

April 2011



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة للأمم
المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food and
Agriculture
Organization
of the
United Nations

Organisation des
Nations Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et l'agriculture

Продовольствен
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енная
организация
Объединенных
Наций

Organización
de las
Naciones Unidas
para la
Agricultura y la
Alimentación

CONFERENCE

Thirty-seventh Session

Rome, 25 June - 2 July 2011

**Report of the 26th Session of the Regional Conference for Africa
(Luanda, Angola, 3 – 7 May 2010)**

ARC/10/REP

REPORT OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA

Luanda, Angola, 03 – 07 May 2010

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
FAO REGIONAL OFFICE FOR AFRICA, ACCRA, GHANA
MAY 2010**

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Matters arising from the World Summit on Food Security and the 36th Session of FAO Conference – Implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA) – Towards a New Vision for the Decentralized Offices Network

The Conference

1. endorsed the vision, as well as the proposals on structure and functioning
2. expressed the view that the criteria on country coverage provided in the IPA were theoretically good but not practical, particularly in the case of Africa
3. recommended that
 - special needs of Africa be kept in mind and that a strong network of country offices, which was essential to meet these needs, be provided;
 - multiple accreditation for country offices would not be suitable for African countries who had urgent and pressing needs for help and support;
 - FAO maintains and possibly increases the number of country offices in the Region;
 - Decentralized Offices be strengthened through both financial and technical resources and there be better training for staff in these offices;
 - criteria for FAOR appointment be improved and made more transparent;
 - there be a time limit for Member countries to provide feedback on proposed appointments made by the Director General to avoid FAO Representative positions being vacant for prolonged periods.

Reform of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

The Conference

4. supported the proposal for the creation of a regional ad hoc steering group in support of the CFS reform to be led by the standing Chair of the Regional Conference for Africa, who would work in collaboration with voluntary Members.
5. expressed concern on the need to improve coordination among national, sub-regional and regional groups and recommended that the steering group addresses this issue.

Report on FAO Activities in Region, (2008-2009) and actions taken on the main recommendations of the 25th FAO Conference for Africa

The Conference

6. endorsed the report which highlighted key outcomes of activities conducted in the region during 2008-2009 to implement the recommendations of the 25th ARC and the field programme.

Implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11 and Areas of Priority Actions for the African Region in the following biennium

7. The Conference

- appreciated the coherence between the proposed priority areas and the CAADP objectives;
- endorsed the priority areas for 2010-11 and 2012-13
- recommended that FAO
 - supports Member Countries to prepare appropriate investment plans;
 - ensures that sufficient data be available to monitor the results by the end of 2013.

Establishment of One Global Shared Services Centre

8. The Conference recommended that a proper in-depth evaluation of the proposal of a global SSC, including for sustainability, be carried out for an eventual endorsement by the Finance Committee and Council, for inclusion in the next Programme of Work and Budget

Discussion Items

FAO Support to the Accelerated implementation of CAADP

9. The Conference recommended that FAO continues and intensifies its support to the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Planning and Implementation Agency, and the Regional Economic Communities

10. The Conference recommended that Member Countries and FAO
 - strengthen institutional and human capacity building, especially in developing post-compact investment programmes and sector policies;
 - raise awareness about CAADP and the visibility of the related interventions at the national/regional level;
 - advocate resource mobilization and follow-up to ensure that pledges already made are honoured;
 - disseminate new technologies, appropriate policies and strategies to ensure that the objectives of the CAADP are not compromised;
 - mainstream CAADP into national planning process and to reinforce gender concerns in both the CADP Compact and post-Compact processes;
 - ensure that the multiplicity of development initiatives at the national level are coordinated and streamlined with that of the overall CAADP objectives;
 - monitor and evaluate the achievement of CAADP targets including the Maputo 10% budgetary allocation to agriculture and rural development;
 - facilitate south-south cooperation to improve the post-compact interventions;
 - provide clarity on the issues in its future support to CAADP Compacts as there seems to be a general misunderstanding of the relationship between the BIPPS prepared in 2004 and the post-CAADP investment plans.

Climate change implications for food security and natural resources management in Africa

11. The Conference acknowledged that

- climate change is a complex and important issue with direct implications on food security and natural resources management.
 - Africa faces serious challenges from climate change which are directly linked to food insecurity.
 - climate change needs to be addressed primarily at national and regional level alongside other crosscutting issues.
12. The Conference recommended that Member countries make effort to mitigate impact of climate change on African agriculture;
13. The Conference recommended that FAO
- collaborates with national Governments in developing institutional capacity building programmes and creating awareness including integration of indigenous knowledge to assist rural communities understand and cope with climate change and as it relates to food security;
 - develops forecasting models, regional and national policy strategies in climatic change mitigation;
 - provides access to available facilities such as carbon credit;
 - establishes data monitoring systems;
 - reviews the possibility of providing technical support in capacity building in simplifying issues and technical support to apply effective technologies such as conservation agriculture and use of germplasm that is locally adapted, as well as considerations of gender issues;
 - facilitates the convening of a Ministerial meeting to discuss the impact of climate change, adaptation and mitigation;

Other Matters

14. The Conference recommended that FAO initiates a dialogue with other UN partners on facilitating more effective country level assistance on attaining food security to address concerns on the coordination of interventions by UN Bodies at the national and regional level.
15. The Conference recognized the increasing interest of countries to share national experiences and success stories and suggested that provision be made in future conferences for country presentations and information exchange.
16. The Conference welcomed the declaration of the Civil Society Organizations prepared at their meeting held in Luanda on 5th May 2010 and recognized their commitment to attaining food security in the region.
17. The Conference approved the Luanda Declaration
18. The Conference agreed to honour the Director-General of FAO, Dr. Jacques Diouf, and recommended the submission of a proposal to the FAO Council on setting up a food security award in his name at the FAO
19. The Conference also recommended that the Chairperson, Honourable Afonso Pedro Canga, kindly solicits the assistance of the President of the Republic of Angola, His

Excellency José Eduardo Dos Santos, to submit a request to his peers, during the next African Union Summit, to set up a Jacques Diouf Prize for food security at the African Union.

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE REPORT

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

Organization of the Conference

1. The Ministerial Segment of the Twenty-Sixth Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Africa was held in Luanda, the Republic of Angola, from 6 to 7 May 2010.
2. The Conference was attended by 125 delegates from 35 Member Countries of the Region, of which 17 were represented at Ministerial level; 1 observer from the Holy See, and 12 observers from inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations. The list of delegates is given in Appendix B and the list of documents in Appendix C.

Inaugural Ceremony

3. The inaugural ceremony was held at the Belas Conference Centre, Luanda, the Republic of Angola in the presence of His Excellency Mr Fernando Da Piedade Dias Dos Santos, Vice President of the Republic of Angola, Mr Antonio Paulo Kassouma, President of the National Assembly, Dr Jacques Diouf, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Mr Luc Guyau, Independent Chairman of the FAO Council, and Honourable Afonso Pedro Canga, Minister for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries of the Republic of Angola. The Vice President welcomed delegates on behalf of the President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos, President of the Republic of Angola and the people of Angola.

Statement of the Director-General of FAO

4. The Director General of FAO indicated that it was a great honour and pleasure to attend the Twenty-sixth FAO Regional Conference for Africa in the beautiful city of Luanda. He expressed his gratitude, on behalf of FAO, to the President of the Republic of Angola, His Excellency José Eduardo Dos Santos, the Government and people of Angola for hosting the Conference.
5. He informed the Regional Conference that while the world was facing serious financial and economic crisis, the poorer countries were the most affected. Currently more than 1 billion people are suffering from hunger, and sub-Saharan Africa is most hard hit, with 269 million people malnourished and 30 percent of the population suffering from hunger.
6. The Director General reiterated that Africa is rich in arable land, water and labour and with appropriate policies it has capacity to increase agricultural production, national incomes and food security. However Africa only accounts for about 2% to 3% of world Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and its share in trade in agricultural commodities is less than 2% and declining. Agricultural imports have continued to outpace exports and Africa currently spends 33 billion US dollars on imports, much of which is on food.
7. He stated that the Twenty-Sixth Regional Conference will be examining issues that impact on millions of people in the region. The Conference will discuss priority themes, including FAO support for the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP); implications of climate change for food security; implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal in relation to decentralized offices network; and reform of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS).
8. The Director-General reminded the Conference that it was only five years to 2015, the date set by 192 member governments to halve the number of people suffering from hunger. He made

a commitment that with support from member countries, FAO will continue to provide technical assistance in formulating and implementing policies, strategies and programmes aimed at overcoming the challenge of food insecurity in Africa and elsewhere.

9. The full statement is given in Appendix D.

Address by the Independent Chairman of the Council

10. The Independent Chairman of the Council underscored that the Africa Regional Conference marks the beginning of the implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA) and its success depended on sustained efforts from Member countries and the Secretariat in FAO headquarters and decentralized offices. He briefed the delegates on the implementation of his mandate and emphasized that his work was characterized by collegiality, subsidiarity, ownership, independence and partnership. He then explained the status of the FAO reform, stressing the need for consolidating the momentum, making full use of FAO's outstanding human resources and strengthening internal and external communication systems. He reminded delegates that the Council's powers have been strengthened and that its next session will benefit from the recommendations of the 26th ARC.

11. He briefed delegates on the establishment of the Open Ended Working Group on Effectiveness and Efficiency of Governing Bodies (OEWG), on the preparation of the informal meeting on the integration of regular programme and extra-budgetary funding, and on the preparation of the election of the Director-General in 2011. He reminded delegates that as a result of the Reform, Regional Conferences had become full-fledged governing bodies, which has strengthened governance at the regional level.

12. He informed that the next meetings of the Reform Committee will deal with decentralized offices and the staff rotation policy, and that recommendations from Regional Conferences on these matters will be taken into account. He will ensure that Regional conferences can formulate specific recommendations to the Council on the priority areas for the Regions. In conclusion, he urged delegates to remain focused on the implementation of the Reform, as it will lead to greater efficiency and effectiveness at all levels of FAO.

13. The full text of the Independent Chairman of the FAO Council's statement is given in Appendix E.

Address by the Representative of the Holy See

14. The Representative of the Holy See delivered a message to the Conference on behalf of Pope Benedict XVI encouraging African countries to continue working to attain food security for the growing population.

Statement of the Vice President of the Republic of Angola

15. The Vice-President thanked FAO for the confidence given Angola to host the Conference. He indicated that Angola's economy had been highly dependent on oil and diamonds and had not invested sufficiently in agriculture. However, in recent years, Angola had made strides in improving the agricultural sector, increasing from 5% to 58% contribution to GDP. There has been increased investment in agriculture which has brought about great improvements in the lives of the rural communities.

16. The Vice-president indicated that Angola was well resourced with 47 river basins and has good potential in crops such as cassava, but lacked the production capacity in rice, maize, corn, dairy and meat products, which had to be imported. This he recognized as being a great challenge for Angola.

17. He informed that Angola had been making great investments in restructuring agricultural research, setting up special lines of credit, and establishing industrial centres.

18. He also indicated that Angola was particularly concerned in ensuring that potable water was available not only in the urban and industrial areas but also in rural communities, where the emphasis on agriculture was in order to stem the rural-urban drift.

19. The full text of the Vice President's statement is in Appendix F.

Election of Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteurs

20. In handing over the chairmanship, Honourable Gideon Ndambuki, Assistant Minister for Agriculture of the Republic of Kenya and Outgoing Chairman of the Regional Conference for Africa shared some remarks with the Conference.

21. He indicated that many of the member countries had witnessed stagnation in agricultural productivity, high fertilizer and fuel costs for farm operations, as well as effects of climate change. The situation caused an increase in food prices and hence affecting survival of the people of the African region, especially the most vulnerable in the societies. Many of the people were still living below the poverty line at less than a dollar a day.

22. He reminded the Conference of the practical recommendations made at the last Conference to resolve the food crisis and that it was important to look at the more lasting solutions to the situation in the future. He urged the delegates to exchange information on the various measures the member countries are taking to address the situation.

