

**Report of the Conference Committee for the CoC-IEE**  
**Draft - Chair's Foreword**

- 1) The Independent External Evaluation concluded that the world needed FAO but a reformed FAO to address the challenges our planet faces. Both the challenge and the opportunity grew as it was appreciated that we are facing rising food prices, with the potentials for agriculture and threats to adequate food for all consumers. FAO provides the global forum on food and agriculture. Only FAO brings together the full range of technical disciplines to integrate the technical and policy response in addressing agriculture's challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> century; The challenge of sustainably providing affordable food to a world population increased by 50 percent by 2050 and lifting small farmers and agricultural labourers out of poverty.
- 2) At its 34<sup>th</sup> Session in November 2007, the FAO Conference set us a demanding task. The Independent External Evaluation gave its principle conclusion "in three words "Reform with Growth" In less than a year, on the basis of the report of that evaluation, we were to chart the future course of the Organization, a course of FAO renewal which had the ownership of the Membership and also of the management and staff of the Organization.
- 3) It is my belief that we have responded to that challenge and our product is before you in this report. Members and management have worked closely together to formulate what is probably the most far reaching reform ever contemplated of a major UN agency. I thank the membership for the confidence it placed in me to chair this process and their tireless and invaluable contribution to all aspects of our work. My especial appreciation is extended to the vice-chairs of the Conference Committee for IEE Follow-up, the chairs and vice-chairs of the working groups, the members of the Bureau, our Conference Committee secretariat and to the FAO senior management. Without the unstinting support and long hours of work of all concerned, this comprehensive Immediate Plan of Action would not have been produced.
- 4) Through this report, our Immediate Plan of Action (IPA) 2009-11 is presented to the Special Session of the Conference for its approval. The report sets the framework for an ongoing process of change to meet the ever emerging challenges for the Organization's contribution in food, agriculture and feeding the world. It provides a clear timetable for the first steps on that road. Now the work really begins for implementation. This will require the continued concentration of managers at all levels, the consistent commitment of the FAO Governing Bodies and partnership from others, not only one way partnership from FAO. Savings will be realised and these savings will be ploughed back into the programmes of the Organization but if the improvements foreseen are to be realised without loss of momentum resources must be available to kick start the process. For 2009 these will need to come primarily from voluntary extra-budgetary contributions.
- 5) Our Organization, FAO is urgently needed as a reformed, efficient and effective partner in the multilateral system. We must find the resources, pragmatically adjust as necessary and move further where possible to increase the cost-effective impact of FAO in all our interests. My appeal to you all as Chair of your process is to "Make FAO Renewal Happen".

Mohammed Saeid Noori-Naeini  
Chair Conference Committee for Follow-  
up to the IEE (CoC-IEE)