

ARC/08/REP

**REPORT OF THE
TWENTY-FIFTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA**

Nairobi, Kenya, 16 – 20 June 2008

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

FAO Member Nations in the Africa Region

Algeria	Gabon	Nigeria
Angola	Gambia	Rwanda
Benin	Ghana	Sao Tome and Principe
Botswana	Guinea	Senegal
Burkina Faso	Guinea-Bissau	Seychelles
Burundi	Kenya	Sierra Leone
Cameroon	Lesotho	Somalia
Cape Verde	Liberia	South Africa
Central African Republic	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Sudan
Chad	Madagascar	Swaziland
Comoros	Malawi	Tanzania
Congo	Mali	Togo
Congo, Democratic Republic of	Mauritania	Tunisia
Cote d'Ivoire	Mauritius	Uganda
Djibouti	Morocco	Zambia
Egypt	Mozambique	Zimbabwe
Equatorial Guinea	Namibia	
Eritrea	Niger	
Ethiopia		

Date and place of FAO Regional Conferences for Africa

First	-	Lagos, Nigeria, 3 – 12 November 1960
Second	-	Tunis, Tunisia, 1 – 10 November 1962
Third	-	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 3 – 15 September 1964
Fourth	-	Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 9 – 19 November 1966
Fifth	-	Kampala, Uganda, 18 – 29 November 1968
Sixth	-	Algiers, Algeria, 17 September – 3 October 1970
Seventh	-	Libreville, Gabon, 14 – 30 September 1972
Eighth	-	Rose Hill, Mauritius, 1 – 17 August 1974
Ninth	-	Freetown, Sierra Leone, 2 – 12 November 1976
Tenth	-	Arusha, Tanzania, 18 – 28 September 1978
Eleventh	-	Lomé, Togo, 16 – 27 June 1980
Twelfth	-	Algiers, Algeria, 22 September – 2 October 1982
Thirteenth	-	Harare, Zimbabwe, 16 – 25 July 1984
Fourteenth	-	Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire, 2 – 11 September 1986
Fifteenth	-	Moka, Mauritius, 26 April – 4 May 1988
Sixteenth	-	Marrakech, Morocco, 11 – 15 June 1990
Seventeenth	-	Accra, Ghana, 20 – 24 July 1992
Eighteenth	-	Gaborone, Botswana, 24 – 28 October 1994
Nineteenth	-	Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 16 – 20 April 1996
Twentieth	-	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 16 – 20 February 1998
Twenty-first	-	Yaoundé, Cameroon, 21 – 25 February 2000
Twenty-second	-	Cairo, Egypt, 4-8 February 2002
Twenty-third	-	Johannesburg, South Africa, 1-5 March 2004
Twenty-fourth	-	Bamako, Mali, 30 January – 3 February 2006
Twenty-fifth	-	Nairobi, Kenya, 16 – 20 June 2008

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SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Report on FAO Activities in the Region 2006 – 2007 (ARC/08/2) and Global and Regional Emergency Issues

The Conference:

1. commended FAO for its active role in support of African Agriculture, particularly in the NEPAD-CAADP implementation and expressed appreciation for FAO support to many countries in their efforts to improve policy management for agricultural productivity and food security.
2. acknowledged FAO's appeal for soil erosion control and other sustainable land and water management interventions in addition to countries committing effective budgets to national agricultural development initiatives that FAO can complement with expertise and other means.

Discussion Items

Scaling up Agricultural Water Management: A Priority for the Implementation of the first Pillar of CAADP

For the Attention of Governments, Regional Economic Communities, African Union Commission and NEPAD

The Conference:

3. recommended an increase in productivity of existing and expanding or developing micro, small and large irrigation schemes;
4. urged the application of the principle of sustainability to all phases of the infrastructure development process;
5. stressed the need for investment in research on agricultural water management, both adaptive and basic at national and regional levels, with the view to improve water productivity and adapting to climate change and mitigating its impacts;
6. recommended the adoption of a holistic approach to water management, including water use strategies at basin level so as to integrate and cater for all competing needs: agricultural, fisheries, livestock, domestic and municipal, industrial and environmental uses;
7. urged the promotion of joint development of shared river and lake basins as a means of regional integration, as was the case for the Senegal River Basin, the respective initiatives of CEN-SAD and UEMOA in the *Office du Niger* area in Mali;
8. recognized the rapid contraction of Lake Chad and stressed the need for initiatives on reversing it;
9. recognized the need to promote rain water harvesting to *inter alia* recharge groundwater resources for multiple uses;

10. recommended the scaling up of sustainable development and management of inland valleys where an important potential for rice production still lies untapped;
11. recommended the creation of an enabling political and institutional environment for public-private partnership.