23. The full text of the Outgoing Chairman's statement is in Appendix G.

24. The Conference approved by acclamation the nomination of the following bureau:

Chairperson:	Republic of Angola Honourable Afonso Pedro Canga Minister for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries
First Vice-Chairperson:	Equatorial Guinea Honourable Teodoro Nguema Obiang Mangue Minister for Agriculture and Forestry
Second Vice-Chairperson:	Cape Verde Honourable Jose Maria Veiga Minister for Environment, Rural Development and Marine Resources
Rapporteurs:	Cameroon H.E. Dominique Awono-Essama Ambassador of the Republic of Cameroon to Italy and Permanent Representative to FAO in Rome

Uganda

Robert Sabiiti

Alternative Permanent Representative, Uganda Embassy in Rome

Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

25. The Conference reviewed and adopted the Agenda and Timetable with an amendment on the Timetable (Appendix A).

Matters arising from the World Summit on Food Security and the 36th Session of FAO Conference – Implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA) – Towards a New Vision for the Decentralized Offices Network

26. The document ARC/10/2 reports on the World Summit on Food Security held in Rome from 16-18 November 2009, which adopted a Declaration consisting of four strategic objectives and five Rome Principles for eradicating hunger from the world at the earliest possible date. The document also reports on the Thirty Sixth Session of the FAO Conference held in Rome from 18-23 November 2009 which discussed the current state of food and agriculture. It also reviewed the work of the Organization, endorsed the FAO Strategic Framework 2010-2019, the Medium Term Plan 2010-13, and adopted the Programme of Work and Budget for 2010-11. In addition, the document reports on the overall progress made on the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA), which was appreciated by the Conference, and its impact on the Decentralized Offices (DOs) network. The document includes an Addendum on a medium to long term vision for the DOs network which was prepared at the request of CoC-IEE, with the endorsement of the Conference, for discussion and advice from the Regional Conferences.

27. In the presentation of the document to the Regional Conference by the Secretariat, the outcomes of the World Summit on Food Security and the Thirty Sixth Conference were highlighted. It was also pointed out that the Summit supported the work of regional development frameworks such as the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) under NEPAD. In relation to the Immediate Action Plan (IPA), the overall progress made, and the impact on the Decentralized Offices (DOs) network was presented. Major actions already completed or on going including TCP decentralization, greater authorities to DOs on procurement, and transfer of management of Regional Technical Officers and of oversight, administrative and financial responsibility of FAOR's to the Regional Office were clarified. In presenting the addendum it was pointed out that major efforts have been made in regard to decentralization over past years. The Management's medium to long term vision on the structure and functioning of the DOs network was highlighted, with a request for comment and advice on the vision, as well as on the suggestions in the document about structure and functioning.

28. The Regional Conference:

- endorsed the vision, as well as the proposals on structure and functioning, contained in the addendum to Document ARC/10/2;
- expressed the view that the criteria on country coverage provided in the IPA were theoretically good but not practical, particularly in the case of Africa; and
- the measures introduced by management were an effective way to address the structural deficit in the FAOR network budget.

29. The Regional Conference recommended that

- the special needs of Africa be kept in mind and that a strong network of country offices, which was essential to meet these needs, be provided;
- multiple accreditation for country offices would not be suitable for African countries who had urgent and pressing needs for help and support;
- FAO should maintain and possibly increase the number of country offices in the Region;
- DOs should be strengthened through both financial and technical resources and there should be better training for staff in these offices;
- there should be improved and more transparent criteria for FAOR appointment;
- in order to avoid FAO Representative positions being vacant for prolonged periods, there should be a time limit for Member countries to provide feedback on proposed appointments made by the Director General.
- conduct of the Africa Regional Conference be reviewed to include a follow up mechanism on the implementation of Conference decisions and reporting of outcomes.
- relationship between permanent representatives of African countries at the FAO in Rome and the regional offices be strengthened

Reform of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

30. The Regional Conference welcomed the presence of the Chair of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and the elements of the reform presented in Document ARC/10/3. The Regional Conference emphasized importance of reflecting national and regional diversity, as well as the multi-stakeholder consultative process. In addition, the Regional Conference highlighted the importance of inter-sessional activities that are fundamental to the new CFS and should include specific case studies.

31. The Regional Conference supported the proposal for the creation of a regional ad hoc steering group in support of the CFS reform. The steering group could be led by the standing Chair of the Regional Conference for Africa, who would work in collaboration with voluntary Members. This steering group would make initial consultations at sub-regional level and make proposals at the 36th Session of CFS in October 2010 regarding the involvement of regional, sub-regional and other bodies in the multi-stakeholder process. It will also develop and present a draft document with proposals for a cost effective south-south cooperation initiative to strengthen national and regional institutions for food security governance, as proposed by the CFS Chair.

32. The Regional Conference expressed some concerns on the need to improve coordination among national, sub-regional and regional groups and recommended that the steering group addresses this issue.

II PROGRAMME AND BUDGET MATTERS

Report on FAO Activities in Region, (2008-2009) and actions taken on the main recommendations of the 25th FAO Conference for Africa

33. The Regional Conference endorsed the report which highlighted the key outcomes of the activities of the Regional Office for Africa and the sub-Regional Offices during 2008-2009 on the implementation of the recommendations of the 25th ARC, and the field programme. The Secretariat informed that about 69% of available resources were applied to field programme.

Implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11 and Areas of Priority Actions for the African Region in the following biennium

34. In adopting the FAO Strategic Framework 2010-19, the FAO Conference in 2009 put in place a new results-based approach to programme planning, implementation and reporting for the Organization. Members defined clear goals and objectives that they aim to achieve with the help of FAO, incorporating the Millennium Development Goals to reduce hunger by half and make sustainable use of natural resources in food, agriculture and rural development. The FAO Conference in 2009 also adopted a renewed and more inclusive inter-governmental process for review of programme and budget priorities and proposals. The five Regional Conferences are now an important part of this process as they report to the Council through the Programme and Finance committees on FAO performance for the previous biennium and priorities for the current and future biennia.

35. Taking into account sub-regional and country needs, the Regional Office for Africa proposed six main priority areas of FAO technical assistance for the next biennium to the Regional Conference for Africa. These six priority areas are: promote sustainable increase in agriculture production and crop diversification; promote sustainable use and management of natural resources, including land and water, fisheries and forestry; support market access and sanitary measures for better trade; stimulate information and knowledge management; incorporate emergency preparedness and risk management; and formulate and implement effective agricultural policies, while integrating gender concerns as a cross-cutting issue.

36. The Regional Conference:

- appreciated the coherence between the proposed priority areas and the CA ADP objectives; and
- endorsed the priority areas for 2010-11 and 2012-13
- recommended that FAO:
 - supports Member Countries to prepare appropriate investment plans; and
 - ensures that sufficient data will be available to monitor the results by the end of 2013.

Establishment of One Global Shared Services Centre

37. The Organization has established a Shared Services Centre with hubs in Bangkok, Budapest and Santiago to provide low cost and location independent “back office” administrative services and support functions as effectively and efficiently as possible. Reviews carried out during 2008-2009 revealed opportunities to achieve further efficiencies through consideration of a single hub structure. The Organization will carry out additional analysis of such opportunities to assess the effectiveness of services delivered and validate further potential savings. In line with guidance from the Council, the Organization will finalize the business case for a global SSC based on an in-depth analysis, taking into consideration the results of consultations with the Regional Conferences.

38. The Conference

- requested the carrying out of proper in-depth evaluation of the proposal of a global SSC, including for sustainability, and eventual endorsement by the Finance Committee and Council, for inclusion in the next Programme of Work and Budget

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

39. The Conference had on its agenda two discussion items:

- i) FAO Support to the Accelerated implementation of CAADP
- ii) Climate change implications for food security and natural resources management in Africa

40. The Report of the Technical Committee, ARC/10/TC, was presented by the Rapporteur for consideration and adoption by the Conference. The Report was adopted with amendments, see Appendix H.

FAO Support to the Accelerated implementation of CAADP

41. The Conference recommended that FAO continues and intensifies its support to the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Planning and Implementation Agency, the Regional Economic Communities and the member countries to:

- strengthen institutional and human capacity building, especially in developing post-compact investment programmes and sector policies.
- raise awareness about CAADP and the visibility of the related interventions at the national/regional level.
- advocate resource mobilization and follow-up to ensure that pledges already made are honoured.
- disseminate new technologies, appropriate policies and strategies to ensure that the objectives of the CAADP are not compromised.
- mainstream CAADP into national planning process and to reinforce gender concerns in both the CADP Compact and post-Compact processes.
- ensure that the multiplicity of development initiatives at the national level are coordinated and streamlined with that of the overall CAADP objectives.
- monitor and evaluate the achievement of CAADP targets including the Maputo 10% budgetary allocation to agriculture and rural development.
- facilitate south-south cooperation to improve the post-compact interventions
- provide clarity on the issues in its future support to CAADP Compacts as there seems to be a general misunderstanding of the relationship between the BIPPS prepared in 2004 and the post-CAADP investment plans.

Climate change implications for food security and natural resources management in Africa

42. The Conference noted that

- climate change is a complex and important issue which has direct implications on food security and natural resources management.

- Africa faces serious concerns from climate change which are directly linked to food insecurity.
- climate change needs to be addressed primarily at national and regional level alongside other crosscutting issues as a block. There are many links and consequences of climate change to forest conservation, competition for natural resources, especially between humans and animals, desertification with special reference to the Sahel; for example, the issue of the receding Lake Chad.
- impact could be mitigated through the efforts of the member countries.

43. The Conference recommended that FAO

- collaborates with national Governments in developing institutional capacity building programmes and creating awareness including integration of indigenous knowledge to assist rural communities understand and cope with climate change and as it relates to food security;
- develops forecasting models, regional and national policy strategies in climatic change mitigation;
- provides access to available facilities such as carbon credit;
- establishes data monitoring systems;
- reviews the possibility of providing technical support in capacity building in simplifying issues and technical support to apply effective technologies such as conservation agriculture and use of germplasm that is locally adapted, as well as considerations of gender issues;
- facilitates the convening of a Ministerial meeting to discuss the impact of climate change, adaptation and mitigation.

IV. OTHER MATTERS

44. The Conference

- expressed concern on the coordination of interventions by UN Bodies at the national and regional level and recommended that FAO initiates a dialogue with other UN partners on facilitating more effective country level assistance on attaining food security.
- recognized the increasing interest of countries to share national experiences and success stories, the Conference *suggested* that provision be made in future conferences for country presentations and information exchange.
- welcomed the declaration of the Civil Society Organizations prepared at their meeting held in Luanda on 5th May 2010 and *recognized* their commitment to attaining food security in the region.
- *approved* the Luanda Declaration on Investing in Agriculture to Ensure Food Security in Africa (Appendix J).

45. At the suggestion of the Republic of Congo, the 26th FAO Regional Conference agreed to honour the Director-General of FAO, Dr. Jacques Diouf.

46. The Conference:
considering:

- the remarkable activities undertaken by FAO in Africa under the leadership of the outgoing Director General of FAO, Dr. Jacques Diouf; and
- the personal commitment and effort of the Director-General of FAO on improving the nutritional level and agricultural production in Africa to combat hunger and poverty to attain food security;

recommended:

- the submission of a proposal to the FAO Council on setting up a food security award in his name at the FAO:
- to the Chairperson, Honourable Afonso Pedro Canga, to kindly solicit the assistance of the President of the Republic of Angola, His Excellency José Eduardo Dos Santos, to submit a request to his peers, during the next African Union Summit, to set up a Jacques Diouf Prize for food security at the African Union.

adopted the vote of thanks below:

We, Representatives of Governments and Delegates of African countries at the 26th FAO Regional Conference for Africa, present our warm appreciation and attest our recognition to His Excellency, Dr. Jacques Diouf, Director-General of FAO, for the very positive results obtained throughout his three successful terms.

