

Message from H.E. Mr. Stanislas Kwanze
Permanent Representative of the Rwandese Republic to the United Nations
Chairman of the African States Group

As we observe the “World Food Day” on this 17 October 2003, the rich and the poor of our controversial global mega village should raise their voices, beyond a sheer slogan and unanimously say: halt to hunger, for everyone and forever.

But this is indeed just a dream as proven to be the case, when halving by 2015 the number of people in absolute need of basic food pledged by the top levels leaders of this world as one the core millennium goals, looms much of illusion.

A pledge was made, yet people are still starving, people are still dying of hunger, millions of children are still suffering from malnutrition and so are their mothers.

A pledge was made, yet well -off people can still afford not paying attention to the need for setting up fair exchange mechanisms and for putting an end to the asphyxia of less developed countries’ fragile farming systems.

On this occasion, let the world, beyond the simple pledge; renew its commitment for food for all. Food will be made available for all only through a steadfast endeavor for strengthening the poorest’ s farming systems and for giving room to their integration in the global market.

Could the world celebrate next year the least step we will have achieved in building up decisive solidarity in feeding the hungry, thus building up their hope and their capacity to sustainably feed themselves.

I thank you.