



**Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations**

FAO Regional Conference for Africa

CLOSING

Statement by Mr. José Graziano da Silva,
FAO Director-General

Khartoum, February 2018

1. Dr Faisal Ibrahim, Presidential Advisor for Agricultural Department of Sudan, I would like to thank the Government and people of Sudan for the support and hospitality.
2. I want to send my thanks for the support received from all of you to FAO's work.
3. I also want to thank for the hospitality of the Government of Sudan and particularly of our Chairperson the Minister for Agriculture and Forests, His Excellency Abdelatif Ahmed Mohamed Al Ijaimi for his excellent chairing of this conference.
4. I very much welcome the report of the Conference and the Khartoum Ministerial Declaration.

I would like to thank the AU Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development Ms Josefa

Leonel Correia Sacko, and the FAO Special Ambassador, Dr Kanayo Nwanze, for their presence.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. As you know, this is my last Regional Conference for Africa.
6. During my term, and particularly during these Conferences, and I tried to make all possible efforts to meet with the Ministers that attended the Conferences and their delegations, even if just for a few minutes.
7. It is very important for me to have the opportunity for this tête-à-tête, informal discussions with all of you.
8. I have to say that I learned a lot listening to you and I think it also benefits our work in FAO.

9. These two documents that you approved will go directly to the FAO Conference next July 2019 in Rome, and will be reported by our Chairperson.
10. Africa is the first of the FAO's Regional Conferences and the one with the highest attendance at ministerial level.
11. It has also been the Conference that in some sense "set the tone" for the other Regional Conferences that would follow.
12. So, I want to say that I am very happy with the results we achieved together.
13. As I said when I was elected in June 2011, before taking office: "we will not be able to do anything except that that we agreed to do together".
14. And I am very pleased to see that we are ending this Conference with consensus in our decisions.

15. Building consensus takes time, but once achieved, it helps us to go faster with the implementation phase of what has been agreed upon. I thank you for making this possible.
16. I would like to end by reaffirming that achieving Zero Hunger is still possible and FAO will continue to work on setting the 2030 Agenda as the main priority worldwide.
17. We have a tremendous amount of work ahead of us to meet Africa's Zero Hunger challenge by 2025, as well as the Agenda 2030.
18. To celebrate that, I would like to leave with you the new Zero Hunger button that shows the logo of FAO at the center of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.
19. If we don't eradicate hunger and all forms of malnutrition and promote sustainable agricultural

development, we will not be able to achieve the rest of the Sustainable Development Goals.

20. Thank you for your kind attention.