

## Ministerial Dialogue

Nordic Council of Ministers for Fisheries and Aquaculture,

Agriculture, Food and Forestry

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### Statement

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Your Excellences, Distinguished Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour to represent the Food and Agriculture Organization and our Director-General Mr Graziano da Silva in this important event. I would like to thank the Nordic Council of Ministers for this invitation which comes at a crucial time for agriculture, food and nutrition security, and sustainable development.

I am pleased to be here with you in Norway, as it was a one of your former Prime Ministers, Gro Harlem Brundtland, who drafted the path breaking report Our Common Future in 1987, which defined sustainable development as meeting the needs and aspirations of the present without compromising the ability to meet those of the future.

This meeting takes place at a time of when close to one billion people still suffer from hunger, when rising global food demand fuelled by population and income growth will require 60% more food from a limited resource base and under the impacts of climate change.

These challenges brought agriculture back to the top of the international agenda in 2008 and highlight the importance that agriculture, fisheries and forestry plays in ensuring food and nutrition security both now and in the future. These challenges shaped the agendas of this year's G8 Summit which launched the New Alliance for Agriculture initiative; the G20 Summit which reaffirmed global leaders' commitment to agriculture and food and nutrition security, and finally the UN Conference on Sustainable Development at Rio+20.

In my presentation I want to provide an overview of FAO, its purpose and activities as well as new priorities. Second, I want to talk about the main outcomes of the Rio + 20 Conference, G8 and G20 Summits and the role that FAO will play in supporting these outcomes. Finally, I would like to provide some thoughts on the post 2015 development agenda, which will be centred on sustainable development.

## Slide 1

FAO is a knowledge organization, with the mandate to contribute to a world without hunger, where everyone has access to safe, nutritious food. FAO's 193 Members have agreed upon three global goals: eliminating hunger; fighting poverty; and caring for the earth through environmental sustainability. FAO supports our members in achieving these goals through programmes that boost agricultural production and reduce food losses; fight animal and plant diseases; improve biodiversity; support the development of sustainable

agricultural industries, and build rural institutions so that small farmers can express their needs and exercise their rights.

FAO supports its Members to ensure that global and national food and nutrition and agriculture systems are environmentally sustainable. This means sustainable intensification of production to keep pace with population growth and ensure that agricultural production does not put an unsustainable strain on the planet's finite natural resources, and to ensure that the use of inputs is well-targeted. We also work with farmers to adopt climate smart agriculture- practices that can help farming communities adapt to changing climatic conditions.

To achieve the goals of our members, FAO focuses on four main areas: putting information within reach; generating global public goods; providing a neutral forum, and transforming knowledge into action. I would like to highlight some of the work of FAO within each area.

## Slide 2

Our core mandate is to translate knowledge into impact. A key example of our work in this area is to ensure that data and information is sound and accessible. Without sound data on food and agricultural production, eliminating hunger and making food and agricultural systems sustainable is impossible.

One of the most requested sources of information, particularly during the recent period of rising food prices, is FAO's Food Price Index. In addition, FAO's flagship publications such as State of Fisheries and Aquaculture, State of Food and Agriculture, State of Land and Water, State of Forests and State of Food Insecurity present comprehensive and objective information and analysis on the current global state of food and agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture, forests, agricultural commodity markets and hunger. These publications have one

primary purpose: to inform public debate and policy-making at national and international levels.

### Slide 3

FAO believes that the right policies create lasting solutions, so FAO assists countries to develop policies and regulations that improve their food and agricultural production and reduce hunger and poverty. This policy work covers many different areas including: agricultural development; forestry planning; fisheries and aquaculture; gender; land tenure systems; agricultural investments and revenues; and social safety nets and rural services. I would like to describe three specific examples of FAO's policy work.

First, the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. Adopted in 1995, the Code provides a set of principles and standards for the conservation, management and sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture. Since its launch, FAO has developed

a number of technical guidelines to provide advice and guidance for sustainable development of aquaculture.

Second, FAO will support implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests at the national level.

FAO has also done ground-breaking work in gender and agriculture. In many parts of the world, women are the main farmers or producers, but without equal access to productive resources like land and credit. FAO's Gender Programme has assisted more than 30 countries to develop national action plans for the agricultural and rural development sectors that take into consideration gender issues.

