Concluding remarks

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Dear colleagues,

It is a pleasure to have the opportunity to again engage with you at the closure of this event.

FAO treasure the ideas that have been discussed and presented and we feel very privileged to be associated with all of you.

I would like to highlight a few issues as we close.

(i) Today’s discussions generally reaffirm in a world where around 800 million people go hungry every day, with an expectation of a world population of nine billion people by 2050 and 60% would be living in cities, countries must make greater efforts to promote the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture.

Additionally, many people also depend on biodiversity for their livelihoods and in many cultures natural landscapes are closely linked to spiritual values.

(ii) We have recognized the supremacy of food security and have seen that genetic diversity (and natural resource in general) is key to food security. Genetic resources are essential not only to support food production but also provide key contributions to other dimensions of food security.

(iii) We heard on the Sustainable Development Goals negotiation and briefly understood the foreseen role and contribution of genetic resources. I believe that we can contribute with our expertise and tools to this process.

Ladies and gentlemen

A good part of what was discussed today with regard to the importance of genetic diversity, both to meet increasing demand for greater dietary diversity as well as to meet future production need to reach the public.
Information is a paramount and FAO is committed towards this task. As someone said, we have people who are still not convinced. We need data and evidence to change the narrative.

FAO has strengthened its efforts on the relationship between agriculture and the provision of ecosystem services and we look forward to working in partnership with you towards an integrated approach to the management of genetic resources for food and agriculture.

As you heard, FAO’s Strategic Objectives have been interlinked and contribute to each other towards eradication of hunger.

On the other hand, legal frameworks, policies and financial incentives to promote genetic diversity and encourage agricultural diversification are essential.

Shared responsibility and effective governance system are required. It is not only about one sector but together government, private, farmers in partnership.

**Moving forward,**

We will need to continue fostering the dialogue between food security and genetic resources, and support the identification of the most appropriate instruments needed to achieve global food security.

A special effort will be needed from countries which are the end-users of these policy and instruments and the ultimate responsible for their successful implementation.

I would like to thank all the presenters and the participants;

I want to thank my colleague Costas Stamoulis who facilitated the whole session, the Secretariat of the Commission for having organized this interesting Special Event.

Finally I thank you the participants for stimulating the discussions.

**Thank you.**