
4. What would be a strategy to re-launch agriculture and keep agriculture on top of the development agenda even when prices start levelling off?
5. What role do you think biofuels have played in increasing food prices--in the recent past? And in the future?
6. What form can a coordinated international response to high food prices take?

Mrs Stocking highlighted the importance of both safety nets and increased agricultural productivity, including the need for more research to improve crops grown by the poor, with an emphasis on small farmers. Mr Laan noted the importance of partnerships with the private sector in working with farmers at all levels. Mr von Braun noted that government policies are also needed to protect the vulnerable and that global food trade also considers regulation/monitoring of speculation and pooling of national food stocks at the global level.

The Roundtable generally agreed that the current food crisis results from many causes, as described in the FAO background paper on Soaring Food Prices (HLC/08/INF/1). These include weather-related production shortfalls, declining stocks, increasing fuel costs, increased demand for both food and biofuels, and export restrictions in some countries.

It was also agreed that the current food crisis is one that requires concerted and coordinated action with both short-term and long-term solutions.

In the short term, immediate actions are needed to protect the welfare of the most poor and hungry by providing direct support on an emergency basis, including via safety nets and social protection for the most vulnerable people, particularly women and children, in both rural and urban areas. Also needed are measures to enhance short-term supply response by smallholder farmers, including increased access to seeds and fertilizer, while ensuring that production is efficient and sustainable.

In the medium to longer term, it was agreed that increased investment in agriculture is essential. Priorities include improved access to inputs, credit, markets, extension services and information about best practices and market conditions, as well as investment in infrastructure, water management, technology and research. It was also noted that increased investment is necessary but not sufficient; special attention needs to be paid to the needs of small farmers, and social protection measures targeted at the most vulnerable people and the right to food need to be set up, or expanded and strengthened.

Appreciation was expressed for the commitments of increased support that have been made at the High-Level Conference, but it was emphasized that these measures should be well coordinated in order to enhance implementation, effectiveness and accountability. It was also suggested that national policies should be developed in partnership with the private sector and civil society, including farmers' organizations.

There was shared recognition of the importance of trade policies and negotiations. The way in which the Doha Round is concluded will have important implications for agriculture and commodity markets, as well as for food security, especially in poor countries.

Finally, participants agreed on the need not just for commitments, but for coordinated planning and immediate action.

CONCLUSIONS OF ROUNDTABLE 2 ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND FOOD SECURITY

Co-Chairs Report

The Roundtable was opened by the Chair of the Committee of the Whole, His Excellency Henri Djombo, Minister of Forest Economy, Republic of Congo. The Roundtable co-chairs were His Excellency Muzahem Al Muheisen, Minister of Agriculture of Jordan, and His Excellency Erik Solheim, Minister of International Development and Minister of Environment of Norway.

The panellists were Mr Martin Parry, co-Chair of Working Group II of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, UK, Ms. Ulla Holm, Global Director, Tetrapak, Sweden, and Mr Martin Khor, Director, Third World Network, Malaysia. Mr Alexander Müller, Assistant Director General of the FAO Natural Resources Management and Environment Department, acted as Secretary.

Panellists and discussions from the floor reflected on the following questions:

1. What key adaptation measures (at different scales) do you propose to meet the challenge posed by climate change to food security?
2. In light of the present discussion on deforestation and forest degradation and the role of agriculture in climate change mitigation – what incentives for carbon sequestration and emission reduction can we provide to local land users?
3. How can we best incorporate the interests of vulnerable groups in the proposed measures to deal with climate change?
4. How does climate change impact on access to food and its utilization by different consumer groups in developing and developed countries?

Martin Parry stressed the urgency of the climate challenge which is already reflected in extreme weather events, and called for immediate action to reduce greenhouse gas emission and assist vulnerable people and agricultural production systems to adapt, especially in arid and semi-arid areas. Ulla Holm underlined the importance of public-private partnerships to cope with climate change impacts on the food chain. Martin Khor stressed that a resilient agricultural sector was a prerequisite for climate change adaptation and that there was a need to move back to self-sufficiency and local food production in developing countries, and called on FAO to assume a stronger role in promoting research and training in sustainable and organic agriculture.

