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para la  
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## COUNCIL

### Hundred and Thirty-first Session

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**OUTCOME OF AND FAO FOLLOW-UP TO THE  
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AGRARIAN REFORM AND  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT (ICARRD)  
(Porto Alegre, Brazil, 7-10 March 2006)**

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. This document reviews the processes, outcomes and achievements of the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD), held in Porto Alegre, 7-10 March 2006. It highlights the ICARRD Final Declaration and commitments (Annex 1) and the initial steps taken by FAO for follow-up, and the areas on which the Council's guidance is sought.
2. The Conference was opened by the Acting President, His Excellency José Alencar Gomes da Silva, and the FAO Director-General and was attended by approximately 1,400 participants. Ninety-two Member Nations were represented, including 25 ministers, 8 UN agencies, 6 inter-governmental organizations, and more than 150 civil society organizations.
3. The Conference was dedicated to the memory of Professor Josué de Castro (1908-73), the eminent physician, diplomat and academic who published his book on the Geography of Hunger in 1946 and was the Chairperson of the FAO Council from 1951 to 1955.

## II. BACKGROUND: THE ROAD FROM WCARRD TO ICARRD

4. Twenty seven years ago, the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD) took place in Rome (July 1979) and adopted the Declaration of Principles and Programme of Action, known as the "Peasants Charter." Reflecting a comprehensive proposal for national and international action and marking an important milestone in the fight to eradicate hunger and poverty, the main message of WCARRD has been summarized as: *Growth is necessary but not sufficient; it must be buttressed by equity and people's participation.*
5. Despite considerable commitments both by national governments and the international community to implement WCARRD follow-up activities in the 1980s and early 1990s, interest waned in the mid-1990s. Part of the reason was the growing debt burden facing many developing countries, many of which also undertook massive public sector restructuring exercises, and thus simply did not have the financial resources and institutional capacity to support large-scale agrarian reform and rural development programmes. Part of the reason also lay in the efforts of the elites to protect vested interests and undermine the introduction and/or enforcement of genuine reform measures. Other reasons were the lack of political commitment, bureaucratic inefficiency, inadequate technical capacity, and weak representational and managerial capacities of rural producer, worker and community-based organizations. In its decision 1999/212 of 25 March 1999, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) decided to discontinue its quadrennial consideration of WCARRD implementation and invited the Director-General of FAO to transmit to it, every four years starting in 1999, a report prepared for the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) on progress in implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action.
6. The emerging emphasis on sustainable development and food security from the UN Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 and throughout the UN conferences of the 1990s, including the World Food Summit in 1996, brought about a paradigm shift highlighting the need to respond to the broad cross-cutting economic, social, health, gender, environmental, population, and institutional issues. The Millennium Summit on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and its recent five-year follow-up, witnessed significant political engagement and called for "stepped-up" efforts among the international community, governments, civil society and the private sector in order to meet the 8 MDGs by 2015.
7. The increasing number of democratic governments in developing countries and Central and Eastern Europe, combined with decentralized governance in all regions, are enabling the emergence of a stronger civil society that is better equipped to partner with the state and private

sector. Of particular significance are the new social movements that operate not only within countries, but also at the regional and global level, thus giving much more effective power and influence to coalitions of the poor in claiming access to land and other livelihood assets, legal and political rights, and (pro-poor) positive discrimination in development policies and services. At the same time, much needs to be done to strengthen the capacities of local community-based and local government institutions, as well as farmers', other producers' and workers' organizations, cooperatives, and chambers of agriculture.

8. In June 2005, the proposal for FAO to convene the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD): *New Challenges and Options for Revitalizing Communities, A Vision for the Future*, was unanimously approved by the FAO Council at its 128th Session as a critical element of FAO's programme to fulfil the commitments of the 1996 World Food Summit, the World Food Summit: five years later, the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Council considered that such a conference would assist in mobilizing national governments and the international community to support ongoing agrarian reform and rural development processes, and in securing tenure rights and access to land and other natural resources by the poor. The Council welcomed the generous offer by the Government of Brazil to host the Conference in Porto Alegre (Brazil).