For the Attention of FAO

The Conference:

12. commended FAO for the preparation and presentation of the document and accepted the recommendations on priority investment options therein contained;
13. recommended the adoption of a holistic approach to water management, including water use strategies at basin level so as to integrate and cater for all competing needs: agricultural, fisheries, livestock, domestic and municipal, industrial and environmental uses.

Intra-Africa Trade: Issues, Challenges and Implications for Food Security and Poverty Alleviation

For the Attention of Governments, Regional Economic Communities, and African Union Commission

The Conference:

14. recognized that intra-African trade could provide additional opportunities to Africa and welcomed the decision of the December 2006 Abuja Summit on Food Security to identify and promote strategic commodities which met Africa's food security and trade objectives, including trade within the region;
15. urged countries, with FAO assistance, to address trade difficulties and increase investment to enhance agricultural production and productivity in Africa, which can increase the current level of intra-African exchange;
16. considered the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) process to be of such great importance for Africa that the region needed to benefit from it through consultation among all countries with regard to the best steps forward;
17. urged countries to adopt long term measures to address the problem of soaring food prices;
18. recognized that solving Africa's food insecurity problems would require an enhancement of intra-regional trade through strengthened Regional Integration Arrangements (RIAs);
19. recognized the importance of an effective communication network in the region to enhance intra African trade between countries and sub-regions;
20. regretted that some of the declarations and resolutions made during high level gatherings like the Maputo and Abuja Summits were unfortunately not implemented;

21. recommended implementation of the Maputo and Abuja resolutions, which included emphasis on regional infrastructure, to boost African agricultural and economic development and intra African trade;
22. recommended reforms that will bring down the costs for doing business;
23. recommended the strengthening of the legal and regulatory framework;
24. recommended continuation of ongoing reform of Most Favoured Nations tariffs and Non Technical Barriers to Trade, especially the roadblocks and checkpoints that impede cross-border trade;
25. recommended reduction of tariff among African countries, especially within customs unions;
26. recommended facilitation of trade at customs points, simplification of customs procedures, and improvement of trade logistics (for example, transport and warehousing).

For the Attention of FAO

The Conference:

27. requested FAO to assist countries address trade difficulties and increase investment to enhance agricultural production and productivity in Africa, which can increase the current level of intra African exchange.

Round Table Meeting on Africa's Follow-up to the FAO High-Level Conference on World Food Security : Challenges of Climate Change and Bio-energy

For the Attention of Governments, Regional Economic Communities, and African Union Commission

The Conference:

28. noted that Africa appears to be the region most affected, and needs to make the most strenuous efforts to combat the impact of the food crisis;
29. emphasized the full support of Africa for the Declaration adopted at the High-Level Conference;
30. recognized that the primary responsibility for addressing the crisis and ensuring sustainable growth rests with African countries which should allocate at least 10 per cent of their own resources to boost investment in agricultural development in conformity with the Maputo Declaration;
31. recommended that African Heads of State should be reminded at the July 2008 African Union Summit in Egypt of their 2003 Maputo Summit commitment to invest at least 10 % of their national budgets in agricultural development;