The Roundtable agreed that climate change would pose a severe additional threat to food security and development. More research on the links between climate change and food security was proposed, including investments on low carbon technologies and other adaptation measures. Governments were urged to ensure that agriculture, forestry and fisheries be addressed in the negotiations on the Clean Development Mechanisms (CDM), with a focus on a more equitable access of developing countries to carbon markets. FAO and IFAD were invited to work on CDM methodologies for emission reduction and FAO's role in promoting REDD was recognized, as described in the information papers on climate change (HLC/08/INF2 and HLC/08/INF4).

The Roundtable pointed out the urgent need to promote various climate change adaptation options building on traditional knowledge and stressed the role of small farmers in the context of food security and climate change.

The contribution of agriculture to greenhouse gas emissions was recognized, as was the potential role of the agricultural sector in reducing both CO₂ and non-CO₂ emissions. In particular the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors were identified as offering opportunities to combine adaptation with mitigation efforts while at the same time safeguarding biodiversity.

The Roundtable stressed the importance of agriculture, forestry and fisheries receiving increased attention in the ongoing international negotiations for a post 2012 climate change agreement.

CONCLUSIONS OF ROUNDTABLE 3 ON TRANSBOUNDARY PESTS AND DISEASES

Co-Chairs Report

The Roundtable was opened by the Chair of the Committee of the Whole, His Excellency Henri Djombo, Minister of Forest Economy, Republic of Congo. The Co-Chairs were His Excellency Sharad Pawar, Minister for Union Minister for Agriculture and Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (India) and His Excellency Jim Anderton, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and Minister for Biosecurity (New Zealand).

The panellists were Mr Hans R. Herren, President, Millennium Institute, Co-chair of the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD) and World Food Prize laureate, Mr Declan O'Brien, Managing Director, International Federation for Animal Health and Mr M. Taghi Farvar, World Conservation Union (IUCN) Governing Council Member, Chair of IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy. Mr. James Butler, Officer-in-Charge of the FAO Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department, acted as Secretary.

Panellists and discussions from the floor reflected on the following questions:

1. Which are the impacts of transboundary animal and plant pests and diseases on the food security situation of different groups of people and regions? Which are the more vulnerable groups and systems, whose exposure to transboundary diseases and pests carries the highest risks?
2. Which short- and medium- term actions should be taken by the international, national and local communities to address these risks and prepare to respond to emergencies arising from transboundary diseases and pests?
3. Which national policy and legislation reforms are needed to reduce the impacts of transboundary plant and animal pests and diseases including threats to forests and fishery?
4. Which global data exchange systems and research activities will be necessary in the future to identify and quantify connections among climate change, ecosystems, and the transmission of disease agents and the resulting potential threats to food security?

The co-chairs made short introductory statements that emphasized the need for regional and international collaboration to strengthen national and regional biosecurity systems to ensure safer trade and meet such threats as highly pathogenic avian influenza, UG99 stem rust and EUS fish disease, which all are likely to be affected by climate change. The developing countries and those with economy in transition would be required to channelise more resources to build capacity in terms of infrastructure, diagnostics and expertise to mitigate the potential impacts of climate change on transboundary movement of pests and diseases. Developed and technologically advanced countries would have to come forward in this endeavour with greater scientific leadership through knowledge initiative programmes.

Mr. Hans Herren noted the growing pressure from transboundary pests and diseases due to globalization, trade and traffic, as exacerbated by climate change. He emphasized the need to achieve sustainable production intensification, for local and national ecosystem-based strategies, as called for by the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development, without overusing chemical inputs. Mr. Declan O'Brien referred to the FAO and OIE Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases as an ideal approach that, with commitment by researchers and broad stakeholder alliances to robust tools and vaccines, should be operationalized through mechanisms such as the European Technology Platform for Global Animal Health. Mr. Taghi Farvar stressed valuing local knowledge of local ecosystems and customary institutions for better pest and disease early warning systems, the need to build their capacity as part of food sovereignty, the importance for environmental resilience, and cautioned against large scale campaigns on transboundary pests that undervalued these important resources.

The Roundtable agreed that transboundary pests and diseases were significant threats to food security, and that top priority should be given to strengthening early warning and rapid response systems. It also agreed that regional, national and local capacity building was crucial in preparing countries better to meet these challenges. There was broad support for encouraging the evolution towards greater cooperation among national systems, especially through strengthening existing international platforms including those provided by FAO (International Plant Protection Convention) and OIE.