V. CONCLUDING ITEMS

List of Topics to be considered for the 27th Regional Conference for Africa

47. Delegates were invited to suggest topics for discussion at the 27th Regional Conference and the following were adopted by the Conference for the selection of key themes by the Secretariat in consultation with the Member Countries :

- Review of agriculture development programme incentives and disincentives and their impact on agricultural productivity
- Gender mainstreaming in food security initiatives at national and regional level.
- Private sector assessment of government incentives
- Initiatives for mitigation and adaptation strategies to climate change
- Progress report on CAADP implementation in the region
- Regional review of fertilizer (including bio-fertilizer) production and availability
- Agro-business and agro-industry development to improve value chain
- Assessment of seeds system in Africa
- GMO issues in African Agriculture - Lessons learnt, taking stock of regulatory aspects, including health and economic impact
- Public /private sector partnership in initiating agricultural programmes to sustain livelihoods and create wealth
- Agricultural mechanisms to increase productivity through livestock, fisheries and forestry.
- Evaluation FAO's post emergency development programme for food security and sustainable livelihoods
- Participation of African countries in setting and implementing international standards in safety and quality of food from plant and animal origin

- South-South Cooperation in agriculture development in the region
- State of staff deployment and budget allocation to Regional Offices in conformity with FAO reform

Date and Place of the Twenty-Seventh FAO Regional Conference for Africa

48. The Conference adopted by acclamation the Republic of Congo's offer to host the 27th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Africa in 2012 and look forward to an agreement on the date in consultation with the Director-General of FAO.

Adoption of the Report of the Conference (including the Technical Committee Report)

49. The Conference considered and, after a few amendments, adopted its Report by acclamation.

50. The Conference was formally closed by the Chairperson, Honourable Afonso Pedro Canga, Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries of Angola after the adoption of the Luanda Declaration on Investing in Agriculture to ensure Food Security in Africa (Appendix I) presented by Honourable José Luís Xavier Mendes, Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Sao Tome and Principe.

51. A Vote of Thanks to the Government of the Republic of Angola was presented by Honourable Jose Maria Veiga, Minister for Environment, Rural Development and Marine Resources of the Republic of Cape Verde.

AGENDA OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Technical Committed Meeting

3 – 4 May 2010

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

1. Opening Ceremony
2. Election of chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and Appointment of the Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

II. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

4. FAO Support to the Accelerated implementation of CAADP
5. Climate Change implications for food security and natural resources management in Africa

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

6. High food prices and food security – threats, opportunities and budgetary implications for sustainable agriculture
7. Challenges and opportunities for bio-fuel production in the Africa countries
8. Summary report of recommendations of regional bodies

IV. OTHER MATTERS

V. CONCLUDING ITEMS

9. Adoption of the Report of the Technical Committee
10. Closure of the Technical Committee Meeting

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

10. Opening Ceremony
11. Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons and Appointment of the Rapporteur
12. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

II. STATEMENTS

13. Statement by the Director-General of FAO
14. Statement by the Independent Chairman of the Council
15. Address by the Representative of the Holy See
16. Statement by the Vice-President of the Republic of Angola

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

17. (a) Matters arising from the World Summit on Food Security and the 36th Session of FAO Conference, notably implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA), including the Decentralized Offices Network
(b) Towards a New Vision for the Decentralized Offices Network
18. Reform of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)
19. Programme and Budget Matters
 - Report on FAO Activities in the Region, (2008-2009) and actions taken on the main recommendations of the 25th FAO Conference for Africa
 - Implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11 and Areas of Priority Actions for the Africa Region in the following biennium
 - Establishment of One Global Shared Services Centre

IV. OTHER MATTERS

20. Report of the Technical Committee including outcomes of the Discussion Items

V. CONCLUDING ITEMS

21. Items to be considered for the 27th Regional Conference for Africa
22. Date and Place of the 27th Regional Conference for Africa
23. Adoption of the Report of the Conference
24. Closure of the Conference

LIST OF DELEGATES
LISTE DES DÉLÉGUÉS

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
COMITE TECHNIQUE

Chairperson: Président:	Jose Amaro Tati Ministry of Agriculture
First Vice-Chairperson: Premier Vice-Président:	Crisantos Obama Ondo Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Equatorial Guinea in Italy
Second Vice-Chairperson: Deuxième Vice-Président:	Jose Edardo Barbosa Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Cape Verde in Italy
Rapporteur:	Andree Caroline Mebande Bate Conseiller technique au Ministère de l'agriculture et du développement rural du Cameroon
Co-Rapporteur:	Robert Sabiiti Alternate Permanent Representative, Uganda Embassy in Italy

PLENARY SESSION
SESSION PLENIERE

Chairperson: A Président:	fonso Pedro Canga Minister for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries of Angola
First Vice-Chairperson: Premier Vice-Président:	Teodoro Nguema Obiang Mangue Minister for Agriculture and Forestry of Equatorial Guinea
Second Vice-Chairperson: Deuxième Vice-Président:	Jose Maria Veiga Minister for Environment, Rural Development and Marine Resources of Cape Verde
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LISTE OF DOCUMENTS

ARC/10/1	Provisional Annotated Agenda
ARC/10/2	Matters arising from the World Summit on Food Security and the 36 th Session of FAO Conference, notably Implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA), including the Decentralized Offices Network
ARC/10/2 Addendum	Towards a New Vision for the Decentralized Offices Network
ARC/10/3	Reform of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)
ARC/10/4	Report on FAO Activities in the Region (2008-09) and actions taken on the main recommendations of the 25 th FAO Regional Conference for Africa
ARC/10/5	Implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11 and Areas of Priority Actions for the Africa Region in the following biennium
ARC/10/6	Establishment of One Global Shared Services Centre
ARC/10/7	FAO Support to the Accelerated implementation of CAADP
ARC/10/8	Climate change implications for food security and natural resources management in Africa

INF SERIES

ARC/10/INF/1	Information Note
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ARC/10/INF/3	Provisional List of Documents
ARC/10/INF/4	Statement by the Director-General
ARC/10/INF/5	High food prices and food security – threats, opportunities and budgetary implications for sustainable agriculture
ARC/10/INF/6	Challenges and opportunities for bio-fuel production in the African countries
ARC/10/INF/7	Summary report of recommendations of FAO regional bodies

**Statement by the
Director-General of FAO
Luanda, Angola, 06 May 2010**

*Mr Chairperson,
Mr Chairperson of the Council,
Distinguished Ministers,
Honourable Delegates,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

It is an honour and a great pleasure to be here with you today in this beautiful city of Luanda for the Twenty-sixth FAO Regional Conference for Africa.

On behalf of the Organization and all of you, I should like to express our gratitude to the President of the Republic of Angola, His Excellency José Eduardo Dos Santos, to his Government and to the people of Angola for hosting this Conference and for their generous hospitality.

State of food insecurity in the world and in the region

The work of this Regional Conference takes place while the serious financial and economic crisis is not yet over. It has led to economic recession in many countries, affecting the poorer countries and populations in particular. The world population is expected to reach 9.1 billion in 2050. Food production will have to increase by 70% worldwide and to double in the developing countries if we are to meet food requirements. But we now have more than 1 billion people in the world who are suffering from hunger, which is 105 million more than in 2008. As a result, one-sixth of humanity is hungry and malnourished.

In sub-Saharan Africa, since 2009, over 269 million people are malnourished and 30 percent of the population suffers from hunger. This situation clearly demands our urgent undivided attention.

The World Summit on Food Security organized by FAO in Rome in November 2009 pledged to eradicate hunger in the world.

The developing countries are more integrated into the world's financial and commercial activities because of economic globalization. This has raised their exposure to shocks in international markets, resulting in widespread reductions in their financial and trade flows and in funds available for development programmes.

The crisis has however placed agriculture and food security at the heart of national and regional development policies and programmes, which allows us to look to the next decade with greater optimism. This new order of priorities should be an opportunity to support small producers and strengthen family farming.

Agricultural development in the region in 2008-2009

Africa is rich in ar able land, water and labour. With appropriate policies, it could increase its agricultural production, its income and its food security. Africa accounts for 2 to 3% of world Gross Domestic Product (GDP); its agricultural GDP accounts for just over 5% of the world total; its trade in agricultural commodities is less than 2% and declining. Agriculture is not always a regional priority, even though it employs 57% of the region's workforce and accounts for 20% of its GDP and 11% of its exports.

Agriculture remains the key to future industrialization and poverty reduction. It also has a strong multiplier effect on economies of between 1.5 and 2.7%. Agricultural production in the region has increased mainly on account of more cropland, which has expanded at 7 to 20% per year during the past 20 years.

Since the 1970s, agricultural imports have continued to outpace exports. Africa is becoming a larger net importer of food commodities. Each year it spends 33 billion US dollars on agricultural imports, mostly foodstuffs, while its exports have stood still at 14 to 15 billion US dollars.

Crops

In 2008, Africa produced 152.3 million tonnes of cereals, up 12% from the previous year. Forecasts for 2009 are that Africa's cereal production could reach 160 million tonnes.

Livestock

Livestock represents 35% of the region's GDP, or 4.4% of the global value of livestock products. Annual growth in meat, milk and egg production remains between 2 and 3%, while the corresponding developing country average is over 4%.

Although Africa is the continent with the most forage resources, its livestock development has lagged behind the other continents. Its growth has not matched population growth, especially in sub-Saharan Africa.

Fisheries and aquaculture

African fisheries production has levelled off at some 8 million tonnes per year, with 90% of this coming from small producers. Fish is the main source of protein for the bulk of the African population but *per capita* fish consumption is only 7.6 kg per year, which is half the world average. Africa is also the only region in the world in which fish consumption is decreasing.

Historically, aquaculture has only contributed modestly to food security and economic development in the region. However, the sharp investment focus on African aquaculture has produced a much greater availability of farmed fish on local markets.

Forestry

Africa has about 674 million hectares of forest, or 17% of global forest cover. However, the region also suffers extensive losses. In the ten years between 2000 and 2010 the region's forest cover diminished by 3.4 million hectares each year (or 0.49%).

There is therefore an urgent need for appropriate strategies and new mechanisms to combat forest degradation and deforestation in the region.

*Mr Chairperson,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Main challenges for the region

The causes of food insecurity in Africa remain the same as those I mentioned at the last Regional Conference in 2008 in Nairobi. Water control is the determining factor for securing production and rapidly raising agricultural productivity in Africa, where less than 4% of renewable water resources are used, compared to 20% in Asia. Ninety-three percent of Africa's arable land is dependent on unpredictable rainfall, with a greater risk of drought because of climate change.

The use of modern inputs is very inadequate. Africa applies only 16 kilos of fertilizer per hectare, compared to 152 kilos in South America and 162 kilos in Asia. The level is even lower in sub-Saharan Africa which only applies 9 kilos per hectare. The improved seeds that fuelled the Green Revolution in Asia and Latin America are rarely used in Africa, where only one-third of seeds are systematically controlled and certified. Transport infrastructure and storage and packaging facilities are lacking. Rural roads are comparable to those of India in the early 1970s. Harvest losses can amount to 40%, even 60% for certain products. And transboundary animal and plant pests and diseases pose a serious threat to Africa's food security.

Underinvestment in agriculture is the core reason for underdevelopment of the sector and hunger in Africa. The share of worldwide Official Development Assistance (ODA) devoted to agriculture, forests and fisheries has fallen from 19% in 1980 to 5% today. In response to the Maputo Declaration in 2003, only nine countries currently allocate at least 10% of their national budgets to agriculture and rural development. It is however encouraging to note the policy change at the G8 meeting in L'Aquila in July 2009 which advocated greater production from small farmers in the food-deficit developing countries, a change that was echoed at the FAO World Summit on Food Security last November. The Heads of State and Government pledged to boost the share of ODA allocated to agriculture and food security, on the basis of requests from individual countries.