9. ICARRD provided a timely opportunity to call the world's attention to the rural face of hunger and poverty and the need for a new vision. The objectives of the Conference were to:

- Promote understanding, learning and constructive dialogue to address agrarian reform, sustainable rural development, and rural poverty issues through the creation of a lasting platform of monitoring and evaluation of best policies and practices and progress on agrarian reform and rural development;

- Share experiences, fostering recognition, improved willingness, and concrete actions by the international community, governments, producer organizations, civil society organizations, and others to enhance international cooperation and promote more equitable, transparent and accountable access to land and natural resources.

### **III. THE CONFERENCE**

#### **Organization of the Conference**

10. An International Steering Committee was established to function as the bureau of the Conference. Chaired by the Philippines, it was composed of one representative from each regional group, with observers from FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the International NGO/CSO<sup>1</sup> Planning Committee (IPC). The Steering Committee met nine times from September 2005 to February 2006 and provided overall guidance for and supervision of the technical and organizational preparatory processes, in cooperation with the FAO-ICARRD Secretariat through its Executive Secretary. The Secretariat, provided by the Rural Development Division of the Sustainable Development Department, also benefited from the support of a Technical and Policy Committee encompassing all FAO technical divisions and IFAD. A Brazilian National Secretariat was responsible for the Conference logistics, and leading the Conference preparatory activities in Brazil. A key innovative feature of the Conference was the preparation of both case studies and national reports and very effective dialogue between Civil Society Organizations and governments which was built into the Conference structure from the start.

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<sup>1</sup> NGO: Non-governmental organizations; CSO: Civil society organizations

11. The major themes of the Conference were identified through an open consultative process, facilitated by FAO, involving a wide range of partners from governments, UN Agencies, CSOs and other stakeholders. Six Issues Papers were prepared by leading experts and institutions, as follows:

- Reviving agrarian reform and rural development in the international agenda.
- Policies and practices for securing and improving access to land by the poor and promoting agrarian reform to alleviate poverty and hunger.
- Building capacity to improve access to land, water and agricultural inputs and agrarian services.
- New opportunities to strengthen rural producers, rural workers and communities – facilitating people's choices in rural development.
- Agrarian reform in the context of food sovereignty, the right to food and cultural diversity: land, territory and dignity (prepared by a civil society organization).

The draft Issues Papers were discussed prior to ICARRD through a moderated e-conference.

12. Governments were invited to submit national reports following a common reporting format to facilitate reporting to the Conference on best policies and practices and lessons learned. A total of 40 national reports were submitted to the Conference: 18 from Africa; 8 from Latin America; 6 from Asia; 8 from Latin America; 5 from Near East; and 3 from Europe (Annex 2).

13. In order to create a concrete knowledge base and support the Conference debates, 29 case studies (out of the 35 initiated) were prepared by national stakeholders and submitted to ICARRD: 10 from the Africa Region; 6 from the Asia and Pacific Region; 9 from the Latin America and Caribbean Region; 3 from the Near East Region; and 1 from the Europe Region (Annex 2).

14. During the ICARRD preparatory process, the draft case studies were discussed in national workshops attended by government and other stakeholder representatives and facilitated by FAO. This process assisted in identifying salient issues and problems and helped build agreement on priority actions at national level among diverse stakeholders – civil society, government ministries, donors, and private sector and inter-governmental organizations. The process also contributed to the preparation of some governments' national reports in which viewpoints and concerns of civil society were then reflected, by providing concrete examples and analyses of successes and problems in programme implementation at the community and national levels. A number of technical reports also prepared by various technical divisions and Regional offices and partner organizations that were also disseminated during the Conference.

#### **Participation and outputs of the Conference**

15. The Director-General of FAO, the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), a representative of civil society organizations and the Minister for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development of Brazil (as the Chair of the Conference) addressed the Plenary. Thirty-nine Heads of Delegation and the Holy See presented their statements to Plenary on progress in Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. The five main issues papers of the Conference were presented to the Plenary by Eminent Speakers. The Executive Secretary of ICARRD presented a stocktaking paper on FAO's Contribution to Good Policies and Practices in Agrarian Reform and Rural Development.

16. The Conference established two technical commissions that deliberated the findings of the Issues Papers and Case Studies, reporting back to Plenary.

