

SPEECH. OPENING SESSION OF CCPR50

Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is with great honour that I am here to participate in this 50th Session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues, Committee of particular importance in the structure and work of Codex Alimentarius.

2. With immense joy, I have the opportunity to be in China for the third time and the first time in Haikou, Hainan Province.

3. This Committee has been developing work of paramount importance in the area of food safety for the entire world. Undoubtedly, fifty sessions represent, among other benefits, an enormous amount of scientific work, risk management negotiations, support to countries' agriculture development, trade, generation of employment, wealth, safe products for the consumers, fair practices in food trade in line with the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.

Thousands of technicians and negotiators have contributed to CCPR work and on this opportunity, I am very honoured to pay tribute to all of them.

4. This work and the benefits generated by the CCPR over these years are fully in line with the working platform of the Bureau of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

5. To talk about this important date, namely the 50th Session of CCPR, it is essential to remember and highlight some elements from so many:

(i) the tremendous work developed by China in hosting this Committee these last 12 years. The commitment made by China during the Twenty-ninth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in July 2006 in Geneva, to provide sufficient human and financial resources and to appoint qualified Chairpersons to the Committee on Pesticides Residues has been strictly accomplished during this whole period.

(ii) The Netherlands for its outstanding contribution to Codex work by having hosted the CCPR

from their very first session until 2006.

(iii) The paramount work developed by the JMPR for the entire world, especially for developing countries. The risk assessment provided by the JMPR has unquestionably been key in the risk management developed by the CCPR as well as by the Commission.

6. We are all aware of the practical importance of pesticide residue control, either for public health or agricultural purposes.

8. One of the big challenges we all face is the need to feed 9 billion people in 2050. That said, the element of food security immediately comes to our minds, and consequently the element "amount of food". However, the food security issue is much broader than food quantity. To guarantee food security it is essential that we combine food quantity with at least two other elements: food safety and trade. We cannot have food security if the sufficient amount of food is not safe. Equally, we cannot have food security if we cannot trade sufficient safe food from production to consumption areas. This Committee is therefore absolutely

paramount to achieve this combination between these three elements. It is not possible to think in food security without food safety and trade. Having food safety requires keeping the scientific basis robustness of this Committee's work. To have trade it is absolutely critical to keep in mind the harmonisation process using this Committee outputs along with our own legislation.

9. We have a very important and robust agenda during these next few days. Among the many relevant topics, I would like to exemplify the:

- Report on 2017 JMPR responses to specific concerns raised by CCPR.
- the Draft and proposed draft maximum residue limits for pesticides in food and feed.
- the Draft and proposed draft revision of the Classification of Food and Feed with different sub items.
- the Establishment of Codex Schedules and Priority Lists of Pesticides, etc.

10. As usual, we will surely have an extremely

productive Session, as we seek consensus.

11. And to build consensus, it is necessary to keep in mind, among other aspects, the following question:

"How can I cooperate so that the other Member State, my commercial partner, can also guarantee protection for the health of its consumers and have room in the trade that can generate foreign exchange and jobs for its population?"

12. This is a question that I suggest we keep really alive in our working process. I believe this is an important way in which, I understand we have to try to continue working in this Committee, as well as in the elaboration of the Strategic Plan 2020 - 2025, with the real and practical willingness to build a better Codex for the world.

13. Having said that, and on behalf of my dear colleagues Vice-Chairpersons of the Codex Alimentarius, Mariam Eid, Purwiyatno Hariyadi and

Steve Wearne, I would like to reiterate the honour of being here with you all. I congratulate you, Professors Xiongwu QIAO and Guibiao Ye, for the excellent work you have been done. Also, all colleagues who directly or indirectly contributed in this memorable 50th Session of the CCPR and wish everyone a successful work during this week.

14. Thank you very much for your attention.