Wider use of vaccination as a preventive measure was proposed, while acknowledging the need to explore the regulatory implications. Genomics, biotechnology, and information technology were cited as examples of tools that could be more widely applied. It was also stressed that rather than creating new platforms, the FAO's platform be strengthened. The importance of enhancing the roles of biodiversity and local knowledge and communication in the management of existing, as well as emerging, pests and diseases was stressed. The role of strong national systems in facilitating regional consultations in collaboration with FAO was also noted.

CONCLUSIONS OF ROUNDTABLE 4 ON BIOENERGY AND FOOD SECURITY

Co-Chairs Report

The Roundtable was opened by the Chair of the Committee of the Whole, His Excellency Henri Djombo, Minister of Forest Economy, Congo. The Co-Chairs were Her Excellency Gerda Verburg, Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, the Netherlands and His Excellency Guillermo Salazar Nicolau, Minister for Agricultural Development, Panama.

The panellists were Mr Pat Mooney, Executive Director of the Action Group on Erosion, Technology and Concentration, Ms Anne-Ruth Herkes, Vice-President, Policy and Strategic Issues of BP Biofuels and Mr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Executive Director of The Rural Hub, West Africa. Mr Alexander Müller, Assistant Director General of the FAO Natural Resources Management and Environment Department, acted as Secretary.

Panellists and discussions from the floor reflected on the following questions:

1. What is the relationship between bioenergy and food security?
2. Should bioenergy be a central element in country strategies to address climate change?
3. What are the roles and responsibilities of the public sector, the private sector and civil society in ensuring that bioenergy is developed in a socially and environmentally friendly way?
4. Which challenges of bioenergy need to be addressed at the international level? Are there concrete steps the international community should take?

Her Excellency Gerda Verburg recalled the opportunities and risks related to bioenergy growth, and called for the development of worldwide sustainability criteria and indicators for bioenergy production, with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders. His Excellency Guillermo Salazar Nicolau stressed the potential of bioenergy to contribute to economic and rural development especially in tropical countries, while noting the need to prioritise food production over energy production.

Ms Anne-Ruth Herkes stressed the importance of addressing food security and bioenergy in the context of climate change, and urged the international community to find consensus on sustainability standards for bioenergy. Mr Pat Mooney cautioned against the promotion of bioenergy, highlighting in particular the risk of reallocating land and water resources from food to energy production. Mr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki stressed the potential of modern bioenergy to contribute to the energy needs of developing countries, in particular in rural areas. He further highlighted the need to develop consistent policies for energy and agriculture, which are focused on the needs of small scale farmers and rural communities, and called for the active participation of all stakeholders in the formulation process.

The Roundtable agreed on the significant potential of bioenergy to contribute to rural development, in particular in developing countries, both as a source of economic growth and as a provider of energy services. However, it was also stressed that bioenergy growth should be managed carefully. It was generally agreed that food security should be put before energy policy goals, and that measures should be taken to avoid competition between food and energy.

Several countries noted the sustainability challenges related to the production of first generation biofuels and highlighted the promise of second generation technologies to reduce competition for natural resources. The need for further investment in science and technology development, especially in developing countries, was highlighted. Several countries pointed towards the importance of sound policy frameworks and called for the establishment of international sustainability criteria and guidelines. The Roundtable welcoming in this context the FAO initiative to work towards an international consensus on sustainable biofuels, as described in the information paper on bioenergy (HLC/08/INF3).

ANNEX IV

Statements – Adoption of the Declaration

STATEMENT BY ARGENTINA

The Argentine Republic believes that misdirected diagnoses cannot produce appropriate remedies. That is the case with this Declaration.

Mr Chair,

Within the ambit of this Conference, statements of Heads of State and that of the Director-General of this Organization have pointed to the responsibility of distortive agricultural policies of developed countries in the last six decades for inadequate agricultural investment in developing countries and for the current world food crisis.

High subsidies to production and exports and the application of exaggerated barriers to trade, together with the conditionalities imposed by international financial organizations on developing countries are the main reason for the failure to send the correct price signals for farmers in poor countries to maintain their dedication to agriculture and for other competitive developing countries to realize their full production potential.

