



12 June 2013

**FAO-ILO EVENT ON OCCASION OF
WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR**

Dear friends,

On this World Day Against Child Labour, I want to reaffirm FAO's commitment to end child labour in agriculture.

In the framework of our revised strategic framework and the next program of work and budget, that should be approved next week at the FAO Conference, this is one area in which we will increase our efforts, especially linked to our goal to reduce rural poverty and to increase resilience of rural livelihoods.

In line with our Constitution, FAO is committed to working with all governments to improve the quality of data collected to strengthen rural social protection and to help identify, build and implement programs and policies that will allow children to learn and play - instead of risking themselves in hazardous labour.

Child labour in agriculture is also an area in which FAO clearly needs to work with others if it is to contribute meaningfully. That is why I welcome the ongoing partnership between FAO and the International Labour Organisation and am committed to strengthening it.

On this World Day Against Child Labour, I want to say that, together, we can change this reality that robs the dreams of over a hundred million children.

Thank you very much.