



**22 April 2013**

**146th FAO Council Side Event**

**"New, Unified Approaches to End Hunger in Africa:  
Promoting Food Security and Nutrition"**

Your Excellency Robert Maboundou, Honorable Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Congo, and Chair of the Regional Conference for Africa

Your Excellency Amadou Allahoury Diallo, High Commissioner of the 3 N Initiative of Niger

Your Excellency, Dr Jeffrey Luhanga, Principal Secretary for Agriculture and Food Security of the Ministry of Agriculture Republic of Malawi

Your Excellency, Mr. Segfredo Serrano, Under-Secretary for Policy and Planning, Department of Agriculture, Republic of Philippines

Your Excellency, Mr. Florêncio Mariano da Conceição, Ambassador of the Republic of Angola

Your Excellency Mr Abreha Ghebrael Aseffa, Deputy Permanent Representative to FAO of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia

Mr. Lailà B. Lokosang, representing the African Union,

Mr. Ides de Willebois, representing IFAD

And Ms Joyce Luma, representing WFP

Distinguished permanent representatives and guests,

Ladies and gentlemen.



It is a privilege to welcome you all to this side event.

Over the last two-to-three decades, a number of African countries have seen economic growth and significant reductions in undernourishment and extreme poverty.

African countries have recorded a great number of successes, especially in the agriculture sector, with the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Plan-CAADP being implemented in more than 30 countries, in its ten years of existence.

FAO fully supports the African countries, the African Union, the New Partnership for Africa's Development-NEPAD and CAADP, as they demonstrate Africa's readiness to develop and implement their own home-grown solutions to promote food security and sustainable development.

Since I took up office in January 2012, FAO has been working hard to improve the assistance we provide. Decentralization will help us achieve this.

By having a stronger presence in the field we will be closer to the governments and communities that we are serving and this will allow us to deliver better results.

In my first 16 months in office, I have given priority to Africa and in particular, the Sahel and the Horn of Africa.

In these two regions, repeated and prolonged crises have eroded the coping capacities and livelihoods of already vulnerable families.

We have learned that building resilience is a more effective way to assure food security than acting after a crisis has already happened.



Ladies and gentlemen,

Many countries have already found local solutions for fight food insecurity and malnutrition.

We are here to listen and learn from four of them: Angola, Ethiopia, Malawi and Niger.

We want to see what works well and we want to make it work for more people, for more countries.

Together, we can stop the suffering of the estimated 23 percent of all Africans who remain undernourished, and 40 percent of children under five who are stunted or malnourished and stop the growing rate of undernourishment in the region.

And FAO wants to give a greater contribution to these efforts.

I have travelled widely in Africa, visiting nearly 15 countries to discuss how FAO can better help them. I have talked with heads of state, ministers and developments partners. I have listened to NGOs, private sector representatives and, especially, to farmers, the poorer of the poor, in rural communities.

From these conversations, I have seen that there is an enormous window of opportunity out there.

The main reason is the unprecedeted political commitment of governments and the African people to fight food insecurity and malnutrition.

Political commitment at the very highest levels is indispensable, as the experience in my native Brazil and other countries show.

The decision of FAO's Regional Conference for Africa to set up the Africa Food Security Trust Fund is a good example of this political commitment.

I am pleased to note that the Governments of Angola and of Equatorial Guinea have already announced they will contribute to this fund. And African civil society organizations have already made a first symbolic contribution. This is a sign of confidence in FAO and also a stimulus for our work together in partnership in Africa.



I am sure that other countries, organizations and companies will also participate in this effort.

Development partners are also more willing than ever to support the needs, priorities and goals of countries.

In my travels to Africa, I have seen something else that is very important: there is wide acceptance that people and organizations from the agricultural sector need to work together with those engaged in social protection, particularly with education and public health.

And partnership is key to achieve this multisectorial approach that food security needs. This is why FAO joined forces with the African Union and Instituto Lula to host a high-level meeting in Addis Ababa from 30 June to 1 July called, “New, unified approaches to end hunger in Africa.” I hope to see all of you there.

Our idea is to work within the broad framework of the UN Secretary General’s Zero Hunger Challenge to harness strong and sustained political commitment to end hunger in Africa.

Our aim is to see what works for Africans, to learn from those experiences, to scale-up already successful activities, fill gaps we identify and, if necessary, adjust or rethink our approach.

We intend to apply forms of innovative partnerships, to involve all sectors of society, to strengthen collective responsibility, and in this way, help to improve implementation of CAADP goals and move towards the eradication of hunger and food insecurity in Africa.

Together, we can do it.

I Thank you.