Slide 4

FAO also provides a neutral forum where Member Nations can negotiate international legal frameworks for determining national responsibilities and obligations. Eighteen conventions or agreements have been negotiated and approved under FAO's auspices; these are both binding and non-binding



international instruments. FAO hosts also a number of international bodies, such as the International Plant Protection Convention and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. FAO provides an umbrella and convening function under which countries can identify strategic priorities and coordinate their efforts to find solutions and plans of actions to pressing problems affecting food and agricultural production.

FAO also plays a key role in advocacy and agenda setting for food security and nutrition. We organize high-level summits to mobilize political action and raise global awareness on the fight to eliminate hunger. The 1996 World Food Summit set definite goals for the reduction of hunger. FAO's continued advocacy kept food and nutrition security on the global agenda at a time when many leaders focus shifted to other priorities.

In 2011 FAO convened two high-level meetings on the food crisis in the Horn of Africa, which catalysed the world's attention on the ongoing food emergency in the region but more important instilled the important concept of building resilience to threats by focusing on the success of water saving programs in nearby Kenya and Ethiopia.

#### Slide 5

Bringing knowledge to the field, and sharing lessons learned, is another important role of FAO. FAO's Emergency Prevention Systems (EMPRES) has the mandate to address prevention and early warning across the entire food chain. EMPRES Animal Health is focused on prevention of animal diseases, such as avian influenza, foot-and-mouth disease, as well as aquatic animal diseases. EMPRES Plant Protection is focused on plant pests and diseases including desert locust and forest plant pests and diseases, and EMPRES Food Safety. An important example of this program was the global eradication of

Rinderpest in 2010, only the second disease, after small pox, to be eradicated in the world.

FAO and the World Food Programme work together on Crisis Responses to determine what type of assistance is needed when a country faces a food crisis or other food and agricultural emergency. WFP provides emergency food and nutrition assistance, while FAO focuses on emergency agricultural relief programme to help communities get back on their feet. In some cases, FAO distributes supplies like seeds and fertilizer, fishing equipment, livestock and farm tools.

FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System keeps a close eye on the food supply in developing countries. If a country's food supply gets low, FAO, together with WFP, sound the alarm. This way, action can be taken quickly before the situation deteriorates into a full-blown food emergency.

## Slide 6

FAO cannot work without key partnerships and strong alliances that enhance its capacity to assist its Members to achieve their global goals and to help accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. Areas of cooperation with UN Food Agencies are deepening and include food and nutrition statistics information systems, nutrition programs and local procurement with the Purchase for Progress initiative. There are also ongoing discussions to combine offices in field locations, and adopt common procurement procedures.

The Committee on World Food Security has become the foremost evidence-based and inclusive international and intergovernmental forum on food security and nutrition, where key issues affecting food security are discussed among representatives of civil society and non-governmental

organizations, private sector, international financial institutions, and the international agricultural research system.

## Slide 7

Decisions about FAO's programme of work and budget are made by the Organization's Governing Bodies. FAO has 193 Members in addition to the European Union. The FAO Conference represents all FAO members. It is the highest governing body at FAO and meets every two years to decide on the policies of the Organization and approve the Organization's programme of work and the budget. The Conference also appoints the Director-General.

The FAO Council (49 members) provides governance between the Conference's regular sessions. (Denmark is a member of FAO Council). FAO Regional Conferences are convened by Member Governments in each major geographic region to guide FAO priorities in their region. There are also a number of committees, most notably the Programme and Finance Committees which delve more deeply into FAO's policy and

technical activities. Currently Sweden chairs the Programme Committee (last year the chair was from Finland).

#### Slide 8

FAO depends on financial support from its Member Nations to carry out its activities. For 2012-2013, FAO core budget is US\$ 2.4billion. 42% comes from assessed contributions paid by Members, while 58% is expected to be mobilized through voluntary contributions from member countries and other resource partners. In the past biennium voluntary contributions were US\$ 1.6 billion.

The breakdown of the overall budget shows that FAO funds cover mainly core technical work, cooperation and partnerships, leading to Food and Agriculture Outcomes (71%) and Core Functions (11%).

#### Slide 9

FAO's Director-General, José Graziano da Silva of Brazil, was elected to his position in January 2012. The Director General has launched an ambitious change process to accelerate and conclude the FAO reforms initiated in 2007 to increase efficiency and effectiveness.

