

**THE ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT TOPI TO THE FAO HIGH LEVEL
CONFERENCE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY: THE
CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIOENERGY**

Rome, June 3, 2008

**Distinguished Mr. Jacques Diouf,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As the President of a small and relatively poor country and bearing in mind with full responsibility the warnings that two thirds of world populations could be faced with two digits inflation – warnings issued by prestigious international institutions, – I am totally committed to the Albania's efforts for cooperation to find an optimal solution about the problem caused mainly by the rising of oil and food products prices.

The price checks and exports' banning from some exporting countries have brought as a result the further fragmentation of world market, because preventing the price rising through such methods reduces the incentives for the farmers to increase the agricultural product and the consumers to decrease the food demand by prolonging in time the misbalances that have caused the prices to soar.

Under such conditions it is required the political will of all the countries for the increase and improvement of food providing, in order not to repeat the same mistakes made by the developed countries related to the great inflation of the seventies. Our objectives will be the removal of the trading barriers, the enhancement of the opportunities to increase the agricultural product and the reviewing of the priorities of assistance for agriculture and rural services.

A sustainable and long-term solution depends on the financing of investments in agriculture and on improving the rural infrastructure. Such a solution demands the understanding and the willingness to act promptly at the right time.

In order to draw incentive policies for the increase and productivity of agricultural products, Albania deems indispensable its active involvement to lead the agricultural sector towards encouraging policies of production.

The development of agriculture in Albania is running into great difficulties of capitalism in a small land surface, which is accompanied by poverty symptoms because there is still a part of agricultural land which has not been arable for years.

The development of Albanian agriculture requires multilateral support to sustainably manage the few agricultural and arable land resources. The financial support and urging to specialize the agricultural product would orient the Albanian farmers towards the market, would encourage them to improve the infrastructure of agricultural economy and to use the modern technologies of agricultural production.

The development of the agricultural sector in Albania needs about 150 to 200 million US dollars a year in contrast to the sum of 5 to 10 million US dollars that has been delivered to the farmers up to now.

Albania is facing a real challenge because the Albanian consumer at the present day has the highest rate of expenses to feed the family.

We are convinced that in our efforts to develop the agricultural sector in compliance to the market's golden rules, we will manage to secure the protection of the poor from being affected by soaring prices and being threatened by food shortage. This would clearly demonstrate our political, moral and social responsibility.

Strategies demand funds, investments and vision, but they demand above all the representation of the interests of all the people, especially the poor people of this world and the solution must be targeted exactly where it could be thought that the food crisis and rising prices increase could influence more.

Thank you!