

Statement by

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Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank FAO for organizing this important Ministerial Meeting prior to the Committee on Commodity Problems. The prominent position of this meeting highlights the importance of focusing on the institutional environment and governance arrangements that guide the international commodity economy. Much has been said in previous statements, but I would like to add four of my observations to the discussion.

First of all, I want to underline the importance of the Agricultural Market Information System. AMIS has proven to be of great value in providing policy coordination, information about market conditions and in-depth analyses on the four commodities that are currently included in the system. As suggested earlier, broadening AMIS by increasing the number of commodities is an interesting suggestion, which could be explored further. AMIS could further strengthen cooperation and dialogue among the producing, exporting and importing countries and increase its relevance, impact and transparency.

Secondly, a constructive discussion on the governance arrangements of the international commodity economy is welcomed. FAO, through this Ministerial Meeting and this week's CCP, provides an important platform for this discussion. From a traditional perspective, governments play a central role in the institutional environment of commodity markets, but shouldn't governments sit in the navigator's instead of in the driving seat nowadays? The world has changed and other stakeholders have an important role to play in the international arena. A more inclusive and multi-stakeholder approach can enhance the resilience and transparency of commodity market governance.

The start of this multi-stakeholder approach is already visible in some of the International Commodity Bodies such as the ones on coffee and cocoa. The ICBs play an important role in consultations between importers and exporters, and could guide the developments in the specific commodity markets. Therefore, the third suggestion I would like to make is to invest in further steps to develop the ICBs and work towards a more inclusive institutional structure. ICBs should review their role, broaden their agenda and coordinate the efforts done in the field of commodities. An increased focus on the uptake of sustainability in the work of ICBs is desirable to strengthen their *raison d'être* and to make these bodies future proof.

Since its first session in 1950, the Committee on Commodity Problems has dealt with important subjects concerning the production, export and import of commodities on a worldwide scale. This year, the 70th session of CCP will take place. Nowadays, we need a more positive and forward-looking approach to commodities. Therefore I propose to change the name of this important FAO-body to the Committee on Commodity *Perspectives*. This underlines the need to find solutions for problems, but certainly look for opportunities as well.

I look forward to attend the Committee on Commodity Perspectives in 2016.