These reforms include building a results-driven Organization, where FAO's work is measured against clear objectives and the goals of our member countries; an improved performance evaluation system, where staff see a direct link between their daily work and FAO's overall objectives; the delegation of decision making to create a flatter, more responsive management structure; and involving Members more closely in the work of the Organization.

To service our Members, the Director General is strengthening our offices all over the world. More than half of the FAO employees work outside the headquarters in decentralized

offices. As part of the current change process, FAO focused on accelerating the process of decentralization to strengthen its technical work the field.

## Slide 10

The Director-General has also launched a Strategic Thinking process, to provide the Organization with a new and more focused Strategic Framework for the next biennium. The five provisional Strategic Objectives presented to the FAO council have been derived from global trends and main challenges affecting food and nutrition; FAO's basic attributes, core functions and comparative advantages, and regional priorities and views provided by the 2012 Regional Conferences.

These five cross-cutting Strategic Objectives were warmly welcomed by the Members, with the caveat that more explicit emphasis be placed on global public goods and natural resource management.



The five objectives are 1) Eradicate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition; 2) Increase sustainable production 3) Improve the livelihood of rural populations 4) Enable more inclusive and efficient food and nutrition systems at local, national, regional and international levels; and 5) Increase the resilience of rural livelihoods to threats and crises.

#### Slide 11

To demonstrate how FAO translate knowledge in to impact in I would like now to play a short video.

IMPACT VIDEO (2:40 min)

#### Slide 12

FAO's mandate addresses all the Millennium Development Goals. Apart from technical work on food and nutrition, FAO is the reference for data collection on hunger for MDG1. On MDG2, FAO supports countries to establish school gardens and

school-feeding programmes and coordinates with other UN agencies to support improved access to primary education.

The Organization helps countries formulate agricultural policies that promote gender equality and develops targeted instruments for rural women in agriculture, who are at the centre of MDG3. In partnership with UN agencies, civil society, donors, and the private sector FAO also helps countries reduce child malnutrition and strengthen maternal health to tackle MDG4 and 5. The Organization helps countries manage their land, water, fisheries, forests and genetic resources in ways that sustain their populations and meet the food and nutrition requirements and environmental, social and economic needs of present and future generations (MDG7).

Slide 13

Has the world made progress on eradicating hunger (MDG 1)? Globally, important progress has been made, at least in terms of average daily food and nutrition intake. However, some

regions continue to lag behind: sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia are still below an average 2500 kcal/person/day – based on 2005-07 average. Our 2050 projections indicate that in several countries there will be only small reductions in the number of undernourished even if global food production targets are achieved because hungry people will not have the ability to buy or produce the food they need.

#### Slide 14

Rural people comprise half the world population, and the majority of the population of the poorer countries, yet they frequently have no voice in policy debates. Women in particular are doubly disadvantaged. The FAO together with IFAD and WFP lead the Inter-Agency Task Force on Rural Women, which has measured the progress of rural women against the MDGs. The findings are not good: globally, rural women fare worse than rural men and than urban men and women against all the MDG indicators, with a few minor exceptions. The Interagency

report showed that rural women have fewer opportunities to attend school, have a more limited understanding of how HIV spreads and are under-represented in politics and decision making.

Last year's State of Food and Agriculture demonstrated that rural women have very specific needs including access to productive resources (in particular land, technology, information and credit), access to services and, very importantly, voice. They need to effectively participate in policy formulation. They need to have leadership positions in farmers and producer organizations. And, they need support to make this happen.

The FAO's State of Food and Agriculture 2011 estimated that women comprise 43% of the agricultural work force in developing countries. The report estimated that poverty and hunger could be reduced by 10% if women have access to resources, services and their voice is heard. Closing the gender

gap in access to agricultural inputs could lift millions of people out of hunger.

## Slide 15

I would also like to share some FAO work with you related to MDG 7, that is central not only to our recent work in support of the Rio+20 process, but fundamental to any discussion on sustainability, and the nexus between environment, agriculture and food and nutrition security. FAO recently released its first global assessment of the State of the World's Land and Water resources. The report showed that fully one quarter of global land is highly degraded. Another 8 percent is moderately degraded, 36 percent is stable or slightly degraded and 10 percent is improving. The remaining shares of the earth's land surface are either bare (around 18 percent) or covered by inland water bodies (around 2%). (These figures include all land types, not just farmland.) The FAO definition of degradation extends beyond soil and water degradation per se

– and includes an assessment of other aspects of affected ecosystems, for instance biodiversity loss.

