



*19 June 2012*

Mr. President,

I would like to thank the invitation to participate in this Summit.

On this occasion, I am also addressing you on behalf of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, IFAD, and the World Food Program, WFP, the UN Rome-based agencies.

We want to start by welcoming the priority given to food security by the Mexican Presidency of the G20, complementing actions taken within the G8 since the L'Aquila Summit in 2009, and addressing the reduction of the gap that separates small farmers from large agricultural producers today.

We were pleased to support the Mexican Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food, SAGARPA, on this agenda.

Hunger is a persistent problem, affecting over 900 million human beings worldwide. The efforts of all G20 members to improve food security need to be similarly persistent, even in times of financial crisis. We request that food and nutrition security remain prominent on the G20 agenda in the coming years.

Under the French Presidency, the focus of the G20 was on the excessive price volatility in international food markets. Initiatives such as the Agricultural Market Information System and the Tropical Agricultural Platform are being implemented. Similarly, export restrictions are being removed for WFP's humanitarian food purchases.

The Mexican Presidency has highlighted the role small-scale farming plays in promoting food security.



The Rome Based Agencies applaud and support this vision.

Some 500 million small-scale farmers form the backbone of food production in many developing countries, but often lack the means to sustain themselves.

Increasing support to smallholders can help transform a sector that is frequently seen as part of the problem of hunger into part of the solution.

The report from the international organizations to the G20 recommends policies and strategies to enhance small farmer productivity in a sustainable way. It calls for more investment in research, infrastructure and, most importantly, it calls for more support to small-scale farmers so they can adopt and benefit from existing technology, and gain more access to productive resources.

Promoting food and nutrition security can serve as the common thread that links the global challenges we face in building a sustainable future. Recent conflicts in Africa prove that it is not possible to achieve peace without food security.

Your Excellencies,

Rio+20 is the opportunity to call for a renewed commitment to sustainability, putting people at the very center of the future we want.

Thank you very much and very best wishes for the New Year.