Mr Chair,

The Argentine Republic finds itself obliged to formally express its dissatisfaction with the text of the Declaration because it makes no clear reference to the responsibility of the agricultural subsidies and distortions of the developed countries, while referring to short-term measures of lesser impact on world agricultural prices and food supplies.

Above and beyond, we express our total solidarity with the vulnerability of the almost 900 million people in the world who suffer hunger.

Mr Chair,

The Argentine Republic has made every effort to increase its agricultural production, attaining almost 100 million tonnes in 2007, which has allowed it to increase its agricultural exports by more than 50 percent in the last five years. We see that as clear evidence of our commitment to agriculture and to world food security.

STATEMENT BY CUBA

Mr Chair,

The declaration that will be adopted today is the result of a lack of political commitment on the part of the countries of the North to promote a fair and lasting solution to the world food crisis.

The United States, the only country to oppose the right to food, was the party mainly responsible for blighting the expectations that the international community had placed on this High-Level Conference, which were confirmed in the statements of the vast majority of senior dignitaries who have spoken here.

The text lacks a moderately objective diagnosis of the root causes of world. The document makes no reference to any of the following:

- the impact of agricultural subsidies and monopoly control of food distribution on the ruin of many farmers in the South;
- the harmful strategy of converting grains and cereals into fuel;
- the impact of the unsustainable production and consumption patterns of the North on climate change;
- the consequences of financial speculation on higher food prices.

There is an evident responsibility of the industrialized powers in this unacceptable state of affairs.

Why refuse to include the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities or reference to the Framework Convention on Climate Change?

Why question restrictive measures on food exports if these are duly justified by reason and justice?

Cuba cannot remain silent and be an accomplice to a demagogic and opportunistic representation such as this. Inaction and the failure to perform our entrusted duty will not save the lives or dignity of the 862 million human beings who suffer hunger and malnutrition.

Cuba will continue to work for justice, equity and solidarity. We can change the unfair international order that sustains hunger and poverty and that permits the adoption of texts like this, in clear negligence of the fundamental needs of those who suffer hunger.

Cuba appreciates the support received from the overwhelming majority of states, in particular of the Latin American and Caribbean Group, in its just demand for an end to the criminal blockade imposed by the Government of the United States against our country, with the impossible intent of crushing the conviction of independence of the Cuban people through hunger. The United States policy of hostility, blockade and aggression towards Cuba has not neglected the use of food as an instrument of political and economic pressure.

Mr Chair,

Cuba will not oppose the consensus because, despite its many limitations, we respect the view that this can be a step in the process of eradicating hunger and reaffirms its support to FAO and its Director-General in fulfilling their vital mandate.

We hope that this Conference will at least have served to create greater awareness of the serious and pressing problems that are faced by large majorities in the countries of the South. We will continue to work with all those who are committed to the cause of a just world without starvation. We still have not found true and lasting responses to hunger. The rich and the powerful continue to prevent that. I can only confirm that we will continue the fight so that, in the not too distant future, hunger may become an eradicated scourge in human history.

Thank you very much.

INTERVENTION BY THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA

On behalf of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, we would like to make a statement, to be inserted as an Annex in the relevant Document, in accordance with the established procedures of this Organization.

Mr Chair,

Venezuela considers that this Conference has missed the opportunity to provide a real jump to advance in the struggle against hunger, which currently afflicts over 800 million human beings. In our opinion, this Declaration does not represent an objective analysis of the current crisis; rather, it powerfully reflects the injustice inherent in the structure of world power. This injustice - that wouldn't be hide- is indissolubly linked to the unsustainable patterns of production and consumption that result from the acute concentration of wealth (capital) and power in the world.

Mr Chair,

It is deplorable that this Declaration lacks a genuine Humanitarian Spirit. In this context, we wish to reiterate our sympathy with our brothers in Africa and Asia, as they strive to make at least a small step towards solving this grave problem. We are convinced, however, that this Declaration does not contribute towards the achievement of this objective.

On the contrary, this Document represents a significant regression in the pursuit of both justice and social inclusion. The resistance of the most powerful countries to mentioning the "United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change" –UNFCC– is powerful evidence of both unilateral domination and the perpetuation of injustice.