17. An Open Debate between 7 representatives of civil society and 7 representatives of governments, including ministers, focused on Agrarian Reform as crucial to achieving national food security and poverty elimination. All recognized the fundamental importance of open dialogue and effective public policies for more equitable access to land and resources as a condition for future development and human dignity.

18. An Experts' Panel Discussion on Agrarian Reform, Social Justice and Sustainable Development included eminent experts from the Governments of Indonesia, Niger, Philippines and Rwanda; national civil society and social movements from Brazil, Italy and South Africa; and representatives from a variety of international civil society, inter-governmental and international research organizations.
19. Twenty-seven Special Thematic Sessions were organized, as parallel events to the Conference, by governments, international organizations (FAO and IFAD), NGOs and civil society networks, in order to present and discuss specific themes related to ICARRD. Most Thematic Sessions made specific recommendations for ICARRD follow-up and participants committed to implement activities related to the topics discussed.
20. Fifteen Partnership proposals were presented at the Partnership Fair, of which 6 were already agreed, signed or under implementation. The Partnership Fair presented an opportunity to showcase progress in existing projects and partnership initiatives on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. It was also an opportunity to announce and/or launch new joint action-oriented projects that highlight dialogue processes among diverse partners and stakeholders on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, creating new synergies among partners, identifying new partners and funding sources, and enhancing the opportunity to learn from each other's experience.
21. A Parallel Civil Society Forum on "Land, Territory and Dignity" interacted very closely with ICARRD and attracted more than 300 civil society participants from 210 organizations and 66 countries. The outcome of the Forum and the Statement of Civil Society were delivered at ICARRD and included as an Annex to the Conference report.
22. The ICARRD Conference enjoyed broad media coverage. More than 70 different media around the world published news and commentaries about the meeting. The topics covered by the media primarily targeted the key messages that FAO wished to convey, illustrating a successfully achieved communication strategy.
23. The Conference report, which was presented by the Rapporteur-General (Angola), was unanimously adopted by the Conference at its Closing Session. The Final Declaration, which had been negotiated in Rome and then throughout the Conference, was presented by the Chair of the Drafting Committee (Philippines) and was adopted by acclamation.

#### **IV. ICARRD OUTCOMES**

24. The Conference strongly endorsed the view that Agrarian Reform and Rural Development are crucial for meeting the World Food Summit targets and the Millennium Development Goals relating to poverty and hunger and sustainable natural resources management. Agrarian Reform and Rural Development were seen as essential to counter the real problems of neglect and exclusion of rural populations. Great disparities continue to exist in ownership and access to land and other natural resources as well as to rural services, with several Member Nations reporting that concentration of ownership is increasing. It was recognised that achieving successful agrarian reforms and rural development is very challenging, with some Members reporting successes, and others identifying the difficulties. This reflected the great diversity of circumstances and experiences in designing and implementing Agrarian Reform and Rural Development policies. It was unanimously agreed that the Agrarian Reform and Rural Development agenda has a great deal yet to achieve and that new visions and political will are crucial to deliver secure and equitable access to land and other natural resources and ensure sustainable rural development. FAO was recognised as the leading UN agency to assist Member Nations in the implementation of policies and programmes on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development and to strengthen national institutions and civil society organizations in improving access to land and other natural resources particularly vulnerable groups and rural women.

## V. ICARRD COMMITMENTS

25. The Final Declaration, adopted by acclamation, embodies the spirit of ICARRD and sets out the five commitments that governments undertook to implement in partnership with civil society, FAO and other international and national organizations (para. 30 of the Final Declaration). These are as follows:

*We pledge our actions and support to implementing the ICARRD Principles in order to achieve the new vision of agrarian reform and rural development, through the following:*

