



21 June 2013

IPA Closure Ceremony

Ladies and gentlemen

Thank you for being here.

The FAO Conference is always an important event in the Organization's Calendar, but this Conference has special importance.

We have reached a consensus on a new Program of Work and Budget today.

We are also elevating the first global goal of the Organization from 'reduction' to the 'eradication' of hunger. I consider this a very important commitment.

And this Conference also marks the end of a unique experience for our Organization - the FAO reform process.

I am happy to say that bringing the FAO reform process to a successful and early conclusion also fulfills one of the five pillars that I promised would guide my work as Director-General.

I want to thank all those who have been involved in FAO Reform, especially FAO Members that have led this process; the teams involved in the preparation of the reports; and FAO staff for their professionalism, and hard work, in implementing the IPA program.

In particular, I want to thank Mr. Mohammad Saeid Noori Naeini for the role he has played in this process, first as Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council and Chairman of the CoC-IEE (2007-2009), and as my special adviser since January 2012. Let me also thank David Benfield for his work on the reform.

The reform was a fundamental first step to renew FAO so that it could better assist its Members to respond to the food security and agriculture challenges of the 21st Century.



Now, we need to nurture these achievements and make them an integral part of our Organization, mainstreaming the new mindset brought by the reform to FAO. When we do that, we will have implemented the culture change we need.

This, I believe, is essential for FAO to continue to give a significant contribution to a hunger-free and sustainable world.

Thank you for being here to celebrate the successful conclusion of FAO reform, alongside Mr Noori and Mr Benfield.