Mr Chair,

The absence of engagement with the UNFCC is utterly incomprehensible, as it is the only legally binding Instrument affecting all the countries here present. Given that this event is entitled the "High-Level Conference on World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy", the inclusion of this Instrument in the Declaration should be beyond debate. The UNFCC protects the rights of Developing Countries to prioritize their own social and economic objectives, including agricultural development, and to progress towards sustainable development that protects the environment against the effects of climate change. This Instrument alone establishes the international responsibility of the developed nations to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and to prevent the environmental degradation that has done so much damage to our planet. As such, we should ask ourselves: does such a conspicuous absence from the Declaration not demonstrate the absence of genuine commitment to the Objectives of this Conference?

For this reason, Mr Chairman, we consider that the countries of Europe have lost an historic opportunity to contribute to the struggle against the scourge of world hunger. We reiterate the commitment of the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the pursuit of justice and social inclusion, and our commitment to ensuring the Food Security and Right to Food of the entire Venezuelan population. Similarly, we reaffirm our Government's continuing commitment to struggle against the Hunger and the exclusion jointly Latin America, the Caribbean and with the peoples of Africa and of Asia, through the south – south cooperation

Mr Chair,

Venezuela will not impede the attainment of consensus on this Declaration; we will support our brothers in Africa, Asia and Latin America. We are convinced that this document ratifies the existing state of injustice and unilateral domination.

ANNEX V

Participating Countries and Organizations

COUNTRIES

AFGHANISTAN
ALBANIA
ALGERIA
ANGOLA
ARGENTINA
ARMENIA
AUSTRALIA
AUSTRIA
AZERBAIJAN
BAHAMAS
BAHRAIN
BANGLADESH
BARBADOS
BELARUS
BELGIUM
BELIZE
BENIN
BHUTAN
BOLIVIA
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
BOTSWANA
BRAZIL
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
BULGARIA
BURKINA FASO
BURUNDI
CAMBODIA
CAMEROON
CANADA
CAPE VERDE
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
CHAD
CHILE
CHINA
COLOMBIA
CONGO
COOK ISLANDS
COSTA RICA
CÔTE D'IVOIRE
CROATIA
CUBA
CYPRUS
CZECH REPUBLIC
DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
KOREA
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
DENMARK
DJIBOUTI
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
ECUADOR
EGYPT
EL SALVADOR
EQUATORIAL GUINEA
ERITREA
ESTONIA
ETHIOPIA
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY (MEMBER
ORGANIZATION)
FIJI
FINLAND
FRANCE
GABON
GAMBIA
GEORGIA
GERMANY
GHANA
GREECE
GUATEMALA
GUINEA
GUINEA-BISSAU
GUYANA
HAITI
HOLY SEE
HONDURAS
HUNGARY
ICELAND
INDIA
INDONESIA
IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)
IRAQ
IRELAND
ISRAEL
ITALY
JAMAICA
JAPAN
JORDAN
KAZAKHSTAN
KENYA
KIRIBATI
KUWAIT
KYRGYZSTAN
LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
LATVIA
LEBANON
LESOTHO
LIBERIA
LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA
LIECHTENSTEIN
LITHUANIA
LUXEMBOURG
MADAGASCAR
MALAWI
MALAYSIA
MALDIVES
MALI
MALTA
MARSHALL ISLANDS
MAURITANIA
MAURITIUS
MEXICO
MICRONESIA, FEDERATED STATES OF
MOLDOVA

MONACO	SLOVAKIA
MONGOLIA	SLOVENIA
MOROCCO	SOLOMON ISLANDS
MOZAMBIQUE	SOMALIA
MYANMAR	SOUTH AFRICA
NAMIBIA	SPAIN
NETHERLANDS	SRI LANKA
NEW ZEALAND	SUDAN
NICARAGUA	SURINAME
NIGER	SWAZILAND
NIGERIA	SWEDEN
NORWAY	SWITZERLAND
OMAN	SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC
PAKISTAN	THAILAND
PANAMA	THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	MACEDONIA
PARAGUAY	TOGO
PERU	TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
PHILIPPINES	TUNISIA
POLAND	TURKEY
PORTUGAL	TURKMENISTAN
QATAR	TUVALU
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	UGANDA
ROMANIA	UKRAINE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS	UNITED KINGDOM
SAINT LUCIA	UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
SAMOA	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
SAN MARINO	UZBEKISTAN - OUZBÉKISTAN
SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE	VANUATU
SAUDI ARABIA	VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF)
SENEGAL	VIET NAM
SERBIA	YEMEN
SEYCHELLES	ZAMBIA
SIERRA LEONE	ZIMBABWE
SINGAPORE	

