



16 October 2012

Ministerial Meeting on Food Price Volatility

**Distinguished ministers,
Deputy Ministers,
Permanent Representatives,
UN Colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

I want to thank all of you for being here today.

This informal ministerial meeting has one simple purpose: discuss food price volatility from the global governance perspective, recognizing what we already have accomplished and what still needs to be done.

Running the risk of leaving someone out, I want to acknowledge the presence of ministers from: Bangladesh, Brazil, Chad, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Eritrea, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Japan, Lebanon, Mozambique, Netherlands, Papua New Guinea, Portugal, Sierra Leone, Spain, Sri Lanka and United Republic of Tanzania.



In this meeting, we will give the floor to the ministers present. If time allows, the deputy ministers will also be invited to speak. We have deputy ministers from over 10 countries.

We will also hear from the representative of the United States, who has assumed the Chair of the Agricultural Market Information System this month. It will be a sort of symbolic handover from France, the first chair of AMIS, to the US.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Food prices and volatility have increased in recent years. They are expected to continue high and volatile in the medium-term.

In this context, it is important to improve governance of food security. In the globalized world we live in, it's not possible to have food security in one country alone.

We have already made important advances in our governance.

We reformed the Committee on World Food Security, which is now more inclusive and representative.

Within the UN System, the UN Secretary-General set up a High Level Task Force on Global Food Security.



And the G20 nations launched the AMIS in October 2011, in the framework of the G20 Action Plan on Food Price Volatility, approved during the French Presidency.

AMIS is functioning well and has contributed to better international coordination, information sharing and greater market transparency.

This has allowed us to react quickly to the price rise we saw in July 2012, preventing panic, avoiding unilateral action and further spikes in those initial tense days.

We are still in a complex situation, but we are being able to handle it successfully.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In the past weeks I have exchanged views on this situation with Presidents, Prime Ministers and Ministers of France, China, Mongolia, Viet Nam, Korea, Japan, Argentina, Uruguay and China, among many others I have met with yesterday and today.

In these contacts, it's become more than clear that we share common views and positions.

We share a commitment to international coordination,

We recognize that we need to and that we are acting responsibly,

We recognize the importance of strengthening global governance,

And we agree that we must step up our efforts to increase food security at the regional and national levels.



Ladies and gentlemen,

In a recent speech the President of France, François Hollande, said that the old world order had gone, but that a new one had not yet emerged.

The new global governance system of food security that we are building together, that has the CFS as its cornerstone and AMIS as one of its components, is part of this new world order that needs to emerge.

Now I would like to give the floor to our moderator, the Minister of Agriculture of France, Stéphane Le Foll.