



18 Juin 2013

38th Session of the FAO Conference

FAO Regional Conference Chairperson's meeting on "Regional Priorities and FAO's New Strategic Objectives"

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for being here.

In particular let me welcome the Chairs of the five FAO Regional Conferences.

They will be the ones doing most of the talking today, explaining, in each region, the linkages between the strategic objectives and the regional priorities that are being planned for each region.

As you know, we have six regional initiatives, one for each region and two for Africa.

The conversation you will have is very relevant, because everything we do only makes sense if it responds to your needs and if it has a positive impact at the country level.

As I said yesterday in the Plenary Hall, and have repeated many times before, we need to put the whole of FAO's expertise at the reach of our Members.

And we need to learn lessons from the field and bring them back to the global level.

That is what will truly transform FAO into a knowledge organization with its feet on the ground.

The Reviewed Strategic Framework and the Program of Work and Budget and Medium-Term Plan that this Conference is called upon to approve, puts us on the right track.

These documents were discussed and improved with inputs received from all of the FAO Governing Bodies, including the five FAO Regional Conferences.

They clearly identify the Organization's strengths and the challenges our Members face, framing the support that FAO can offer.

Ladies and gentlemen,



As you know we are already starting to implement six regional initiatives.

They are one initiative for each region and two in Africa, that respond to priorities identified by the last regional conferences and that are consistent with our reviewed strategic framework and PWB.

Also strengthening the links between the global and local levels is the enhancement of the Technical Cooperation Program (TCP), connecting it to the Country Program Framework and the new strategic objectives.

We are also reinforcing our presence in the field and have created around 50 professional posts in our regional and sub-regional offices, so that we are closer to the countries.

And it's always good to remember: these posts were created without weakening our global technical and normative work in Headquarters, thanks to the efficiency savings identified.

These are examples of our commitment to supporting your governments in reaching the food security and agriculture goals you set.

I want to reaffirm that not only can you count on FAO, but that we are laying the foundation that we need to improve the quality of our assistance.

We are working hard to make FAO more effective and deliver more value for money.

Thank you.