1. *We will develop appropriate mechanisms through a lasting platform at global, regional, national and local levels in order to institutionalize social dialogue, cooperation and monitoring and evaluation of progress in agrarian reform and rural development, which are crucial to promote social justice and to enhance an environmentally sustainable agrarian reform and rural development, more focused on the poor and respectful of gender equality.*
2. *We will recommend that FAO's Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in close coordination with its Committee on Agriculture (COAG), adopt appropriate measures to implement the ICARRD Declaration. In order to monitor the implementation of the ICARRD Declaration, we will also recommend that the CFS adopt a set of additional reporting guidelines. These processes should include the participation of civil society, and other UN Organizations dealing with food sovereignty, food security, agrarian reform and rural development.*
3. *We will support International Partnership Initiatives on agrarian reform and rural development along the lines of the ICARRD Declaration.*
4. *We propose that the multi-stakeholder dialogue of the Special Forum to be held during the Thirty-second Session of the Committee on World Food Security, October-November 2006, include an agenda item on agrarian reform and rural development, as an additional follow-up mechanism on the results of ICARRD. This will be an important agenda item to be discussed during the Mid-Term Review of the Progress in the Implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action.*
5. *We will recommend to the Hundred and Thirty-first Session of the FAO Council, November 2006, to examine the possibility of further follow-up mechanisms designed to assist countries in the implementation of the outcomes of ICARRD.*

## VI. ICARRD FOLLOW-UP BY FAO

26. FAO is committed to fully assist the Member Nations in achieving the ICARRD commitments. In line with the fourth commitment, FAO has made provision for a multi-stakeholder dialogue on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development during the Special Forum on the occasion of the Thirty-second Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), as well as the submission of an Information Document on ICARRD to the CFS.

27. ICARRD called for appropriate measures including a set of additional reporting guidelines to implement the ICARRD Declaration. FAO's comparative advantage, based on its

stock-taking of good policies and practices on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development exemplified successes from projects that shared and facilitated information exchange, training and education among rural development stakeholders in order to revitalize rural areas. The ICARRD also brought about considerable knowledge and information through plenary and commissions debates, national reports, case studies and technical documents. It concluded that in the context of rapid changes and the devolution of roles and responsibilities to decentralized institutions, and in view of the enhanced role of civil society and farmers' organizations and partnerships between the public and private sectors in many countries, there is a need to map out the impact of current agricultural and rural development policies on the diversity and dynamics of rural areas within an integrated and territorial approach. As such, the need to identify useful benchmarks and measurable indicators that already exist can contribute to the process of reporting and follow-up to ICARRD.

28. Modalities for follow-up were discussed at the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (Caracas, April 2006) which, inter alia, proposed the establishment of a Special Initiative on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. The Initiative could contribute to further the development of the lasting platform of dialogue on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development that was created during ICARRD, also at national levels, through the organization of workshops, capacity building, provision of technical assistance and the preparation of national guidelines. A Joint ICARRD Working Group has been established with key partners to discuss the modalities of the preparation and implementation of this Special Initiative. IFAD and IPC have agreed to be FAO's lead partners in this Joint Working Group while other organizations such as the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Center on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) and the African Union have expressed interest in participating. The IPC has also put forward proposals on People-Oriented Agrarian Reform (POAR) and on undertaking joint work on negotiated approaches to territorial development that aims to build capacities of local and community-based organizations, farmers' organizations, cooperatives, and people's organizations.

29. A monitoring system is being developed by the ICARRD Secretariat for the Partnership Initiatives that were launched during ICARRD in order to facilitate the exchange of information on good practices with regard to national policies and programmes for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. This process will contribute to knowledge management and the capacity building of partners working on ICARRD follow-up and to supporting priorities such as family farming, agro-ecological approaches, land tenure and land administration, Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD) and agricultural and rural workers.

30. FAO will assist Member Nations in keeping the new ICARRD vision alive through advocacy in global arenas, as well as regional and national debates and discussions. The Organization will aim to strengthen its partnerships with the regional Rural Development and Agrarian Reform Centres: CIRDAP, the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Africa (CIRDAFRICA), the Regional Centre on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development for the Near East (CARDNE) and other regional partners in promoting and implementing ICARRD follow-up, including assistance in strengthening and/or revitalizing of these regional organizations, as appropriate, to enable them to serve if so requested as national and regional observatories of Agrarian Reform and Rural Development efforts.

