



REGERINGSKANSLIET

[As delivered]

Näringsdepartementet

*EUI-sekretariatet*

**Statement by Minister Sven-Erik Bucht from Sweden at  
the FAO conference June 8<sup>th</sup> 2015**

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Chairperson of the Conference,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

We must never forget people must eat.  
Or we forget they are human.

To end hunger is to give hope.  
And farming, in human history, is hope in practice.

All this is the work of FAO.

And this is my first time here, which feels very good.

I represent Sweden, and for my government the work of  
FAO is a top priority.

Resilience means to resist, to overcome, to succeed in the face of disaster.

Let us take an example : African Swine Fever. One of the greatest global threats to pig farming.

In 2008, in Central Asia an outbreak destroyed much of the region's pig production. It destroyed the livelihoods of many farmers. It led to poverty and to great food insecurity.

For 3 years now, experts from *Sweden* have been working together in Georgia with FAO, with better risk management and crisis management.

This helps rural resilience with better assessments and data, better management, and better communication of risks.

These tools, and listen we are learning, are needed worldwide.

Because bacteria and diseases hold no passports. They know no borders.

It is African Swine Fever.

But it has travelled to Georgia, to Armenia, to Iran, to Russia and to Belarus.

Then, last year to Lithuania, Poland and Latvia.

Which brings me to another big international threat to food production, its trade, and to us all.

It is about resilience of diseases, AMR, Antimicrobial resistance.

There are more and more superbugs in our soils, and in our rivers - many of them from so-called modern farming.

AMR already kills more than half a million people across the globe every year.

And it is just beginning.

Sweden has been working hard on AMR for years. With results.

We have the lowest use of antibiotics in animals in the European Union.

But we also have the fastest growing pigs – in the world.

We all know more sustainable farming is the key to the future of farming worldwide.

And sustainable farming, with a prudent use of antibiotics, is the key to fight AMR and reduce resistance.

AMR shows – like many of the issues we are discussing here in Rome, how connected our world now is.

We know we must to act together. And we must act together now.

So the resolution that hopefully will be agreed to here at the Conference sends an important message from FAO and its members: that we are committed to work together and committed to win this fight!

So, ladies and gentlemen, FAO is as vital as ever.

It has done so much to reduce hunger in the last decade.

But still, around the globe one out of nine people goes to bed hungry. One too many.

So there is still much to be done.

But there is so much we can do.

So, as I said, it is very good to be here with you.

And I, and Sweden, very much look forward to the work ahead, and working with you.

We can fix it together, but only if we work together.

Thank you!