ASSOCIATE MEMBER

FAROE ISLANDS

SOVEREIGN ORDER OF MALTA

LIBERATION MOVEMENT

PALESTINE

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY
INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND
OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
UNITED NATIONS
UNITED NATIONS CHILDRENS FUND
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT
UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA
UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION
UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK FOR THE CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE
UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES
UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION
WORLD BANK
WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION
WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

OBSERVERS FROM INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
AFRICAN UNION
ANDEAN COMMUNITY
ARAB AUTHORITY FOR AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
ARAB BANK FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA
ARAB ORGANIZATION FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
CABI INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR AGRICULTURE AND BIOSCIENCE
CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY CLIMATE CHANGE CENTRE
CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
CENTRAL AFRICAN ECONOMIC AND MONETARY COMMUNITY
CENTRAL AMERICAN BANK OF ECONOMIC INTEGRATION
COMMON FUND FOR COMMODITIES
COMMONWEALTH OF NATIONS
CORPORACIÓN ANDINA DE FOMENTO
ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION
INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT LAW ORGANIZATION
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES
ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK
LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES
OPEC FUND FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE
PERMANENT INTERSTATE COMMITTEE FOR DROUGHT CONTROL IN THE SAHEL
SAHEL AND WEST AFRICA CLUB
SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY
SENEGAL RIVER DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION
SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
UNION DU MAGHREB ARABE
WEST AFRICA ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION
WEST AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH

**OBSERVERS FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR**

ACTION AID INTERNATIONAL
ACTION GROUP ON EROSION, TECHNOLOGY AND CONCENTRATION
ALLIANCE FOR A GREEN REVOLUTION IN AFRICA
ASIAN FARMERS' ASSOCIATION FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT
BIOVERSITY INTERNATIONAL
BP BIOFUELS
CARE INTERNATIONAL
COPA-COGECA (COMMITTEE OF PROFESSIONAL AGRICULTURAL ORGANISATIONS -
GENERAL CONFEDERATION OF AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES OF E.U)
CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
EASTERN AFRICAN FARMERS FEDERATION
ENDA TIERS MONDE
FOOD FIRST INFORMATION AND ACTION NETWORK
FRIENDS OF THE EARTH INTERNATIONAL
GREENPEACE INTERNATIONAL
HEIFER PROJECT INTERNATIONAL
INSTITUTE FOR AGRICULTURE AND TRADE POLICY
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE MOVEMENTS
INTERNATIONAL FEED INDUSTRY FEDERATION
INTERNATIONAL FERTILIZER INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE
INTERNATIONAL NGO/CSO PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR FOOD SOVEREIGNTY
INTERNATIONAL SAVE THE CHILDREN ALLIANCE
INTERNATIONAL SEED FEDERATION
INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE
LA VIA CAMPESINA
MILLENNIUM INSTITUTE
MORE AND BETTER CAMPAIGN, FOR FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
TO ERADICATE HUNGER AND POVERTY
OXFAM INTERNATIONAL
PRACTICAL ACTION
RÉSEAU DES ORGANISATIONS PAYSANNES ET DE PRODUCTEURS AGRICOLES D'AFRIQUE
DE L'OUEST
RURAL HUB
TETRAPAK
THIRD WORLD NETWORK
UNILEVER
UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION
WOMEN ORGANIZING FOR CHANGE IN AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT
WORLD FORUM OF FISHER PEOPLES

ANNEX VI

List of documents

List of documents

Working Documents

HLC/08/1-Rev.2	Provisional agenda
HLC/08/2-Rev.5	Provisional annotated agenda and timetable
HLC/08/3	Report of the Co-Chairs of the Informal Open-ended Contact group