## **VII. GUIDANCE REQUESTED FROM THE COUNCIL**

31. In view of the ICARRD outcomes and commitments, and the mandate given to FAO for their implementation, the approval of Council is sought on the following:

- i) Development of a Special Initiative on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development as a concrete follow-up mechanism for ICARRD that will leverage fund raising for the follow-up of the ICARRD and enhance national dialogues between interested stakeholders on the issues that were agreed in the ICARRD Declaration; FAO can provide policy and technical assistance in



facilitating the formulation and development of the platforms of dialogue at global, regional and national levels in order to institutionalise participatory approaches, social dialogue, cooperation and partnership building among governments, civil society, donors and other partners in Agrarian Reform and Rural Development; and

- ii) Expansion and refinement of the data base on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, identifying indicators of access to land and other natural resources, and the development of a set of reporting guidelines for use by governments, civil society and UN organizations for monitoring the implementation of ICARRD follow-up, resulting from discussions in the Special Forum on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development of the Thirty-second Session of the Committee on World Food Security.

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**ANNEX I**

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**CONFERENCE DECLARATION**

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1. We, the Member States, gathered at the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), hosted by the Government of Brazil, strongly believe in the essential role of agrarian reform and rural development to promote sustainable development, which includes, *inter alia*, the realization of human rights, food security, poverty eradication, and the strengthening of social justice, on the basis of the democratic rule of law.

2. We recall the outcomes of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD) in 1979 and the Peasants' Charter, which emphasized the need for the formulation of appropriate national strategies for agrarian reform and rural development, and their integration with overall national development strategies.

3. We recall the significant steps taken by the whole membership of FAO in adopting a set of Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security, which is one essential consideration when dealing with the need to promote rural development.

4. We recall the commitments to achieve the internationally-agreed development goals reaffirmed during the Millennium Summit and the Sixtieth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations in September 2005, as follows: "Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, achieve universal primary education, promote gender equality and empower women, reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases, ensure environmental sustainability, and develop a global partnership for development."

We have therefore adopted the following Declaration:

5. We recognize that food insecurity, hunger and rural poverty often result from the imbalances in the present process of development, which hinder wider access to land, water and other natural resources, and other livelihood assets, in a sustainable manner.

6. We reaffirm that wider, secure and sustainable access to land, water and other natural resources related to rural people's livelihoods, especially, *inter alia*, women, indigenous, marginalized and vulnerable groups, is essential to hunger and poverty eradication, contributes to sustainable development and should therefore be an inherent part of national policies.

7. We recognize that laws should be designed and revised to ensure that rural women are accorded full and equal rights to land and other resources, including through the right to inheritance, and administrative reforms and other necessary measures should be undertaken to give women the same right as men to credit, capital, labour rights, legal identification documents, appropriate technologies and access to markets and information.

8. We recognize that resource-based conflicts have been a major cause of civil unrest, political instability and environmental degradation over time in many parts of the world.

9. We recognize the need for rural development policies and programmes to ensure better preparedness to increase resilience and respond effectively to natural and man-made disasters.
10. We acknowledge that many global trends may influence patterns of development, in particular, rural development.
11. We reiterate the importance of traditional and family agriculture, and other smallholder production as well as the roles of traditional rural communities and indigenous groups in contributing to food security and the eradication of poverty.
12. We recognize the need to facilitate increased and environmentally sustainable agricultural productivity and fair trade, and follow with attention negotiations on the Doha Development Agenda, and on operationally effective instruments for special and differential treatment, among others, so as to enable developing countries to effectively take account of their development needs, including food security and rural development.
13. We reiterate that agricultural policies need to find balance between national policy space and international disciplines and commitments. Indeed, agricultural policies are an important tool to promote land and agrarian reform, rural credit and insurance, technical assistance and other associated measures to achieve food security and rural development.
14. We recognize that policies and practices for broadening and securing sustainable and equitable access to and control over land and related resources and the provision of rural services should be examined and revised in a manner that fully respects the rights and aspirations of rural people, women and vulnerable groups, including forest, fishery, indigenous and traditional rural communities, enabling them to protect their rights, in accordance with national legal frameworks.
15. We emphasize therefore that such policies and practices should promote economic, social and cultural rights, in particular of women, marginalized and vulnerable groups. In this context, agrarian reform and rural development policies and institutions should involve stakeholders, including those producing under individual, communal and collective land tenure systems, as well as fishing and forest communities, among others, in relevant administrative and judicial decision-making and implementation processes in accordance with national legal frameworks.
16. We emphasize that agrarian reform and rural development policies, laws and institutions must respond to the needs and aspirations of rural people, taking into consideration gender, economic, social, cultural, legal and ecological factors, and therefore should involve relevant stakeholders in the decision-making process.
17. We acknowledge the important role of social justice, a democratic rule of law and an adequate legal framework for agrarian reform and rural development.
18. We recognize the crucial role of the State to provide fair and equal opportunities and promote basic economic security for women and men as equal citizens.
19. We are convinced of the importance of equity including, *inter alia*, gender aspects and social inclusion in sustainable rural development, where dialogue, exchange of information, capacity building and experiences are essential elements for the enhancement of agrarian reform and rural development policies in the world.
20. We recognize the importance of establishing just, effective and participatory land and water policies, respecting relevant international obligations, especially for women, marginalized and vulnerable groups.
21. We therefore recognize the need for establishing administrative systems conducive to efficient registering, titling, and surveying of land holdings, improved legal, institutional, and market infrastructure, including laws governing water use, and the formal recognition of customary and communal use rights in ways that are transparent, enforceable and consistent with community interests.