*Mr Chairperson,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme

I am pleased to note that the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme of NEPAD, the CAADP, for which we have all worked so tirelessly, is being adopted by a growing number of countries. In this context, FAO helps update national strategies for the development of agriculture and food security. Implementation of the CAADP requires an annual investment of some 25 billion US dollars. CAADP round tables have so far led to the signature of Compacts for 18 African countries. FAO helped prepare those Compacts. FAO is also providing assistance to several countries in the drafting of corresponding investment plans. It will reply favourably to requests from other countries seeking FAO assistance in their post-Compact process.

Global and regional challenges

Food security faces many new challenges: climate change, increased demand in terms of quantity and quality, competition from biofuels whose production tripled between 2000 and 2008. There is also rapid population growth, urbanization and migration, animal and plant disease and volatility of agricultural prices.

(Climate change and bioenergy)

Mitigating the impacts of climate change will largely depend on progress in producing plant varieties and animal breeds that are better adapted to changing ecosystems and on greater investment in irrigation, rural and communication infrastructure and sustainable resource management. FAO is promoting the use of conservation farming techniques which enrich soil with organic matter, raise soil humidity and increase carbon sequestration.

The production of bioenergy under appropriate conditions could help raise rural income, provided prudent policies and regulations are adopted that can balance food security and large-scale biofuel production.

At the Copenhagen Summit on climate change in December 2009, the developed countries pledged an additional 30 billion US dollars in the period 2010-2012 for developing countries, small island states and Africa, divided equally for adaptation and mitigation. The agreement calls for the establishment of a “Copenhagen Green Climate Fund” as the operating arm of the Accord’s financial mechanism. The fund will support projects, programmes, policies and other activities in developing countries related to mitigation, adaptation, capacity building, development and transfer of technology.

(Soaring food prices)

The spectacular rise in food prices in 2007-2008 and the global recession have exacerbated poverty and food insecurity in many African countries, where more than 50% of household income is spent on food. The latest assessment of countries facing food emergencies identifies 33 such countries, with 22 in Africa.

In the framework of FAO’s Initiative on Soaring Food Prices launched in December 2007, 35 African countries have received technical and financial assistance from the Organization’s own resources, for a total of 15.7 million US dollars. The European Union’s Food Facility has contributed 317.5 million US dollars to improve small farmer access to inputs and quality services. A number of African countries should be beneficiaries of this initiative.

*Mr Chairperson,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Agenda of the Conference

This Twenty-sixth Regional Conference will be informed of FAO activities and will be examining issues that impact on millions of people in the region. The Conference will also discuss priority themes, including:

- FAO support for accelerated implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme;
- implications of climate change for food security and natural resource management in Africa;

- implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal in relation to the issue of FAO's decentralized offices network;
- reform of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

A Forum on Investment in African Agriculture has been organized as a side event of the Conference. You will also be briefed on the results of regional processes including the work of the commissions on agricultural statistics, fisheries and forestry.

FAO reform

FAO is currently undergoing the most profound process of reform to take place within the United Nations system. It is renewing all its work arrangements and the way it performs its mandate and delivers its services to member countries.

Implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action has been the primary objective of both the Member Nations and the Secretariat since it was adopted at the Special Session of the FAO Conference in November 2008. The main elements of the Immediate Plan of Action are:

- adoption of a planning framework and a new results-based culture;
- decentralization and greater delegation of authority;
- organizational streamlining;
- improved management of human resources;
- more effective governance.

Since January, the regional offices have been responsible for overseeing the budget and programme for technical officers in the region. They will gradually assume leadership of the substantive work of country offices. In addition, the staff of regional offices have been trained to take responsibility for the Technical Cooperation Programme.

To facilitate the alignment of our administrative structure with a results-based framework, a comprehensive restructuring of FAO Headquarters was initiated in 2009 and is due for completion in 2012. A key element of this exercise has been the elimination of 40 Director-level positions to produce a flatter organizational structure and hierarchy.

The Independent Chairperson of the Council will explain these activities in more detail, especially at the level of Representatives of the Member Nations.

Reform of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

Last November, the 36th session of the FAO Conference approved another significant reform, that of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). The purpose of CFS reform is to improve governance of world food security, using existing structures and programmes and creating effective partnerships.

The renewed CFS has the following important characteristics:

- it is a global forum for discussion to foster a convergence of views on the causes and consequences of food insecurity and on the modalities of necessary action;
- it is a mechanism for the global coordination of efforts to eliminate hunger and ensure their long-term coherence and effectiveness;

- it operates on a solid scientific basis and includes a High-Level Panel of Experts that will help it make the right decisions by providing objective and impartial research and analysis;
- it is open to all stakeholders and includes representatives of governments, regional and global institutions, economic and financial partners, farmer organizations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, foundations and civil society.

But if the CFS is to serve as a platform for high-level intergovernmental decision-making and thus to acquire political credibility, governments must be represented at ministerial level at its meetings. Equally important, in addition to the line ministries and their technical departments, ministers of cooperation and development must also participate in discussions on key economic and financial issues.

At the national level, it is essential to establish partnerships involving Food Security Thematic Groups and National Alliances Against Hunger, which will need to be strengthened. These two mechanisms should support the national authorities in ensuring a rational allocation and utilization of budgetary resources, Official Development Assistance, domestic private investment and foreign direct investment.

Thus the new Committee on World Food Security, its High-Level Panel of Experts and the national mechanisms will provide the cornerstone of the Global Partnership for Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition.

Conclusion

*Mr Chairperson,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Only five years separate us from 2015, the date by which the 192 member governments of the Organization pledged, in 1996, to halve the number of people suffering from hunger. I remain convinced that with the political will and good governance, Africa will be able to develop its agriculture in order to adequately feed its population. This political will was expressed in the Maputo Declaration of 2003, reiterated in the Abuja Declaration on Food Security of 2006 and subsequently reaffirmed in different plans for implementation of the CAADP. It must now translate into coherent, realistic programmes that can be rapidly implemented to achieve the objectives that have been set.

The problem of food insecurity is a political issue. It is the decisions of governments that determine the allocation of resources between sectors. I welcome the vision of the serving Chairman of the Assembly of the African Union, His Excellency Mr Bingu Wa Mutharika, President of the Republic of Malawi, as expressed in his investiture speech. He challenged his peers to step from words to deeds by focusing on agriculture and food security so that, five years from now, no African child will be dying of hunger and malnutrition.

With your support and true to its mission, FAO will continue to provide technical assistance to its member countries in formulating and implementing policies, strategies and programmes aimed at overcoming the challenge of food insecurity in Africa and elsewhere.

I thank you for your kind attention and wish you every success in your work.

**Statement by the
Independent Chairman of the Council
Luanda, Angola, 6 May 2010**

*Your Excellency the Representative,
Mr Chairperson of the Conference,
Distinguished Ministers and Heads of Delegation,
Mr Director-General,
Madam Representative of the FAO Regional Office for Africa,
Honourable Delegates and Observers,
(Civil Society, Regional Organizations, as appropriate...)
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Introduction

May I be permitted, on behalf of the Council of FAO, to express my warmest thanks to the Government of the Republic of Angola for having organized this Regional Conference and for having put in place all the necessary facilities. I should also like to thank the Angolan people for their wonderful welcome and their generosity which I was able to experience during visits yesterday.

It is an honour and a pleasure to take part in this Regional Conference. Our session in Luanda is the second of five Regional Conferences in 2010. Last week I was in Panama for the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean, and I can confirm to you that these meetings are now of critical importance given the new role that the member countries have given them under the reform plan adopted in 2008, and for which the Basic Texts were amended in 2009.

The 2010 cycle of Regional Conferences is a landmark in the institutional life of the Organization as it constitutes the first biennium of implementation of the reform plan, the Immediate Plan of Action. Its implementation, financed from the regular budget, is under our collective responsibility and calls for sustained efforts on the part of the member countries, the Secretariat in Rome and the decentralized offices.

As we approach the 139th Session of the Council in May, I wish to take this opportunity:

1. to briefly you on the unfolding of my mandate as Independent Chairperson of the Council and to report to you on the accomplishment of the mission that you have entrusted to me;
2. to provide a progress report on implementation of the reform plan, in my capacity as Chair of the Committee on Reform, and on the functioning of the Open-Ended Working Group on Measures Designed to Increase the Efficiency of Governing Bodies (OEWG), which I also chair;
3. to envision developments for these different bodies.

First, the unfolding of my mandate

You elected me in November. My work is guided by **five principal axes** which I should like to share with you:

1. **Collegiality:** I have introduced a process of **informal coordination** of the Chairs of the Committees with limited membership and the Vice-Chairs of the Committee on Reform whose first meeting was on 9 March. I think the best option is to adopt a consensual and cross-cutting approach to the tasks that lie before us. Regular meetings of this group should facilitate communication and the search for a common vision in order to address the time limits set for our agenda. Broader consultation to involve the Chair of the CFS (Committee on World Food Security) and the Technical Committees of the Council is programmed for early June.
2. **Subsidiarity:** It is essential that the governing bodies maximize the coordination of their actions to avoid duplication and repetition. As we proceed from one level to the next, each level needs to have its added value. I make sure that what is dealt with at one level is not dealt with again at a higher level. In this connection, **intersessional work** is essential and reflects the spirit of reform. Positive initiatives have been taken in this sense. They go in the right direction in that they permit in-depth preparation of the formal sessions.
3. **Ownership:** Essential dialogue within and with the **Regional Groups** must draw upon regular meetings so that each group can express its concerns and proposals. I therefore invited the Chairs of the Regional Groups to working meetings on 15 March, 22 March and 21 April to deal in particular with the topic of **field visits**. I take this opportunity to thank the Chair of the Africa Group, Egypt, and the Vice-Chair, Tanzania, for their active collaboration.
4. **Independence:** Each of you knows that it is important to maintain this criterion, both in relation to the Members and to the Secretariat and the Office of the Director-General, with whom changes are under way in a constructive atmosphere. Rest assured that I view the observance of this independence as crucial to the success of my mission. I strive each day to maintain it, especially in view of the important looming deadlines, including the election of the Director-General in 2011 at the Thirty-seventh Session of the Conference.
5. **Partnership:** Partnership is essential to our mission and we need to find ways of developing it in all its forms: other UN agencies, States, civil society, NGOs and private enterprise.

Second, what is the state of progress of reform?

Reform is under way. The time is ripe for collective action and we need to help maintain the momentum of the reform process, which is still fragile. Together we must counter all forms of inertia, making best possible use of the Organization's human resources, which we all know to be top quality. **Internal communication** is essential for it is the staff who handle the everyday implementation of reform. **External communication** is also essential and each country should play its part.

That is how we can expect concrete results, both in Rome and in your region. The new methods of work and preparation of the Committees with limited membership will lead to even more precise recommendations for the Council in May. And as you know, the Council has been given added responsibilities in planning, establishing priorities, control, oversight and monitoring the implementation of governance decisions. The session of the Council in May will directly benefit from the conclusions of the Regional Conference that gathers us today in Luanda.

The schedule of meetings of the Committee on Reform has been revised so that two can be held before the summer. Following our first meeting of 8 April, I wish to take stock with you on four core processes of our road map:

1. The open-ended working group on the efficiency of the governing bodies: This was formally initiated on 9 April and its tentative work schedule adopted. Intersessional work has been anticipated given the sensitivity of the topic of Representation on the Council.
2. The process of preparation of the informal meeting on the integration of extra-budgetary funding: On 14 April, the joint session of the Finance and Programme Committees underlined the need to define the preparatory conditions for this meeting, scheduled under the IPA. We should address this issue and take decisions at our next meetings on the monitoring of reform.
3. Preparation for election of the Director-General: The address of candidates to the Council and Conference was on the agenda of the session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters which was held last week in Rome. Proposals have been put forward by the Secretariat, mainly on the basis of a comparative analysis of rules and practices in effect in other UN agencies. Recommendations to be transmitted to the Council will be discussed in May. A vacancy announcement for the office of Director-General has recently been posted on the FAO website.
4. Status of the Regional Conferences: The reform of governance introduced significant change at the regional level, with the Regional Conferences now having full governing body status. Henceforth they will be hierarchically linked to the Conference and to the Council, to which they will also report:
 - in the first case, on aspects relating to policy and regulation;
 - in the second case, on matters relating to programme and budget. In this regard the Programme Committee requested that your attention be drawn to the evaluation of FAO's role and work related to water, so that your recommendations can be taken into account when determining the Organization's priorities.

