

WORLD SUMMIT ON FOOD SECURITY

16-18 NOVEMBER 2009

FAO HEADQUARTERS

ROME, ITALY

COUNTRY STATEMENT

NIUE

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Minister for Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries

Fakaalofa lahi atu kia mutolu oti. Heads of States, Prime Ministers, Ambassadors, Ladies and Gentlemen, I convey warm Pacific greetings from the Government and People of Niue.

As the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in Niue and the Chairman of the FAO South-West Pacific Ministers of Agriculture representing 16 countries; I would like to convey my sincere appreciation to the Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for recognizing the need to reassert world efforts towards achieving food security for all.

Food Security as we know it is a basic human right; its very definition encompasses everything that we know should be met in order to achieve it; access to safe, nutritious food for an active and healthy life. As a developing country, Niue has prioritized economic development in its National Strategic Plan 2009-2013. The agriculture &

fisheries sectors are important drivers of economic development but this cannot be achieved without a healthy, thriving population.

The 39th Pacific Islands Forum was held in Niue in August 2008, bringing together the Leaders of the Pacific Island Forum. At that meeting, the Leaders “acknowledged the high importance of food security as an emerging issue which poses challenges for the future well being of people across the region” and “called on all countries to maintain open markets and, where possible, to increase the production and supply of healthy food”. Furthermore, the Leaders called on immediate action to address food security issues nationally and where possible regionally through a range of measures across key sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, trade and transport.

How do we achieve these goals or realise these commitments when we are faced with so many challenges? In Niue, food production & supply is affected by increasing food prices, fuel price fluctuations, climate change and land degradation. All these factors contribute to the increasing risk of non-communicable disease in the population.

We hope that this World Summit on Food Security will strengthen international support for addressing all these issues and agree on a comprehensive, long-term approach that links nutrition, food security, agriculture and trade. Success will depend on partnerships among all stakeholders; Governments, civil society, farmers' organizations, businesses and international organizations.

In line with current efforts at the global level, a Pacific Food Summit is planned for April 2010, which will draw together all those stakeholders to work together towards achieving a food secure Pacific. It will build on a series of national food summits and give participants an opportunity to review and finalize a framework for action on food security in the Pacific, and to review and finalize a Pacific Declaration on Food Security for endorsement by Pacific Leaders at their meeting in Vanuatu in 2010.

In concluding, I would like to make special mention of the efforts deployed by the FAO Subregional Office in Samoa for the focus on serving the Pacific countries. Niue in particular has benefited substantially from the investments made possible through the Regional Programme for Food Security in the Pacific. We eagerly look forward to the implementation of the Regional Food Security and Sustainable Livelihoods Programme (FSSLP) as an expansion of this pilot programme which will see key agriculture and fisheries infrastructure improved.

Excellencies, ladies & gentlemen,

Thank you for the opportunity to present Niue's statement and on behalf of the Government and People of Niue, I wish you all God's blessings and success in your efforts to alleviate hunger and provide food security for all.

Thank you.