Information documents

HLC/08/INF/1	Soaring food prices: facts, perspectives, impacts and actions required
HLC/08/INF/2	Climate change adaptation and mitigation: challenges and opportunities for food security
HLC/08/INF/3	Bioenergy, food security and sustainability - towards an international framework
HLC/08/INF/4-Rev.1	Financial mechanisms for adaptation to and mitigation of climate change in the food and agriculture sectors
HLC/08/INF/5	Climate change, bioenergy and food security: options for decision-makers identified by expert meetings
HLC/08/INF/6	Climate change, bioenergy and food security: civil society and private sector perspectives
HLC/08/INF/7	Climate-related transboundary pests and diseases
HLC/08/INF/8	Provisional list of documents
HLC/08/INF/9-Rev.1	Arrangements for the High-level Conference and information for participants

APPENDIX

Declaration on World Food Security: The Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy

**DECLARATION OF THE HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY: THE
CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIOENERGY**

WE, the Heads of State and Government, Ministers and Representatives of 181 countries and the European Community, have met in Rome at this High-Level Conference convened by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, together with the United Nations World Food Programme, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and Bioversity International on behalf of the CGIAR system, to seek ways of achieving world food security and, in this context, to address challenges of higher food prices, climate change and bioenergy.

1. We reaffirm the conclusions of the World Food Summit in 1996, which adopted the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action, and the objective, confirmed by the World Food Summit: five years later, of achieving food security for all through an ongoing effort to eradicate hunger in all countries, with an immediate view to reducing by half the number of undernourished people by no later than 2015, as well as our commitment to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). We reiterate that food should not be used as an instrument for political and economic pressure. We also recall the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security. We reiterate that it is unacceptable that 862 million people are still undernourished in the world today.

2. We are here to address the challenges of bioenergy and climate change, and the current situation of soaring food prices that is having adverse impacts on food security, particularly in developing countries and countries in transition, all the more because the indications are that food prices will remain high in the years to come.

3. We are convinced that the international community needs to take urgent and coordinated action to combat the negative impacts of soaring food prices on the world's most vulnerable countries and populations. We are further convinced that actions by national governments, with the support of the international community, are required in the short, medium- and long-term, to meet global and household food security needs. There is therefore an urgent need to help developing countries and countries in transition expand agriculture and food production, and to increase investment in agriculture, agribusiness and rural development, from both public and private sources.

In adopting this Declaration, we pledge to embrace food security as a matter of permanent national policy, renew our commitment to achieving the World Food Summit objectives and the Millennium Development Goals, and commit ourselves to the following measures.

Immediate and Short-Term Measures

4. The global food situation calls for a strong commitment from governments as well as from all other stakeholders. We call upon all donors and the United Nations System to increase their assistance for developing countries, in particular least developed countries and those that are most negatively affected by high food prices. In the immediate future it is essential to proceed along two main lines.

5. The first line of action is to respond urgently to requests for assistance from affected countries.
 - a) The relevant United Nations agencies should be assured the resources to expand and enhance their food assistance and support safety net programmes to address hunger and malnutrition, when appropriate, through the use of local or regional purchase.
 - b) The appropriate regional organizations which have emergency food security arrangements should enhance their cooperation with a view to effectively cope with soaring food prices.
 - c) All efforts by governmental and non-governmental organizations to strengthen immediate humanitarian and development assistance should be synergized with those of the multilateral organizations, and made coherent, to deal with the continuum from urgent to longer term assistance.
 - d) All national and international efforts should be made to ensure that international emergency food assistance is delivered as quickly and efficiently as possible to populations in distress.
 - e) To facilitate adjustment to higher food prices, donors and international financial institutions, in accordance with their mandates and in consultation with recipient countries, should provide in a timely manner, balance of payments support and /or budget support to food-importing, low-income countries. Other measures should be considered as necessary to improve the financial situation of the countries in need, including reviewing debt servicing as necessary. We also call on the relevant international institutions to simplify the eligibility procedures of existing financial mechanisms to support agriculture and environment.