This is a remarkable step towards the consolidation of governance at regional level.

Moreover, as the CFS reports to the Council on programme and budgetary matters, I should like to comment on the work of the Bureau of this Committee, which I consider to be extremely positive. The significant advances that have emerged can only benefit the relationship between the CFS and the Council. This liaison will also facilitate the establishment of the Global Partnership for Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition, involving the specialized agencies in Rome - FAO, IFAD, WFP and Bioversity - as well as the civil society which I met in Rome and here in Luanda for Africa. This Conference will

be examining this issue in detail, as there is a corresponding item on its agenda, in the presence of the Chair of the CFS Bureau.

What is the short-term outlook?

The entry into effect of the new scheduling for the Conference, now to be held in June, will shorten this current biennium by some six months. The agenda is therefore heavy and we will have to make best possible use of the time available.

In this regard, work conducted in informal groups is a good approach, on condition that is transparent, open and compatible with the formal sessions of the governing bodies, whose decisions it must not pre-empt. This approach provides for early and careful preparation of important events, such as the election of the Director-General or consideration of extra-budgetary funding in the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2012- 2013. But it must remain coordinated and aligned with the work of the Committee on Reform, the Council and other formal or informal bodies.

The next meetings of the Committee on Reform will be dealing with the **decentralized offices and staff rotation policy**. These are important issues for **decentralization**, whose discussion could be enlightened by the views and recommendations of the Regional Conferences that will be taking place in the meantime. My meetings with you and with the FAO Country Office in Luanda and the Regional Office for Africa have reassured me that we share the necessary interest in this topic. I will facilitate consideration of the inputs of the Regional Conferences in the decision-making processes, particularly during deliberations of the Council.

The Committees have examined issues of direct relevance to **decentralization**, such as progress in implementing the Technical Cooperation Programme. The Programme Committee specifically recommended that, with support from the Secretariat, I take measures for the **Regional Conferences** to be in a position to formulate precise recommendations to the Council on the priority areas of regions. Mr Chair man, you and your counterparts at the other Regional Conferences have a new role to play for the next conference.

I will implement this recommendation, particularly in the formulation of the next Programme of Work and Budget.

You will also know that my mandate calls for continued contact with institutions dealing with subjects falling within FAO's remit, so that the Council is kept abreast of corresponding developments. In this regard, I wish to inform you that I intend to attend, in July, the 33rd Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and no doubt ECOSOC, and in September the Summit on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), where I shall be meeting other international agencies. I shall also be pursuing my contacts with staff representatives and stepping up my meetings with representatives of civil society, particularly NGOs, and of course WFP and IFAD. I shall make sure that the Council is kept abreast of debates of interest to FAO in other fora, and that dialogue is pursued with other governing bodies, notably those of the other Rome-based institutions dealing with food and agriculture. A specific item on this matter is in fact on the agenda of the Council session taking place in two weeks' time in Rome.

Finally, I have planned several missions to the field to coincide with the Regional Conferences, so that I can meet the beneficiaries of FAO's work and assess the impact of reform. Such is the case this week in Angola. I wish to thank you Mr Minister, your administration and the FAO Representatives for having permitted my first-hand contact with the field.

CONCLUSION

To conclude, I wish to assure you of my complete availability for the mission you have entrusted to me, both in Rome and in the field. I wish to hear your concerns which I am ready to pass on to all Member Countries, whenever necessary.

We need to remain focused on the implementation of reform, homing in on the essentials without reopening settled issues. The road is long and strewn with obstacles. The process is still fragile. We must remain united and committed to make FAO more effective and more responsive at different levels, and we must strengthen the Members' accountability permanently and not just during the Conferences to achieve our primary goal of fighting better against hunger.

Everyone is well aware of the primary role of agriculture in African economies and society. For most African countries, agriculture is the key sector of the economy, including for exports, and has a prominent social impact. African agriculture nevertheless continues to face multiple constraints and challenges that also concern FAO. This Conference is therefore called upon to examine the Programme of Work and Budget for 2010–2011, and also to formulate recommendations on areas of priority action for Africa during the course of the 2012–2013 biennium. In this regard, I note with interest the focus placed on the following regional priorities:

- promoting a sustainable increase and the diversification of agricultural production;
- promoting the sustainable management and utilization of natural resources, including land and water, as well as fishery and forest resources;
- promoting trade through easier market access and stronger sanitary measures;
- adopting and implementing effectual agricultural policies;
- enhancing the management of information and knowledge;
- building capacity to deal with emergency situations and to manage risk.

But I wish to assure you that reform is not an end in itself, but is rather a means of ensuring greater efficiency and effectiveness of FAO at all levels. The Secretariat and Management have already embarked on promising actions for culture change. The regions, including yours, are now better structured to respond to such change.

But also, the Governing Bodies, the Council, the Committees and indeed, I myself, have changed culture to bring each country delegation more closely into the everyday workings of FAO. This is essential if we are to perform our duties to the full, everywhere in the field, in all countries. It is equally important to promote FAO's influence and recognition among international bodies.

Along the lines of action with the CFS (Committee on World Food Security), we have other platforms where stronger cohesion is required (Water, Land, Climate...). We need to

be proactive players in this regard. That is the underlying thrust of FAO reform. And driving us all forward is our haste to eradicate world hunger, once and for all.

I wish you every success in your work and thank you for your kind attention.

Statement by
His Excellency Fernando da Piedade Dias dos Santos,
Vice-President of the Republic of Angola,
at the opening ceremony Luanda on 06 May 2010

(1*)

*HONOURABLE CHAIRMAN OF THE FAO INDEPENDENT COUNCIL;
HONOURABLE FAO DIRECTOR GENERAL;
HONOURABLE FAO REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA;
DEAR MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT;
DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT;
DISTINGUISHED INVITED GUESTS;
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,*

It is with a great pleasure that Angola hosts the 26th FAO Regional Conference for Africa and welcomes all the participants, especially the Ministers of Agriculture from the countries of our Continent, who have the responsibility to materialize and make the theme that we proposed for this conference “**Investment in agriculture to ensure food security in Africa**” effective, by finding the ways to develop agricultural production and, thus, guarantee the sustainable food security in Africa.

The international financial and economic crisis, which weakened the economies of developed countries and affected in a negative manner the economies of the developing, combined with the food crisis and the harmful effects of the climate change, aggravated the most vulnerable people's situation, especially in Africa.

The latest years were particularly difficult for the majority of our countries, in the economic, financial and food security domains.

For us, this Conference will be a great opportunity to share with you the progresses we have been achieving in the development of agriculture and the diversification of our economy, which was for many long years practically dependent on oil and diamonds.

With effective peace and stability obtained in 2002, it was just natural that the non-oil sector, in which agriculture is included, passed from below 5 percent to 58 percent of the Gross Domestic Product, leading to the creation of job posts and the improvement in the quality of living of the populations.

For this, it was necessary to resettle hundreds of thousands of displaced persons refugees and demobilized soldiers and respective families in their zones of origin, providing them with means for their immediate survival and re-launching of their productive activity; to demine the fields; to rehabilitate roads and bridges and to re-establish the normal circulation of persons and goods.

This result reflects the efforts that the Government is doing in order to reactivate and diversify the economy and develop actions in the rural sector which permit to increase the

agriculture production, reduce the external dependence in terms of agricultural and livestock products and to conduct an effective combat against hunger and poverty, preconditions that make sure that it is possible to reach the goals planned for this purpose up to 2015.

Angola has significant and important land resources for the development of agriculture. Out of a total surface of 124 million hectares that the country has, about 35 million are classified as potentially arable, of which 30 million are virgin lands and the remaining 5 million are cultivated lands. Associated to the land are the water resources represented by 47 hydrological basins.

Between 2005 and 2009 the agricultural and livestock production increased and the country already has production surpluses in crops such as cassava.

However, Angola still is in deficit in terms of production of cereals (rice, wheat and maize), meat and dairy products, what forces the country to resort to commercial imports to cover the deficit in terms of these products. But our objective is to reduce the deficits and the imports, increasing the domestic production of these products.

The need to increase the production and productivity in food and commercial crops poses a big challenge to the country. In this conformity, Angola is working in restructuring the Agricultural Research System, in the rehabilitation of the Zoo-technical and Agricultural Research Stations, in granting credits to the small and mid-level producers, in the incentive of the commercialization and the technical assistance to agricultural producers and fishermen, a credit line in the amount of US\$ 350 million having been approved for the purpose.

The government is promoting agro-industrial poles in various localities in the country and projects for the resettlement of the populations to increase the agricultural production, both family and commercial production.

Along with this, the Government is committed to guarantee, in the framework of its "Water for all" programme, the supply until 2010 of potable water not only to the towns and peri-urban areas, but also to the rural zones, and to rationally use the country's water resources in support to the agricultural and industrial activity.

In this context, plans are already identified for the development of the hydrological basins, such as, the Cunene, the Okavango, in the Cubango River, in addition to other projects in other Provinces, and more one hundred million US dollars are earmarked with a view to invest in the irrigated perimeters.

Thus, the Government's strategy continue to materialize as it is defined in the Rural Development and Poverty Reduction Programme and in the National Food and Nutritional Security Strategy, which have the objective to promote a sustainable combat against hunger and the external poverty, guaranteeing the harmonious and integrated development of the communities, contributing to stop the rural exodus.

This way, it becomes possible to improve the payment balance and contribute to the macroeconomic stabilization and reduce the vulnerability of the country's economy to the international fluctuations in the oil prices.

***Dear Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,***

Few days ago, the President of the Republic promulgated the Biofuels Law, approved by the National Assembly (Angolan Parliament), which takes into account the potentialities of the country in the production of agricultural goods, not only for food, but also for the production of biofuels and for the generation of electrical power.

In its general principles, this law establishes that the rational concession of lands for this purpose should be promoted outside the limits of lands with fertile soils, in order to avoid the competition and land conflicts between food production and biofuels production, which should occur on lands of poor agricultural capacity, that is, on marginal lands.

Thus, despite the need to adapt ourselves to the new technologies and integrate other energy sources to the energetic matrix of the country, our highest priority continues to be the production aimed at the satisfaction of the population's food diet.

During this Conference, you will have the opportunity to discuss the red hot issues related to the climate change, which demand to take adequate measures to prevent and attenuate the harmful effects.

You will also address issues related to Food Security stemming from the Last World Summit, held last year in Rome; the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme in the framework of NEPAD, the reform of the Food Security Committee, examine the level of fulfilment of the recommendations adopted in Nairobi, Kenya, and define the Action Plan for 2010/2011.

It is a difficult and ambitious work plan, but I am sure that, with your knowledge and competence, it will be possible to identify funding sources for the agricultural production, both internal and external, in order to ensure the maintenance and enhancement of the agricultural productive capacity in our countries.

It is important that we work in order to, at the level of our countries, create mechanisms for the exchange of technical and scientific knowledge, experiences, including traditional knowledge. We think that FAO might play a fundamental role for the concretization of this purpose.

We must also work towards the adoption of national and regional strategies and programmes in the domains of agriculture, commerce, water and training which can be implemented with the support and experience of FAO and other United Nations Agencies.

Only with the active and interested contribution of all of us, we can achieve the ambitious goals of reducing to half hunger and poverty towards their total eradication from the face of the earth.

***Dear Participants
Ladies and Gentlemen,***

Allow me to avail myself of this solemn occasion to address a word of recognition for the efforts developed along decades by FAO in favour of the development of agriculture in the world and in Africa, in particular.

I equally address a word of appreciation to Dr, Jacques Diouf for the commitment and dedication to the organization and his constant concern with the problems of the eradication of poverty and hunger in the world.

I, therefore, declare the 26th FAO Regional Conference for Africa open.

I wish you many successes in your work!

Long live Africa!

Thank you very much for your attention.