Large parts of all continents are experiencing land degradation, with particularly high incidences down the West coast of the Americas, across the Mediterranean, the Sahel and the Horn of Africa, and throughout Asia. The greatest threat is the loss of soil quality, followed by biodiversity loss and depletion of water resources. Some 1.6 billion hectares of the world's best, most productive lands are currently used to grow crops. Parts of this land is being degraded through farming practices that result in water and wind erosion, the loss of organic matter, topsoil compaction, salinization and soil pollution, and nutrient loss.

Slide 16

The State of Land and Water estimated the global distribution of risks associated with the earth's main agricultural production systems. At global level, there is increasing imbalance between availability and demand for land and water resources. At the

local level a number of regions are reaching the limits of their production capacity. Food trade will compensate for some deficits, but could have implications for rural livelihoods.

The intensive agricultural practices associated with past increases in productivity have in some cases been accompanied by severe degradation of ecosystem services. On-farm and downstream risks associated with demographic pressure and unsustainable intensification will persist and worsen in several agricultural systems as long as corrective measures are not taken to reverse this trend.

Climate change will negatively affect many farming systems, in the semi-arid and sub-tropical areas in particular, undermining water resources and irrigation systems, and requiring major adaptation efforts in most cases. Deltas and coastal areas will be doubly at risk of flooding from sea-level rise and more variable wet-season rainfall. A substantial share of land and

water resources - and their ecological integrity - is under stress from increasing demand and unsustainable agricultural practices. Further demand from agriculture and other sectors, taken with the anticipated aspects of climate change, could threaten their future productive capacity.

#### Slide 17

The agriculture, fisheries, forestry sectors will be challenged to meet the food and nutrition security needs of an additional 3 billion people, who will require a 60 percent increase in global food production.

But simply increasing food production at the global level is not enough. Nearly 100% of future demand growth will occur in developing countries. Today – of the nearly one billion hungry people– almost all live in developing countries. 265 million live in the Least Developed Countries. Nearly 70 percent – or some 570 million - live in Asia. Nearly 225 million - 25 percent – live in Africa, and nearly 40 million live in Latin America. And lest we



forget, 11 million live in the developed regions. More than 2 billion people suffer micronutrient deficiencies that cost lives, livelihoods and economic growth. So availability of food is important, but so is the ability of the poor to access food, through their own production or through the market.

In particular there are three key challenges that can significantly affect food and nutrition security and sustainable development.

First, the rate of deforestation is still alarmingly high, and we know that forests play a significant role in ensuring both food and nutrition, livelihoods and biodiversity and protecting fundamental natural resources (soil and water).

Second, up to one third of all food globally is lost or wasted between harvesting and consumption. These losses happen at different stages and have different causes in developing and developed countries, therefore a new strategies and intervention such as the Save Food Initiative are needed.

Third, between 10 – 12 percent of the world's population, that is between 660–820 million people depend directly and indirectly on fisheries and aquaculture. Thus, in many countries eradicating hunger and promoting economic development is closely linked to the sustainable use of oceans and fish stocks.

#### Slide 18

Because food security, nutrition and sustainable development are tightly linked the primary UN Food Agencies (FAO, IFAD, WFP and Bioversity), worked together to advocate that sustainable development cannot be realized unless hunger and malnutrition are eradicated. This will require that food consumption and production systems achieve more with less. It will also require fundamental changes in the governance of food and agriculture and an equitable distribution of the costs and benefits of a sustainable future.

#### Slide 19

The work of the four agencies—together with many others—paid off. The Rio declaration has taken on board all the

messages that we promoted through intensive work in New York and in Rio. ANIMATED SLIDE i) FAO Actions, ii) RIO Outcomes

In Rio, the FAO and our partners pushed for five concrete Actions, which have been reflected in the Outcome document as you can see in the slide.

Slide 20

The Rio outcomes will inform FAO's future work, as well as our input to the post-2015 development agenda.