6. The second line of action is immediate support for agricultural production and trade.
 - a) All relevant organizations and cooperating countries should be prepared to assist countries, on their request, to put in place the revised policies and measures to help farmers, particularly small-scale producers, increase production and integrate with local, regional, and international markets. South-south cooperation must be encouraged.
 - b) Development partners are invited to participate in and contribute to international and regional initiatives on soaring food prices and, in particular, under the FAO initiative launched on 17 December 2007, in support of country-led measures to give farmers in low-income food-deficit and the most affected countries access to appropriate locally adapted seeds, fertilizers, animal feed and other inputs, as well as technical assistance, in order to increase agricultural production.
 - c) Development partners are called upon to undertake initiatives to moderate unusual fluctuations in the food grain prices. In particular, we call on relevant institutions to assist countries in developing their food stock capacities and consider other measures to strengthen food security risk management for affected countries.
 - d) Members of WTO reaffirm their commitment to the rapid and successful conclusion of the WTO Doha Development Agenda and reiterate their willingness to reach comprehensive and ambitious results that would be conducive to improving food security in developing countries. Implementing an aid for trade package should be a valuable complement to the Doha Development Agenda to build and improve the trading capacity of the developing countries.
 - e) We will strive to ensure that food, agricultural trade and overall trade policies are conducive to fostering food security for all. For this purpose we reaffirm the need to minimise the use of restrictive measures that could increase volatility of international prices.

Medium and Long-Term Measures

7. The current crisis has highlighted the fragility of the world's food systems and their vulnerability to shocks. While there is an urgent need to address the consequences of soaring food prices, it is also vital to combine medium and long-term measures, such as the following:
- a) We urge national governments, all financial institutions, donors and the entire international community to fully embrace a people-centred policy framework supportive of the poor in rural, peri-urban and urban areas and people's livelihoods in developing countries, and to increase investment in agriculture.
 - b) It is essential to address the fundamental question of how to increase the resilience of present food production systems to challenges posed by climate change. In this context, maintaining biodiversity is key to sustaining future production performance. We urge governments to assign appropriate priority to the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors, in order to create opportunities to enable the world's smallholder farmers and fishers, including indigenous people, in particular in vulnerable areas, to participate in, and benefit from financial mechanisms and investment flows to support climate change adaptation, mitigation and technology development, transfer and dissemination. We support the establishment of agriculture systems and the sustainable forest management practices that positively contribute to the mitigation of climate change and ecological balance.
 - c) In addition, we reaffirm the Mauritius Strategy for the sustainable development of small island developing states and call for its implementation in the context of the challenges of climate change and food security.
 - d) We urge the international community, including the private sector, to decisively step up investment in science and technology for food and agriculture. Increased efforts in international cooperation should be directed to researching, developing, applying, transferring and disseminating improved technologies and policy approaches. We urge member states, to establish in accordance with the Monterrey Consensus, governance and policy environments which will facilitate investment in improved agricultural technologies.
 - e) We encourage the international community to continue its efforts in liberalizing international trade in agriculture by reducing trade barriers and market distorting policies. Addressing these measures will give farmers, particularly in developing countries, new opportunities to sell their products on world markets and support their efforts to increase productivity and production.
 - f) It is essential to address the challenges and opportunities posed by biofuels, in view of the world's food security, energy and sustainable development needs. We are convinced that in-depth studies are necessary to ensure that production and use of biofuels is sustainable in accordance with the three pillars of sustainable development and takes into account the need to achieve and maintain global food security. We are further convinced of the desirability of exchanging experiences on biofuels technologies, norms and regulations. We call upon relevant inter-governmental organizations, including FAO, within their mandates and areas of expertise, with the involvement of national governments, partnerships, the private sector, and civil society, to foster a coherent, effective and results-oriented international dialogue on biofuels in the context of food security and sustainable development needs.

Monitoring and Review

8. We request the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in close partnership with WFP and IFAD and other relevant international organizations, including those participating in the High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Crisis and in collaboration with governments, civil society and the private sector, to monitor and analyse world food security in all its dimensions - including those addressed by this Conference - and to develop strategies to improve it.

9. In realizing the contents of the measures above, we stress the importance of the effective and efficient use of the resources of the United Nations system, and other relevant international organizations.

* * *

We firmly resolve to use all means to alleviate the suffering caused by the current crisis, to stimulate food production and to increase investment in agriculture, to address obstacles to food access and to use the planet's resources sustainably, for present and future generations.

We commit to eliminating hunger and to securing food for all today and tomorrow.

Rome, 5 June 2008