(1) Before his speech, His Excellency Vice-President of the Republic requested the participants present at the Conference to observe a minute of silence in memory of the deceased President of Nigeria, **Umaru Yar'Adua**.*

Statement by the
Outgoing Chairman
Assistant Minister for Agriculture of the Republic of Kenya

Your Excellency, Hon. Jose' Eduardo dos Santos, President of the Republic of Angola
Director General of FAO
Distinguished Ministers
Excellencies
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to take this opportunity to first thank the organizers and the people of the Republic of Angola for the warm welcome and reception accorded to me and my delegation since our arrival in Luanda for the 26th FAO Regional conference.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We still recall the meeting of the 25th Regional Conference held in Nairobi, Kenya and it is my honour to convey warm greetings from His Excellency Hon. Mwai Kibaki, the President of the Republic of Kenya and his wish for successful deliberation.

As you will recall, the last conference was held at a time when the world and in particular Africa was experiencing harsh economic times which led to serious food crisis.

Many of our member countries witnessed stagnation in agricultural productivity, high fertilizer and fuel costs for farm operations, as well as effects of climate change. The situation caused increase in food prices and hence affecting survival of our people especially the most vulnerable in the societies. Many of our people are still living below the poverty line i.e. less than a dollar a day.

The Delegates at the last conference made practical recommendations to resolve the food crisis and indeed looked at the more lasting solutions to the situation in the future. It is my hope that the delegates will be informed about the various measures the member countries are taking to address the situation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to highlight a few of Kenya's achievements on some of the critical areas agreed upon during the last conference:-

Food security remains a critical issue in Kenya since the population living below the poverty line continues to rise and now is estimated at 56% and this may rise to 66% by 2015 if not checked.

Various programmes and projects have been launched and revived over the last few years aimed at achieving this overall goal. Key among these are efforts such as *Njaa Marufuku Kenya* (NMK) programme, and the National Accelerated Agricultural Inputs Access

Programme (NAAIAP) amongst other Government-led interventions to mitigate against hunger and food insecurity.

In an effort to enhance Public-Private Partnerships, the Government is also partnering with various financial institutions to avail affordable credit to farmers in order to facilitate food production under a programme named KILIMO BIASHARA which means 'FARMING AS A BUSINESS'.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

With regard to policy, the agriculture sector ministries did complete the comprehensive National Food and Nutrition Policy which now awaits Cabinet approval. The policy is expected to address the challenges we face in attainment of food security for all.

The Government has also reviewed various policies that affect agricultural production and formulated the National Agriculture Sector Extension Policy (NASEP) to help in addressing all the concerns of technology transfer, food adequacy, nutritional status, monitoring, storage and distribution of food in the country.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In its continued efforts to boost food security, the Government initiated The Economic Stimulus Programme in 2009. One of the major objectives of this programme was to achieve in the long term food self sufficiency for all Kenyans through the rehabilitation and development of irrigation schemes as Kenya uses only one-fifth of its total irrigation potential.

The first phase of the project focused on rehabilitation of infrastructure and optimization of crop production in existing public irrigation schemes under implementation by our Ministries of Agriculture, Water and Irrigation, Regional Development, Youth and Sports. In the first season, the project targeted to produce 329,000 metric tons of maize from 5,640 ha and 565,650 metric tons of rice from 8,380 ha.

So far 3,336 ha. of maize and 12,260 ha. of rice have been planted the latter having surpassed the set target. Harvesting is going on in all the 5 schemes growing maize and in the 5 schemes growing rice.

The Government has so far released over 19 million USD out of the project budget of USD 26 million to the implementing ministries

During the current season, the government has committed itself to support this programme to the tune of USD 11 million for the production of 4,800 ha. of maize and 12,900 ha. of rice. This is in addition to the schemes already in operation

In preparation of phase II, 98 irrigation projects have been identified for consideration which will comprise large scale and smallholder irrigation projects. Preliminary designs are being prepared and will be completed by June 2010.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Government has not forgotten that to achieve the above, concern must be given to environmental conservation and sustainable agriculture. The current forest cover is below 2% which is way below the recommended world standard of 10%. This has led to degradation and consequently the adverse effects of climate change. The Government has formulated Farm Forest Rules for Sustainable Forest Management which when implemented through a Legal Notice under the Agriculture Act will ensure all agricultural land attains a cover of 10%.

With Africa's population growing fast, the demand for food and energy is set to intensify. Despite best efforts, agricultural practices are still compromising the natural resource base that is relied upon for food production. As in the past, science and technology will offer some solutions to this energy crisis and this will require significant policy changes

The future of agricultural policy is complicated by the emerging potential for large scale bio-energy production. In some developed economies, one path to energy dependence lies in the development of renewable energy technologies and policy, such as those that promote the expansion of bio-fuel production.

Other challenges that remain include those of increasing budgetary allocation to agriculture in line with the Maputo declaration and dealing with the vagaries of climate change.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Kenya is committed to the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) under the New Partnership for Africa's Development of the African Union (NEPAD) which was launched in 2006.

In preparation for the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding of CAADP compact, necessary preliminary actions have been accomplished. The Country has further developed Agriculture Sector Development Strategy (2009-2020), Medium Term Plan in the aspirations of Millennium Development Goal No.1 and the Compact. The Agriculture Sector Development Strategy will be launched during the signing of the CAADP Compact and this will enable implementation of the activities to achieve the objectives of the CAADP.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

During the last conference in Nairobi, you accorded us the opportunity to serve as the conference chairman which we indeed took with great honour. You recall we discussed important issues geared towards addressing Agriculture and more specifically food security. Four main recommendations emerged from our meeting in Nairobi touching on water management, trade and investment in Agricultural production, post harvest, and more importantly that the conference recommendations be condensed into a statement to be presented to the African Union and the G8. I am pleased to say that the recommendations of the Nairobi meeting have or are being addressed in various fora.

To mention briefly, FAO, in close collaboration with the African Union, African Ministers' council on water, Africa development bank, hosted the ministerial conference on Water and for Agriculture and energy in Africa: the challenge of climate change in December 2008 in Sirte Libya. Most of the African Nations were represented and you all know the conference underlined promotion of investment in water for Agriculture. Water for agriculture programs are at various levels of implementation in our respective countries.

With reference to addressing trade and increased investment to agriculture, FAO and member countries are working together within the framework of the regional economic to enhance trade capacities. Post harvest activities have also intensified in the region. Enhancement of, and support to food security information system in the region has continued to be a major priority. This includes improved crop quality market price data, and sharing of essential food security information in a more timely manner. I wish to also inform that the summarized recommendations and resolutions were presented at the AU Summit in Sharima el Sheikh in June 2008 and ultimately to the African Union, and subsequently to the G8 Summit held in July 2009 in L'Aquila Italy.

We have learned a lot during our tenure as chair from sharing country experiences and in particular global issues on how each of our countries is coping with the challenges of feeding our nations. We all need to turn these challenges into opportunities and continue to seek partnerships and collaboration while addressing them.

As I conclude we note that the 26th FAO regional conference for Africa is the last with the current Director-General H.E. Jacques Diouf. I wish to take this opportunity to thank him for his tireless efforts and support to member countries in their endeavour to meet their food security objectives through various FAO programs. In particular we congratulate you for initiating the comprehensive reforms that are now beginning to enable FAO deliver services even more efficiently to member countries.

Lastly, let me thank our host the Government of Angola, the Food and Agriculture Organization, Development Partners present, and all UN agencies represented for hosting this successful conference. As we hand over the chairmanship of the regional conference to Angola we are aware that the many countries in Africa are still grappling with hunger and poverty at varying degree of severity and few in the process of recovery. Nevertheless we shall all continue with the hard work that is desperately needed.

It is now my pleasure to hand over the Chairmanship of the conference to Hon. Alfonso Pedro Canga, the Minister for Agriculture Rural Development and Fisheries from the Republic of Angola to steer you through the Conference.

Congratulations and thank you

Assistant Minister for Agriculture
KENYA

Report of the Technical Committee

03 – 04 May 2010

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

Organization

1. The Technical Committee of the Twenty-Sixth FAO Regional Conference for Africa met from 03 to 04 May 2010, at the Belas Conference Centre in Luanda, Republic of Angola.

2. The Meeting was attended by 103 delegates from 35 Member Nations of the Africa Region, 1 observer from Member Nations outside the Region and 12 observers from intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations. The list of delegates is given as Appendix B.

Opening Ceremony (Agenda Item 1)

3. The FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa, Ms. Maria Helena Semedo, welcomed the delegates on behalf of the Director-General of FAO, Mr. Jacques Diouf. She expressed FAO's appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Angola for hosting this Conference and for putting at their disposal the excellent facilities at the Belas Conference Centre in Luanda. She also thanked the National Organizing Committee for the diligence and commitment with which they accomplished their assignment in collaboration with the FAO Conference Secretariat. She also highlighted the major topics to be discussed during the Conference and the opportunities given by the side events to discuss major items such as Direct Investment in Agriculture, Food Security and Production and Protection of Cassava.

4. She indicated that the 26th Regional Conference for Africa is different from previous ones in that it has become part of the FAO Conference structure as that of the references made the Immediate Plan of Action of FAO. Moreover, the Chairman of this Conference will report the outcome to the 37th Session of the FAO Conference in 2011. The outcome will also be communicated to the FAO Council through the Finance and Programme Committees.

5. Ms Semedo reminded the Conference of the important declarations such as the Maputo Declaration of July 2003 that ten percent of the total national budget would be allocated to agriculture and encouraged to ensure its implementation. Further emphasis was made on the Abuja Declaration which calls for the acceleration of the reduction of food insecurity. In her conclusion, she referred to the current Chairman of the African Union (AU) who asked Africa to share a dream that "in five years no African child should die of hunger and malnutrition and no child should go to sleep hungry".

6. The delegates were requested to rise to this challenge not only because it is noble but for safeguarding the dignity of Africa. Towards the end, she reiterated FAO's commitment to make available its experiences and technical information to the Region.

7. Mr. Jose Amara Tati, Secretary of State of Agriculture of the Republic of Angola welcomed participants and opened the Twenty-Sixth Africa Regional Conference, on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries of the Republic of Angola, Mr Afonso Pedro Canga.

8. He spoke of the need to invest in agriculture and noted the issues to be dealt with during the Conference such as the incidence of Climate Change, Opportunities for bio-fuels in Africa, High Food Prices and Natural Resource Management. He urged the participants to draw conclusion from the discussion on specific issues that are relevant to the countries and to Africa in order to report to the Ministerial Meeting for consideration and adoption.

Election of Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and Appointment of Rapporteurs (Agenda Item 2)

9. The Meeting unanimously elected Mr Jose Amaro Tati of the Republic of Angola, Ministry of Agriculture, as its Chairperson.

10. The Meeting then elected, also by acclamation, the rest of the bureau members as follows:

First Vice-Chairperson:	Equatorial Guinea: Crisantos Obama Ondo
Second Vice-Chairperson:	Cape Verde: Jose Edardo Barbosa
Rapporteurs:	Cameroon: Andree Caroline Mebande Bate Uganda: Robert Sabiiti

Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable (Agenda Item 3)

11. The Meeting adopted the Agenda and Timetable with amendments. The Agenda is given as Appendix A, while the list of documents is shown in Appendix C.

II. DISCUSSION ITEMS

FAO Support to the Accelerated implementation of CAADP

12. The Secretariat presented ARC/10/7. Support to the NEPAD agricultural agenda started in 2001, when the Director-General assured African Leaders of FAO's technical assistance. This assistance has since continued. FAO assisted in the formulation of CAADP and its Companion Document, assisted 51 countries to prepare National Medium Term Investment Programmes and Bankable Investment Project Profiles for a total investment of USD26.7 and USD10 billion respectively, and organized or assisted to organize conferences, summits and meetings to popularize CAADP and mobilize resources. Since 2002 FAO continuously provided Senior Advisors to assist NEPAD in implementing its mandate.