22. We recognize the importance of improving equal access to finance, for both men and women, improving mechanisms to reduce transaction costs, including for remittance transfers, in order to mobilize resources and facilitate their focused contribution to strengthening capacities for rural development.
23. We recognize the need to provide enabling policies, legislation and services, in particular those related to rural production and commerce, technical assistance, financing, capacity building, health and educational measures, infrastructure and institutional support, in order to obtain the fullest possible integration of rural areas into national development efforts
24. We acknowledge the need for expanded opportunities for employment and income for rural people and development of men and women farmers' associations, organizations of family farmers, other producers and rural workers, cooperatives, and other rural organizations.
25. We recognize that States have the primary responsibility for their own economic and social development, which includes national policies for the implementation of agrarian reform and rural development strategies. In this context, we recognize the crucial role of the partnership of governments, civil society and other stakeholders for the sustainable implementation of agrarian reform and rural development.
26. We recognize the need to ensure fishing, forest, mountain and other unique communities' rights and their access to fishing, forest and mountain areas and other unique environments within the framework of sustainable management of natural resources.
27. We reaffirm that agrarian reform and other efforts towards the eradication of rural poverty should take into account the preservation and conservation of land, water and other natural resources, and not result in the loss of those resources, particularly for indigenous peoples, such as pastoralists, shepherds and nomadic peoples, nor in the assimilation and erosion of their cultures.

### **ICARRD Vision**

28. We propose that rural development policies, including those on agrarian reforms, should be more focused on the poor and their organizations, socially-driven, participatory, and respectful of gender equality, in the context of economic, social and environmentally sound sustainable development. They should contribute to food security and poverty eradication, based on secure individual, communal and collective rights, and equality, including, *inter alia*, employment, especially for the landless, strengthening local and national markets, income generation, in particular through small and medium sized enterprises, social inclusion and conservation of the environmental and cultural assets of the rural areas, through a sustainable livelihood perspective and the empowerment of vulnerable rural stakeholder groups. These policies should also be implemented in a context that fully respects the rights and aspirations of rural people, especially marginalized and vulnerable groups, within national legal frameworks and through effective dialogue.

### **ICARRD Principles**

29. We agree on the following principles:

- National and inclusive dialogue as an overarching mechanism to ensure significant progress on agrarian reform and rural development.
- Establishment of appropriate agrarian reform mainly in areas with strong social disparities, poverty and food insecurity, as a means to broaden sustainable access to and

control over land and related resources. This should be achieved through a programme based on coherent, ethical, participatory and integrated policies, on, among others, technical assistance, financing, service provision, capacity building, health and educational measures, infrastructure and institutional support, which aim at achieving overall efficiency of the productive systems, optimizing agricultural productivity, increasing employment opportunities and well-being of the people to make rural development truly effective and equitable.