The Rio outcome document (The Future We Want) recognized the need for a stronger institutional framework for sustainable development. Rio established a universal intergovernmental high-level political forum, and strengthened the UN Environmental Programme. Rio called for legislative and administrative reforms to give women equal rights with men to

economic resources, including access to ownership and control over land. The Green Economy was recognized as one of the important tools available for achieving sustainable development by promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns, increasing resource efficiency and reducing waste while generating equitable economic growth and job creation, particularly for women, youth and the poor.

The conference recognized the crucial role that oceans and forests play in ensuring sustainable development. Oceans and seas in particular, are among the best articulated themes in the Rio+20 outcome document. Strong emphasis is given on the multiple benefits of oceans (e.g. food, livelihoods, biodiversity, global life support systems, and blue economy) and multiple threats (e.g. overfishing, ocean acidification, habitat loss, pollution) oceans face.

Finally, the outcome document highlights the social, economic and environmental benefits of forests to people and the contribution sustainable forest management makes to the objectives of Rio, and supports policies promoting sustainable forest management. It calls for enhanced efforts to support sustainable forest management by promoting trade in legally-harvested forest products and reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries.

#### Slide 21

One of the most important outcomes in Rio was the launch of the UN Secretary General's ZERO HUNGER CHALLENGE, at an event jointly organized by the principle UN Food Agencies.

The Challenge is based on five, interlinked pillars:

- Ensure that that everyone has access to enough nutritious food all year long. They should be able to buy it, grow it, or get it through a social safety net.

- Provide proper nutrition during the 1000 day window of opportunity between the start of pregnancy and a child's second birthday,
- Build sustainable food systems that encourage and reward sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture practices;
- Increase smallholder farmers' productivity and income while ensuring decent work
- Minimize food losses and waste along the food chain, through appropriate labelling, financial incentives, collective pledges, locally-relevant technologies and changed behaviour.

## Slide 22

Since the L'Aquila Summit in 2009, FAO has supported the food and nutrition security initiatives of the G8 and the G20. Through these fora, FAO has promoted its food and nutrition security messages. FAO has coordinated, together with OECD, the preparation of highly influential interagency reports on food

price volatility in under the French presidency and on sustainably increasing agricultural productivity under the Mexican Presidency. FAO has also been actively involved in the implementation of G20 initiatives, notably hosting the Agricultural Market Information System created to enhance market transparency and the Tropical Agricultural Platform created to share research results on tropical agricultural production.

In turn, the G8 and G20 have supported FAO initiatives such as the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests and the Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment.

The space devoted to food security, nutrition and sustainable agricultural development in the Rio+20 outcome document as well in the G8 and G20 summits, and the Secretary General's Zero Hunger vision confirm that food and nutrition security and sustainable agricultural development have moved up the

international agenda and will continue to be of high relevance the near future.

### Slide 23

The Rio conference will establish an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process on Sustainable Development Goals open to all stakeholders which needs to be coordinated and coherent with discussions on the post-2015 development agenda.

FAO and its partners will provide technical support to governments as they identify post-2015 sustainable development goals and their indicators. FAO is actively engaged in the UN System Task Team on the Post-2015, and is the lead UN agency on hunger eradication under the UN SG's Five Year Action Agenda. In the field, FAO decentralized offices are involved in country consultations on the Post 2015 framework. FAO is separately working on a scorecard system to



help countries, international organizations and partners to measure and monitor food and nutrition insecurity.

One aspect of the post-2015 discussion is the framework for the establishing global goals. These must be focused on inclusive, people-centred, and sustainable global development – the future we want. This will require a broad and integrated approach to development, based on social justice, structural transformation, economic diversification and growth. One of the perceived weaknesses of the current MDG framework is its silence on the means to achieve the goals – in other words, the “what” is clear, but not the “how”. The MDGS were also focused only on objectives for the developing countries, and not on goals for all countries.

At FAO, we will continue to place people at the centre at sustainable development, and at the centre of all of our work.

We will continue to strengthen our partnership and coordination

with the UN lead agencies on food and nutrition security, and focus on jointly developing the goals, targets and indicators needed to achieve food and nutrition security and sustainable food and nutrition production and consumption systems.

I look forward to a close collaboration with you all in our common endeavour; I thank you for your time and attention.