13. The focus of ongoing and recent past FAO assistance is on the preparation of CAADP roundtable meetings (6 countries) and operationalizing the Compacts signed in 11 countries and one REC. The strategies for the delivery of FAO support include mobilization of its technical resources in HQ and its decentralized offices, and building partnerships and collaboration with Development Partners. The challenges ahead in the

effective implementation of CAADP include: governments' ownership of CAADP; commitment to meet the 10 percent budget allocation to own the programme; inclusiveness in the CAADP agenda of all local stakeholders; and limitation of FAO capacity to meet requests satisfactorily if the requests are not received on time and appropriately spaced.

14. The conference recommended that FAO continues and intensifies its support to the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Planning and Implementation Agency, the Regional Economic Communities and the member countries to:

- Strengthens institutional and human capacity building especially in developing post-compact investment programmes and sector policies.
- Raise awareness about CAADP and the visibility of the related interventions at the national/regional level.
- Advocate for resource mobilization and follow-up to ensure that pledges already made are honoured.
- Disseminate of new technologies, appropriate policies and strategies to ensure that the objectives of the CAADP are not compromised.
- Mainstream CAADP into national planning process and to reinforce gender concerns in both the CADP Compact and post-Compact processes.
- Ensure that the multiplicity of development initiatives at the national level are coordinated and streamlined with that of the overall CAADP objectives.
- Monitor and evaluate the achievement of CAADP targets including the Maputo 10% budgetary allocation to agriculture and rural development.
- Facilitate south-south cooperation to improve the post-compact interventions
- Provide clarity on the issues in its future support to CAADP Compacts as there seems to be a general misunderstanding of the relationship between the BIPPS prepared in 2004 and the post-CAADP investment plans.

Climate change implications for food security and natural resources management in Africa

15. The Secretariat presented Document ARC/10/8. The key issues and challenges for African food security will arise from climate change. Proposed follow up actions by Africa's governments and possible FAO support in matters of adaptation and mitigation are paramount.

16. Africa has little time, for its already challenged agriculture to adjust and attain sustainable food and economic security. Africa will be more negatively impacted than other regions should global warming exceed 3 °C and food production would fall everywhere. The overall effect of climate change will be to reduce productivity and increased vulnerability.

17. There is need for Africa to act on climate change without abandoning the often and even more urgent war against food insecurity and for its international partners to support climate change response alongside and not as a substitute for ongoing food security and development assistance.

18. Africa's forests can capture carbon credit and increase earnings for this facility from emerging markets. For this, forests must be protected from rapid clearing for farming due to low agricultural productivity. The 'best practices' for mitigation and adaptation are outlined in the document and what can be done to cope with the climate change arena and area where FAO can provide assistance to African countries is also highlighted.

19. The conference

- noted: that climate change is a complex and important issue which has direct implications on food security and natural resource management.
- noted: that Africa faces serious concerns from climatic change which are directly linked to food insecurity.
- noted: that climate change needs to be addressed primarily at national level and at regional level alongside other cross cutting issues as a block. There are many links and consequences of climatic change to forest conservation, competition of natural resources especially between humans and animals, desertification with special reference to the Sahel for example the issue of the receding Lake Chad.
- noted that impact could be mitigated through the efforts by the countries.
- Recommended that FAO:
 - collaborates with national Governments in developing institutional capacity building programmes and creating awareness including integration of indigenous knowledge to assist rural communities understand and cope with climate change and as it relates to food security.
 - develops a programme of forecasting models, establishment of data monitoring systems, regional and national policy strategies in climatic change mitigation as well as in access available facilities such as carbon credit.
 - Reviews the possibility of providing technical support in capacity building in simplifying issues and technical support to apply effective technologies such as conservation agriculture and use of germplasm that is locally adapted as well as considerations of gender issues
 - Facilitates the convening of a Ministerial meeting to discuss the impact of climate change, adaptation and mitigation.

High food prices and food security – threats, opportunities and budgetary implications for sustainable agriculture

20. The Secretariat presented Document A RC/10/INF/5. The major causes behind increasing food prices are associated with the underlining structural deficiencies within Africa's agriculture sector including poor productive capacity and weak market development. Government responses have ranged from price controls, export bans and interventions to support producers through input subsidies and training. The cost of the food crisis has been considerable, placing pressure on available government budget. Increasing official development assistance (ODA) from international donors to regional rural development has been welcomed as evidence of a renewed and heightened policy shift towards agricultural development in Africa.

21. The episode of soaring food prices points to the need for African countries to

design a policy framework that creates the right incentives for gender equitable investment in agriculture and defines the appropriate mix between food and export crops. Africa also needs better infrastructure and extension services; calibration of national trade policies to promote agriculture production; eliminate tariffs on agricultural inputs; provision of training and knowledge to farmers. At the international level, these efforts require increased ODA for investment in infrastructure and agricultural R &D, and removal of distortions in the international agricultural market.

22. FAO's response to high food prices was the Initiative on Soaring Food Prices (ISFP) launched in 2007 to assist member countries implement urgent measures to boost food supply responses and improve access to food in the most affected countries through increased policy support.

23. The Conference:

- complimented FAO for the high quality of the analysis presented in ARC/10/INF/5, clearly illustrating the underlying causes of food prices rising in 2007-08, the trends observed since, the policy responses provided and recommended follow-up actions;
- commended FAO for maintaining the world agenda's attention to Food Security related issues and aiding Member Countries in obtaining the necessary technical and financial assistance, among others through the FAO Initiative on Soaring Food Prices (ISFP);
- recommended that FAO:
 - **Steps up** efforts to provide Member Countries with long term forecasts on expected price increases and to advise on actions to be taken to mitigate the effects of fluctuating food prices;
 - **Continues supporting** Member Countries to prepare agricultural development strategies, including appropriate monitoring systems, that aim to increase production and productivity of family farms;
 - **Assists** countries to promote public and private investment into African agriculture;
 - **Assess the impact of measures put in place by Member Countries against high food prices.**
- recognized the efforts made by African Governments to mitigate the effects of soaring food prices; and
- urged Member Countries to:
 - **continue to facilitate the rehabilitation** of family farms and provide the necessary agricultural infrastructure facilitating their integration in national and international markets;
 - **enhance efforts** to introduce appropriate technology packages promoting efficiency gains in the complete commodity value chain

as recommended by the CAADP and ensure effective implementation of the NEPAD – CAADP process;

- **press forward** with effective follow-up to decisions taken during regional summits like the Abuja fertilizer summit, 2006, share success stories such as the established harmonized seed production system in Eastern Africa and others

Challenges and opportunities for bio-fuel production in the African countries

24. The Secretariat presented Document A/RC/10/INF/6. Agro-fuels are bio-fuels obtained from agricultural by-products (including animal and agro-industrial by-products) which can provide energy development alternatives for the benefit of African countries at national and rural community levels. Overcoming energy poverty is one of the major challenges facing Africa's effort at achieving the MDGs. Africa has a vast potential for renewable and non-renewable sources of energy which remain grossly under-exploited. Since bio-mass constitutes the main form of energy consumed in most sub-Saharan African countries – i.e. charcoal and wood, and there is need to improve the use of that traditional form of energy by adopting improved technologies (cook-stove) or if possible replacing it by other forms, such as fossil gas, bio-gas or other form of renewable energy. This will ensure protection of the environment and the eco-system in general.

25. The Conference noted

- o noted that production of liquid bio-fuels in Africa, such as bio-ethanol and biodiesel, is attracting investment because of the emerging national and international markets for alternative fuel sources.
- o that bio-fuel production in Africa has potential risks which include opportunistic over-exploitation and unsustainable land uses that harm the environment and the local populations; resulting in increase in the value of land which disproportionately favours land consolidation and reduces the access to productive land of small farmers; and opportunities that include improved rural development, food security through higher productivity, affordable energy, diversified income, poverty reduction, and better food processing methods etc.
- o recognized
- o the need for bio-energy policies to address inter-alia rural development; improved livelihoods for rural populations; support to rural production and marketing of bio-energy as well as reduce dependence on imported expensive fossil fuels.
- o that African Governments may have to adopt the participatory approach to bio-fuel development, prioritize national market needs and to develop national sustainability standards such as the Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels (RSB).
- o commended FAO
- o for initiative of FAO to present bio-Fuels production in Africa as a theme for discussion.
- o recommended
- o that the FAO assists not only individual African countries design their national Guidelines on Bio-fuel Strategies and Policies but collaborates with the NEPAD

Secretariat and the AU to adopt a Common African Position on BIO-FUELS.

- Concerning the use of bio-mass as energy source, priority should be given to the application of waste and residues.
- Priority to be given to the use of waste and residues as source for bio-energy
- land use priority be given to ``marginal land`` and/or degraded land.
- priority be given to `perennial crops` rather than annual crops for energy production, and to non food crops (like jatropha....)

Summary of the recommendations of the FAO regional bodies

26. The Secretariat presented Document ARC/INF/7. Recommendations from FAO's regional bodies were presented. The main focus of the **19th CEECAAF¹ Session** was to improve sustainable use and management of fish stock through the formulation of Regional Action Plans on combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, the promotion of an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF), the implementation of instruments elaborated under the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

27. The **21st AFCAS² Session** recognized the usefulness of FAO's Report "State of food and agricultural statistics systems", encouraged Member Countries to link agricultural and population censuses and to use CountrySTAT for wide data dissemination.

28. The **17th AFWC³ Session** recognized the importance of forests and wildlife in reducing poverty, hunger and malnutrition, urged governments to involve local communities in the management of protected areas and the development of ecotourism while ensuring equitable sharing of revenues.

Report of High Level Conference on the Development of Agribusiness and Agro-industries in Africa (HLCD-3A)

29. The conference, whose purpose was to launch the *African Agribusiness and Agro-Industries Development Initiative* (3ADI), took place in Abuja, Nigeria, on March 8–10, 2010. Forty-three African countries, represented by three Heads of state and 30 Ministers took part in the conference hosted by the Federal Government of Nigeria and co-organized with African Union Commission (AUC) in collaboration with AfDB, FAO, UNIDO, IFAD and UNECA.

30. The 3ADI comprises a financial support facility consisting of public and private channels, with a cluster-based funding arrangement to address various sizes of enterprises and with equity, guarantee and risk sharing windows. The 3ADI received very positive support and its financial mechanism design process was given a strong impetus.

31. The delegates of the referred conference had provided very positive feedback on

1 CEECAAF = *Fisheries Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic*, 19th Session, 2008

2 AFCAS = *African Commission on Agricultural Statistics*, 21st Session, 2009

3 AFWC = *African Forestry and Wildlife Commission*, 17th Session, 2010

the 3ADI concept, endorsed under the Abuja declaration.

32. The Conference noted the recommendations of the FAO regional bodies and the outcomes of the H LCD-3A and recommended that the follow-up to the H LCD recommendations to be presented at 27th Session.

List of Topics to be considered for the 27th ARC

33. List of topics to be considered for 27th Africa Regional Conference:

- Review of agriculture development programme incentives and disincentives and their impact on agricultural productivity
- Gender mainstreaming in food security initiatives at national and regional level.
- Platform for private sector to assess/evaluate the incentives being put forward by government
- Initiatives for mitigation and adaptation strategies to climate change
- Progress report on CAADP implementation in the region
- Regional review for fertilizer production and availability including bio-fertilizer
- Agro-business and agro-industry development in improving the value chain process
- Assessment of seeds system in Africa
- GMO issues in African Agriculture - Lessons learnt, taking stock of regulatory aspects including health and economic impact
- Public /private sector partnership in initiating agricultural programmes to sustain livelihood and create wealth
- agricultural mechanism to increase productivity through livestock, fisheries and forestry.
- evaluation FAO's post emergency development programme for food security and sustainable livelihood
- Participation of African countries in setting and implementing international standards in safety and quality of food from plants and animals origin
- South-South Cooperation in agriculture development in the region
- Take stock of deployment of staff and budget allocated to Regional Office in conformity with FAO reform
- Review the conduct of Africa Regional Conference to include the establishment of a follow up mechanism on the implementation of conference decisions and reporting on outcomes.

