

**THE ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA,
H.E. MR. BAMIR TOPI AT THE FAO SUMMIT**
Rome, November 16th, 2009

**Distinguished Mr. Jacques Diouf,
Honorable heads of states and governments,
Distinguished media representatives,
Ladies and Gentlemen!**

I cherish the special pleasure to wholeheartedly thank Mr. Jacques Diouf who bestowed upon me the honor, also on behalf of the Albanian people, to join with distinct emotion the voice of my people to all those who have made efforts and are fighting for a fundamental human rights – for the right to food and food security for every underfed child and mother in the poor rural and urban areas and for disaster victims all over the world.

By highly considering the number of one billion people that suffer from chronic hunger in the Sub-Sahara Africa, Asia and Pacific, in Latin America and Caribbean, in North Africa and Near East and elsewhere, also in my country, in order to totally uproot hunger in the world I believe that is required not only a wide consensus, but also the intensification of concrete actions to prevent the causes and consequences of extreme poverty and hunger.

The total uprooting of hunger and malnutrition is a difficult battle that requires huge efforts and contribution, because the greater they are, especially those of developed countries, the quicker the improvement of the governance of world food system will be in order to meet the target of the World Food Summit 1996 in Rome, going as far as to save from the hunger claws more than 425 million people as it was projected until the year 2015.

In order to meet the objectives for which we have been committed in unison, to strengthen the coordination and governance of food security on the national and international level, we must prove that the right to security for a safe food size with enough feeding values should be something that is gradually tangible, seen and touched by the grand armada of one billion hungry and malnutrition people in the world.

I am convinced that by continuing to consider the food and agriculture as a priority in the international agenda, as it was re-iterated in 2000 during the Millennium Summit of New York and to make commitments to effectively uproot world hunger as something indispensable, from all of us there are required concrete and comparable actions so we can fulfill on time the set objectives.

The hungry and malnutrition people give us a simple message to which we must respond not only by justly and righteously speaking, but by also acting just and right if we aim not to enhance the gap between what is said and what is being done.

We all need more courage – this human quality that guarantees all the other qualities. It is courage that we need to hold right positions and use just words. It is courage we need to act carefully and patiently as well.

Our efforts must urge the decision-makers to increase public and private investments in agriculture, in rural infrastructure so it can be developed faster and then the agricultural product compared to what we have achieved up to the present day so we can further increase its productive capacity, so the incomes of the farmers would grow to the same levels of the workers operating in the secondary and tertiary sectors of our countries' economies.

By thanking FAO especially for the help it has provided, I would like to re-iterate that the food safety remains above all a national responsibility upon which Albania has based its strategy and plans addressing the challenges of food safety in order for every mother and child to enjoy the right of food safety of necessary food values and also its preparations to make the needed amendments to ease the negative effect of climate change.

We support the joint L'Aquila declaration on the Global Food Safety of the G 8, of a few countries and regional organization and international institutions in July 2009 in order to raise 20 billion US dollars and the outcome of the G 20 Summit in Pittsburg as important steps taken in the right direction and seizing this occasion, I join the appeal calling the developed countries to secure the necessary support in compliance to the Paris Declaration and the Action Plan of Acre.

On the other hand I would like to stress that removing taxes from the food exports and some other barriers that limit the food supply, would prevent the oligopolies and monopolies from dictating market prices, because such a measure would ensure the reduction of poverty, the increase the supplying population groups with small income and their alienation from organized crime activities.

After the G 20 Summit in London and Pittsburg, we are engaged in huge efforts to cooperate in the fight against terrorism, human trafficking, especially that of women and children, piracy, etc. But for our efforts aimed at uprooting hunger and malnutrition in the world to be effective and efficient, we must include them in our common aims and strategy to fight organized transnational crime as well.

We are all conscious that we cannot be satisfied with what we have done in the past or what we have accomplished up to now, but we must try harder in order to change the future of the people suffering from hunger and malnutrition, because change is a law of life that requires the change of our actions in the near and far future.

Thank you!