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***FAO's World Summit on Food Security  
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**Mr. Chairman**

**Distinguished representatives of countries, organizations and entities participating in this World Summit,**

The EU Presidency has already made its statement on behalf of the EU, with which we fully align ourselves.

However, we wish to emphasize a few ideas and principles that we deem crucial to help promote food production worldwide as a means to reduce hunger and malnutrition in the world until their complete eradication.

We all regret the fact that hunger and food shortages have increased in recent years, affecting today over one billion people. This inescapable reality compels us to seek new ways to strengthen the global commitment we have agreed: the Millennium Development Goals, in particular Goal 1 which aims to halve by 2015 the proportion of people suffering from extreme poverty and hunger, both utterly unacceptable in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

This situation is all the more untenable since it has been worsening in a global context where world food production, particularly cereals, reaches very high absolute levels, with an increasing but still insufficient participation of developing countries.



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In fact, the growing demand for food on a global scale, largely determined by improving feeding patterns of hundreds of millions of people in large emerging economies, and the persistent problems of food insecurity in certain sub-regions of Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean require us to more effectively target this issue and search for innovative solutions. These have to be both short term solutions, and longer term solutions to tackle fundamental, structural problems, by taking advantage of existing good practices and of the results already obtained in other regions and countries, the most cited examples being Brazil, China and Ghana.

It is a top priority that all countries and organizations represented here, whether public or private, join efforts in identifying, coordinating and implementing under national leadership practical actions and initiatives in each of the affected countries, aiming to minimize and gradually resolve this major problem of the humanity which has been dragging on year after year, causing profound distress to us all.

Portugal will continue to contribute, not only within the European Union but also in other *fora*, to find the appropriate technical support and financial resources to help the most affected countries and populations. We should mention the joint effort made by FAO and CPLP countries to create the conditions to combat desertification, by means of a Technical Cooperation Project.

We all understand that problems of this magnitude and scope can only be effectively addressed through joint efforts by anticipating the difficulties on the ground as well as the potential risks already visible and others that may lie ahead, namely:



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- Underfunding of the agricultural and fisheries sectors, both in the context of the Official Development Assistance (ODA) by developed countries, where their share fell by 70% in the last three decades, and in the national budgets of developing countries.
- Gradual reduction in the levels of investment in technical and scientific research directed to food production, with an impact on the sharp fall in levels of productivity growth.
- Problems of availability and proper management of water and land.
- Post-harvest waste, which in many countries can destroy half of the agricultural output.
- Impacts of climate change on agriculture, which are being felt ever more aggressively and tend to penalize countries already suffering from food insecurity. We hope that significant results will be achieved in this respect in the forthcoming Copenhagen Summit.
- Need for a balanced compromise in the ongoing Doha negotiations of the WTO [World Trade Organization], one that we can all agree with.

As most of you, we also believe that a successful combat against food insecurity will have to imply significant changes to the currently inefficient global food security governance system, which may ensure, as soon as possible, a more effective articulation and coordination among all stakeholders.

FAO, the WFP [World Food Programme] and the IFAD [International Fund for Agricultural Development], in cooperation with many other international organizations, play a key role in this respect, working together in a coordinated way so that all countries and regions may develop their



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own agricultural production capacity, thereby contributing to improve food supply to their populations.

In order to do this, we do not need new institutions, rather we support the launching of the “Global Partnership for Food Security” which has at its core FAO’s CFS [Committee on World Food Security], recast along recently laid down lines and duly extended to relevant organizations and entities. This Committee would be, even at the national level, a pillar of governance in food security and it would present new opportunities for technical intervention supported by and based on the “High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security” that we all wish to see created as soon as possible and from whose activities we hope the best results.

Portugal, as current Presidency of CPLP [Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries] and on behalf of its Executive Secretariat, wishes to thank the invitation for its participation in this important event and the CPLP wishes to express the full commitment of its group of countries spread over four continents to the success of this World Summit and to the implementation of the measures and actions included in the text of the important Declaration that has been adopted here.

Thank you very much.

I wish all the best for this Summit and for the FAO Conference that will follow it.