Other Matters

- The Conference expressed concern on the coordination of interventions by UN Bodies at the national and regional level and recommended that FAO initiates a dialogue with other UN partners on facilitating more effective country level assistance on attaining food security.
- Recognizing the increasing interest of countries to share national experiences and success stories and suggested that provision be made in future conferences for country presentations and exchange.
- Recommended the strengthening of the relationship between permanent representatives of African countries at the FAO in Rome and the regional offices.

APPENDIX I

**Statement by Ms. Maria Helena Semedo
Assistant-Director General
Regional Representative for Africa
During the Opening Ceremony of the Technical Committee Meeting**

*Mr Chairperson,
Mr Chairperson of the Council,
Distinguished Ministers,
Your Excellencies, Representatives of the Diplomatic Corps and International
Organizations,
Honourable Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

It is for me a real pleasure and an honour to welcome you all on behalf of the Director-General of FAO, Dr Jacques Diouf, to this meeting of the Technical Committee of the 26th FAO Regional Conference for Africa, held in Luanda.

Your presence here is testimony – as if that were needed – of your continued commitment and dedication to working alongside FAO to achieve food security and of the importance of the issues that you will be discussing in the coming days.

On behalf of FAO and the Honourable Delegates, I should like to solemnly thank the Government of the Republic of Angola for hosting this important Conference, for the quality of the facilities made available and for the warm and fraternal welcome that we have received since our arrival in this beautiful, historic city of Luanda.

My sincere thanks also go to the President and all members of the National Organizing Committee for their diligence and commitment in discharging their duties, in collaboration with the FAO Secretariat responsible for the Conference. *Muito obrigado.*

Distinguished Delegates, Honourable Guests,

As you know, the general context of economic recession and food crisis that the world has experienced since our 25th Regional Conference in Nairobi in 2008 is still very much with us and the effects are acutely felt by the poorest populations.

More than one billion people across the world are suffering from hunger and malnutrition. In 2008, sub-Saharan Africa had 212 million people suffering from hunger. As a result of the food crisis that followed the price surge of 2007-08, this figure rose to 265 million in 2009, which is nearly 30 percent of the total population. Whereas Africa was a net exporter of food commodities at the time of independence in the 1960s, our continent has gradually become a net importer, with current food imports amounting to 33 billion USD against only 14-15 billion USD of exports.

This untenable situation is a challenge to us all, at a time when many countries of the Region are commemorating the 50th anniversary of their independence. If I may, I shall not dwell on the causes and characteristics which are familiar to you all. The enormous challenge facing us is to feed a growing world population expected to reach 9 billion by 2050 (including almost 2 billion in Africa), to satisfy growing demand for biofuels, which will exert added pressure on natural resources, and to ensure the sustainable management of limited natural resources in a context of worrying threats from the climate change that disproportionately impacts on Africa.

I think it is appropriate to recall some of the important elements of the World Summit on Food Security of last November in Rome, which we must now draw upon:

- the need to redouble our efforts to achieve the World Food Summit target and the Millennium Development Goal of eradicating hunger as soon as possible;
- the commitment to strengthen international coordination and governance of food security by implementing reform of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS);
- the need to reverse the declining trend of national and international public and private financing earmarked for agriculture, food security and rural development, especially in our Region.

The Summit Declaration also explicitly calls for support to regional development frameworks such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) of the NEPAD which, as you know, has now become part of the African Union as the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency. FAO is pleased to have helped with the formulation of the CAADP and with its current implementation through the CAADP Compacts which have now been signed by 18 African countries. Our Organization is providing the technical assistance needed to prepare investment plans relating to this important continent-wide process.

It is against this backdrop that I would like you to review the recommendations that you made two years ago in Nairobi and to propose/adopt other measures aimed at accelerating the eradication of hunger and the economic development of our beloved Region.

Mr Chairperson, Honourable Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I should like to draw your kind attention to a specific characteristic of this 26th FAO Regional Conference which is intrinsic to implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action, in the context of FAO renewal towards 2013. In contrast to previous editions, our Regional Conferences will now become governing bodies of FAO, thus helping to strengthen coherence between FAO's priority areas at regional level and its global strategic objectives. Under this happy perspective, the decisions taken at this Conference will be directly reported by the Chairperson to the 37th Session of the Conference of FAO in 2011.

These provisions are consistent with the strengthening and acceleration of the decentralization process that has now been initiated and that gives the decentralized offices a greater role in strategic planning, priority setting and resource mobilization. Decentralization of the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) and of some management responsibilities and coordination of the network of FAO Representations is already in effect. This should improve the ability of the decentralized offices to respond more effectively to country, subregional and regional needs.

Implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget for 2010-11 and the priority areas for action in the African Region will be presented at this Conference.

Mr Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates,

Two important documents on key areas in the blueprint for sustainable food security will be submitted for your consideration in the coming days. These are: i) FAO support for implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP); and ii) the impact of climate change on food security and natural resource management in Africa.

The outcome of your discussions and your recommendations will be transmitted to the Ministerial Segment of this Conference for consideration and adoption.

A number of background papers on other issues related to the overall theme of this Conference will also be submitted to your attention, including:

- High food prices and food security – threats, opportunities and budgetary implications for sustainable agriculture;
- Challenges and opportunities for biofuel production in the African countries.

A series of side events on key topics is also envisaged:

- a session on key issues relating to direct investment in agriculture in Africa and the underlying principles for a code of voluntary conduct;
- a session on building national and regional institutions to govern food and nutrition security in the context of reform of the Committee on World Food Security;
- a session on cassava production and protection in Africa.

Mr Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our Region faces major challenges in the field of food security and general agricultural development. Among those challenges, I should like to single out underinvestment in agriculture which has caused the agricultural sector to underperform. As you know, the overall share of official development assistance allocated to agriculture (as broadly defined) has fallen from 19% in the 1980s to only 5% today. The pledge made by the Heads of State in Maputo in July 2003 to earmark at least 10% of national budgets to agriculture over five years is an encouraging sign, which now needs to be rapidly activated.

It was under the same optic that the AU Summit on Food Security, held in Abuja in December 2006, called for acceleration in the reduction of food insecurity by mobilizing African resources to produce the foodstuffs that Africa needs and putting an end to the costly food imports that I referred to earlier.

I should also like to recall the conclusions of the Ministerial Conference on Water for Agriculture and Energy, held in Sirte in December 2008, and jointly organized by FAO, the African Union and NEPAD, for which a portfolio of 1000 short-, medium- and long-term investment projects and programmes had been prepared for each of the 53 African countries, together with a total funding envelope of 65 billion US dollars.

It is heartening to note that the current international environment is quite friendly towards agriculture. The attitude of major donors, both bilateral and multilateral (World Bank, European Union, G8 in particular) appears to favour robust action against hunger. In this connection, I should like to mention the renewed commitment of the World Bank towards Africa's agricultural sector and the G8 meeting in L' Aquila (Italy) which announced the mobilization of 20 billion USD over three years to benefit small producers in the food-deficit developing countries. Of course, these commitments must now rapidly translate into tangible actions.

Mr Chairperson, Honourable Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

To conclude, I should like to cite the President of the African Union elected in January 2010, President Bingu Wa Mutharika of Malawi, who requested " *the AU Assembly to share the dream that five years from now no child in Africa should die of hunger and malnutrition. No child should go to bed hungry*". This relevant and timely request challenges us to bring about food security, not only because this is a noble objective in itself, but also because we need to safeguard Africa's dignity. We therefore clearly know what needs to be done and we have the necessary leadership, vision and ambition to rise to the challenges of agriculture for our Region.

I am confident that the fruitful discussions and exchanges that will take place over the next few days will lead to useful proposals and recommendations that can translate in to concrete actions on the ground, in a spirit of results-based management and accountability.

I should like to close by reiterating FAO's commitment to make its technical expertise and experience available to the Member Nations of the Region, in contribution to our common struggle to achieve the noble goal of food security, as envisioned by President Mutharika.

Thank you for your kind attention.

**Luanda Declaration on Investing in Agriculture
to ensure Food Security in Africa**

We the African Ministers of Agriculture, meeting in Luanda, Angola during the 26th FAO Regional Conference for Africa from 3-7 May 2010 express our sincere appreciation to the government and people of the Republic of Angola for the kind invitation, warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for hosting this event organised to enable us chart the way towards a prosperous agriculture for food security and defeating rural poverty.

1. **Believing** that inadequate investment is at the root of slow progress our region is making in agriculture and therefore in achieving food security, call for additional investments to meet targets for reducing poverty and the numbers of malnourished. In this connection, we welcome the achievement by nine of our countries of the 10% target set at Maputo for budget allocations to agriculture and are convinced that the other African governments will also continue striving towards the goal;
2. **Regretting** that, despite alarms expressed soon after the simultaneous advent of the financial, energy and food-prices crises in 2008, subsequent reversal in the decline of the share of agriculture in official development assistance (ODA) has been relatively slow *and that disbursements of commitments made at the Gleneagles and L'Aquila G-8 and G-20 Summits are yet to become reality*;
3. **Being concerned** at the increasingly difficult environment for agricultural production and food security caused by climate change adaptations that include development of biofuels and believing that the climate challenge needs joint attention with food security efforts;
4. **Considering** that the development of biofuels is an opportunity and a challenge for agriculture as long as it does not compete with food security;
5. **Reaffirming our commitment** to implementing the Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the African Union in July 2003 (The Maputo Declaration), which committed their governments to implement, as a matter of urgency, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) including by allocating at least 10 percent of their national budgetary resources to agriculture within five years;
6. **Now decide** to honour the commitments under the Maputo Declaration, the food security and agriculture decisions at AU subsequent summits held in Sirte on water and agriculture (2004, 2007) and agriculture for economic development (2009). For reasons of realism and in order to better ensure success, we recall the decision of the African Union Summit on Food Security in Africa held in Abuja in December 2006 to focus our efforts on a few strategic commodities appropriate to the region or to each sub-region and country. With a focus on such selected strategic commodities in each country, we commit ourselves to:

- a) Within each of our Member States to champion national action and implement earlier CAADP commitments made under the African Union and respective Regional Economic Communities to prioritise agriculture and food security; to this end, secure national public funding for the first steps forward, with a view to meeting the NEPAD agricultural growth goal of 6 percent or higher per annum;
- b) Proactively face the double challenges of food security and climate change and mobilise national and international resources for addressing both in synergy, with the balance between climate change adaptation and mitigation to be adjusted to specific circumstances;
- c) Encourage Member Countries to increase the use of fertilizers, irrigation and mechanisation technologies to attain food security in the continent.
- d) Encourage government contribution to the Africa Fertilizer Fund Mechanism hosted by the African Development Bank and follow up on other key recommendations of the 2006 Abuja Fertilizer Summit;
- e) Promote domestic private sector investment into agriculture by encouraging the creation of favourable conditions for profitable and sustainable agriculture;
- f) Strengthen mechanisms for dialogue with donors to streamline mechanisms and procedures for releasing the funding pledged at the Gleneagles and L'Aquila G-8 and G-20 Summits with a view to helping Africa realise the agricultural and food security ambitions committed to at successive African Union Food Security and other summits as well as to meet Africa's goals adopted by the World Summit on Food Security held in Rome in 2009 and under the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), with particular attention to MDGs 1 (poverty and hunger) and 7 (environment); and
- g) In the interests of effectiveness of funding and development interventions, proactively participate in and encourage partnerships to enhance harmonisation, cooperation and better governance of interventions in agriculture and food security at global, regional and national levels.
- h) Urge Member countries or Governments to continue developing and submitting to FAO plans, programmes and projects that address problems of agriculture and rural development in Africa. We also call upon FAO to strengthen its collaboration and partnership with other subregional and regional organizations to ensure that Africa's voice is heard in international fora discussing agriculture and food related matters. FAO should also further strengthen its network of country, subregional and regional offices to effectively play the increased role that is being given to them as part of the FAO reform, particularly the decentralization process.

**Done at Luanda
 Republic of Angola
 07 May 2010**