



Message from FAO Director-General to US President-Elect Barack Obama

The Honourable Barack Obama, President Elect

Your brilliant victory is a moving testimony that we can have faith in human brotherhood.

It is also a shining evidence that success comes with high hope, strong will and hard work.

May I convey my fervent wishes for success in the accomplishment of your great international responsibilities.

May I also take this historic opportunity to call on you to assume the leadership in convening, during the first semester of 2009, a World Summit on Food Security, in order to achieve a wide and far-reaching consensus on finally eliminating hunger from the world.

Heightened awareness of the plight of 923 million hungry persons, as a result of the ongoing global food and financial crises, has created a special window of opportunity for such an initiative.

The Summit must find US\$ 30 billion per year to build rural infrastructures and increase agricultural productivity in the developing world, particularly in least developed countries, with a view to doubling production for a world population expected to reach 9 billion by 2050.

The Summit should be able to lay the basis for a new agricultural trade system offering farmers, in developed and developing countries alike, the chance to make a decent living with an adequate income. To that effect, we must use our intelligence and imagination to design policies to promote sustainable agricultural development based on fair international trade.

FAO is looking forward to collaborating with you and the new administration to ensure, to all people on Earth, the most fundamental human « Right to Food ».

Please accept the assurance of my highest consideration.

Jacques Diouf
Director-General
Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations