

Country: Republic of San Marino

Speaker: Ms Antonella Mularoni, Minister of Agriculture and Environment and International Cooperation

Mr President,

Excellencies, Ministers

Director General of FAO,

Executive Director of WHO,

Let me first take this opportunity to congratulate you, Director General of FAO, for having taken the lead to organize, in collaboration with WHO, this Second International Conference on Nutrition, giving us the opportunity to gather here today to adopt a core document for our future work as politicians, parliamentarians and members of the International Organizations: “The Rome Declaration on Nutrition”.

On behalf of the Government of San Marino, I express our warmest thanks for the excellent work undertaken by the Co-Chairs of the FAO Open Ended Working Group -Austria and Egypt- as well as the Chair for the WHO OEWG - Ecuador - for their commitment in helping Member Countries, despite their different positions, to finalize this Declaration and the Framework for Action after long discussions, networking and compromises.

These tools will provide Governments, private sector and NGOs with the primary responsibility for taking action in the fight against hunger and malnutrition and on future sustainable priorities.

By adopting this Declaration we have to look at the way forward: we must commit ourselves to enhance coordination for global initiatives, coordinate financial support, increase smallholders' capacity, improve resilience, reduce food losses and waste, build dialogue among all stakeholders for better efficiency and effectiveness.

This Declaration is a first step to draw the attention of the international community to this topic and its wide complexity. Nutrition is a comprehensive issue involving all stakeholders, each UN Agency within its specific mandate as well as the UN Delivery as One.

The Rome-based agencies must strengthen their collaboration, at headquarter, country and regional level, in supporting food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture to address hunger and malnutrition in all fora: the post 2015 Agenda, the Zero Hunger Challenge, the Committee on Food Security and must implement the World Health Assembly targets in their actions.

The Republic of San Marino has always believed in the right of free access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food and water as well as in the concept that “health as a status of physical, mental and social wellbeing” is a fundamental right of all human beings.

The fight against hunger needs a stronger commitment. The world is confronted, on the one hand, with hunger, malnutrition, undernourishment, the MDGs and, on the other hand, with obesity and chronic related diseases.

We need to interrupt this trend immediately.

Trade policies and markets as well as chronic related diseases, which are an increasing phenomenon in children and adolescents caused by wrong dietary habits, lifestyles and the consumption of saturated and trans-fats, will have high social and economic impacts.

The fight against obesity has to be conducted through national strategies aimed at preventing and protecting health through concerted actions .

The Republic of San Marino has been promoting and implementing social security policies targeted at the consumption of healthy food and better lifestyles through the involvement of multi-stakeholders, from individuals to families, social and community networks.

We are aware that a Country of small dimensions can be easily monitored but we do believe that best practices can be shared and we are presenting them on the occasion of Expo Milano 2015.

We have created a database thanks to the Permanent Observatory on Youth for evaluating and monitoring the indicators related to health and nutrition in school-aged children.

Questionnaires are filled in at home and at school and the results are based on indicators monitoring and evaluating the efficiency of measures taken and national strategies implemented. They show the interaction between the increasing trend of obesity, the consumption of non healthy food and non correct lifestyles.

Other best practices are related to better food quality in agriculture and sustainability of natural resources.

San Marino has a Cooperation Agreement with the EU and adopts all control mechanisms for food imports, production and labeling in accordance with the Codex Alimentarius standards.

Since decades the Ministry of Health has promoted national campaigns in favor of adequate breastfeeding and complementary feeding as preventive measures, in line with all relevant WHO Assembly recommendations. Gender equality, labor protection, protection of pregnant women and working mothers during lactation are assured by national legislation.

San Marino has adopted the 1995 Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and the Istanbul Convention on the elimination of all forms of violence.

We do believe that food security and nutrition can be achieved through national policies, enhancing women's role in decision making, giving them equal access to health and education, promoting land ownership and inheritance and access to micro credits and natural resources.

We therefore recognize the fundamental role of agriculture, fisheries and livestock in the fight against hunger and malnutrition; we welcome the leading role of FAO when promoting the “Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Food”, “the Responsible Governance of Land Tenure, Fisheries and Forests in the context of National Food Security” and the “Guidelines for Responsible investments in agriculture”.

We know that these instruments are not legally binding but their adoption by the international community creates the awareness that they must be incorporated into national strategies.

I conclude by reaffirming our strong commitment to the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and call upon the UN Agencies to assist Member countries in implementing the Framework for Action.

Thank you.