- Support for a participatory approach based on economic, social and cultural rights as well as good governance for the equitable management of land, water, forests and other natural resources within the context of national legal frameworks focusing on sustainable development and overcoming inequalities in order to eradicate hunger and poverty.
- Enhanced support to developing countries, including capacity building and adequate technical assistance, in order to guarantee small-scale uses of productive natural resources for family agriculture and small producers, in particular rural people, women and vulnerable groups, such as indigenous people, forest and fishing communities, pastoralists, peasants, and landless people, to ensure food security and sustainable livelihoods.
- Support for applied research, technology development and transfer by national and international research institutions and extension services, to meet the needs of women farmers, traditional and family agriculture and other smallholder producers as well as traditional rural communities and indigenous groups, in the context of sustainable production systems.
- Adoption of policies and programmes for rural development that promote decentralization, through empowerment at local level, with a special focus on the poor, in order to overcome social exclusion and inequalities and promote sustainable development, gender equality, and new economic and employment opportunities.
- Promotion of practical, simple, affordable and accessible administrative mechanisms to secure land rights, taking particularly into account marginalized groups.
- Strengthening the role of the State to develop and implement more just and people-centred development policies and programmes to ensure food security and the well-being of all citizens, particularly programmes aimed at addressing the impact of HIV/AIDS and other diseases on rural communities and livelihoods.
- Support for local knowledge and experiences, assuring availability and effective access by traditional and family agriculture and other smallholder producers as well as women farmers, traditional rural communities and indigenous groups to adequate information and technologies for production, income diversification, enhanced market linkages at all levels giving priority to local and national markets, promotion of high quality local and traditional products, and developing the means to maintain and rehabilitate the resource base.
- Support to increased local, national, regional and global partnerships, international solidarity and support to organizations of small farmers, landless people and rural workers, in order to provide more harmonized technical assistance/advice, investment and exchanges, and foster participatory monitoring and evaluation of the impact of agrarian reform and rural development.

30. We pledge our actions and support to implementing the ICARRD Principles in order to achieve the new vision of agrarian reform and rural development, through the following:

1. We will develop appropriate mechanisms through a lasting platform at global, regional, national and local levels in order to institutionalize social dialogue, cooperation and monitoring and evaluation of progress in agrarian reform and rural development, which are crucial to promote social justice and to enhance an environmentally sustainable agrarian reform and rural development, more focused on the poor and respectful of gender equality.
2. We will recommend that FAO's Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in close coordination with its Committee on Agriculture (COAG), adopt appropriate measures to implement the ICARRD Declaration. In order to monitor the implementation of the ICARRD Declaration, we will also recommend that the CFS adopt a set of additional reporting guidelines. These processes should include the participation of civil society, and other UN Organizations dealing with food sovereignty, food security, agrarian reform and rural development.
3. We will support International Partnership Initiatives on agrarian reform and rural development along the lines of the ICARRD Declaration.
4. We propose that the multi-stakeholder dialogue of the Special Forum to be held during the Thirty-second Session of the Committee on World Food Security, September 2006, include an agenda item on agrarian reform and rural development, as an additional follow-up mechanism on the results of ICARRD. This will be an important agenda item to be discussed during the Mid-Term Review of the Progress in the Implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action.
5. We will recommend to the Hundred and Thirty-first Session of the FAO Council, November 2006, to examine the possibility of further follow-up mechanisms designed to assist countries in the implementation of the outcomes of ICARRD.

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*ANNEX 2*

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**(40) National reports were submitted to the Conference by:**

Africa (18): Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe;

Asia (6): Indonesia, Japan, Nepal, People's Republic of China, Philippines and Thailand;

Latin America (8): Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay

Near East (5): Afghanistan, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia and United Arab Emirates;

Europe (3): Finland, the Netherlands and Turkey.

**(29) Case studies were presented to the Conference as follows:**

Africa (10): Algeria, Ethiopia, Ghana, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Rwanda, South Africa and Uganda;

Asia (6): Asia-Pacific Regional Case Study, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines and Sri Lanka;

Latin America (9): Andean Region Case Study, Brazil, Chile (3 case studies) Colombia (2 case studies), Paraguay and Peru;

Near East (3): Iran, Lebanon and Syria;

Europe (1): Bosnia and Herzegovina.