32. emphasized the need for effective engagement of Ministries of Finance and Economic Development in order to ensure that African countries reinforce their efforts towards allocating and disbursing more of their own resources as soon as possible;
33. noted FAO's appeal for member countries to be at the forefront of securing resources for key national food security interventions in the spirit of the Maputo Declaration;
34. recommended that the assistance to be realized through the Rome pledges be consistent with the CAADP pillars, which had been accepted both by the African Union and its partners;
35. appealed for international solidarity of oil producing countries to mitigate the high cost of fertilizers and recommended the use of African raw materials, such as phosphates, to establish fertilizer plants in Africa's various subregions;
36. urged countries to contribute to the Africa Fertilizer Fund Mechanism and follow up on other key recommendations of the 2006 Abuja Fertilizer Summit;
37. recognized the need for the use of appropriate technology and results of applied research from national, subregional and regional research institutions to improve agricultural production, and appealed for more effective funding of agricultural research;
38. recommended more information exchange on the production and post-harvest activities in the different sub-regions to ensure more effective use of surpluses to national needs through regional trade;
39. recognized the importance of partnership between the public and private sectors in agricultural development and the need to strengthen it in the search for solutions to the current food crisis;
40. emphasized the need for strengthening cooperation between the African Union, Regional and Subregional Organizations in Africa and the Permanent Representatives in Rome to enhance African participation in various negotiations, especially in the framework of the FAO Conference Committee on the Independent External Evaluation (IEE) process;
41. urged African Union Member States to establish an African Fund for Agricultural Development through the African Union with mechanisms that will strengthen the CAADP process with the assistance of development partners;
42. recommended that the resolutions and recommendations of the Conference be condensed into a statement to be presented to the African Union and the G8 by the Chairman of the Conference with support from FAO and member countries;
43. urged the member countries, with support from the Secretariat, to implement the resolutions/recommendations of the Conference, and to monitor and evaluate effectiveness;

For the Attention of FAO

The Conference:

44. requested for timely clarification from FAO on the framework and allocation of the

resources pledged at the Rome High Level Conference;

45. appreciated FAO's offer to assist countries in setting clear priorities for the various interventions envisaged, including long term support in preparing projects for such priorities in order to secure local and external funding;

46. recognized the need for the use of appropriate technology and results of applied research from national, subregional and regional research institutions to improve agricultural production and appealed for more effective funding of agricultural research;

47. recommended more information exchange on the production and post-harvest activities in the different sub-regions to ensure more effective use of surpluses through regional trade;

48. recommended that the resolutions and recommendations of the Conference be condensed into a statement to be presented to the African Union and the G8 by the Chairman of the Conference with support from FAO and member countries;

49. urged the member countries, with support from the Secretariat, to implement the resolutions/recommendations of the Conference, and to monitor and evaluate its effectiveness;

For the Attention of Development Partners

The Conference:

50. called for timely release of the pledged external resources to ensure effective field interventions;

NGO/CSO/FO Consultation

The Conference:

51. noted the recommendations of the African Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO), Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and Farmers Organizations (FO) meetings held 21 - 23 May 2008 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and 16 - 20 June 2008 in Nairobi, Kenya respectively

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

Objective of the Conference

1. The objective of the Conference was to review the implementation of the recommendations of the 24th Session held in 2006 Bamako, Mali, review the 2006/2007 activities, and discuss priority issues as set out in the Agenda.

Organization of the Conference

2. The Plenary Session of the Twenty-Fifth FAO Regional Conference for Africa was held at the United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNON) in Nairobi, Kenya from 19 to 20 June 2008.

3. The Conference was attended by 173 delegates from 37 Member Nations of the Region; of which 26 were represented at Ministerial level; 55 observers, including 3 observers from the Holy See, 3 representatives from the United Nations, 14 from Intergovernmental Organizations, 27 from International Non-Governmental Organizations and 8 from Regional non-governmental organizations. The list of delegates is given in Appendix B.

Inaugural Ceremony

4. The inaugural ceremony was held at the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) Conference Room, in the presence of His Excellency Mwai Kibaki, President of the Republic of Kenya and Mr. Jacques Diouf, the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Ms Anna K. Tibaijuka, Director-General of UNON and the Honourable William Ruto, Minister of Agriculture of Kenya who welcomed the delegates and observers to Nairobi.

5. The Director-General of FAO and the President of the Republic of Kenya delivered two inaugural speeches summarized under section II - Statements.

Election of Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and Appointment of Rapporteurs

6. The Conference considered the recommendations made by the Africa Group of Permanent Representatives to FAO in Rome, regarding the officers to service this session of the Conference and approved by acclamation the composition of the bureau as follows:

Chairperson:	Republic of Kenya The Honourable William Ruto Minister of Agriculture
First Vice-Chairperson:	Cameroon The Honourable Jean Nkuete Vice Prime Minister
Second Vice-Chairperson:	Lesotho The Honourable Ramootsi Mokone Lehata Assistant Minister of Agriculture
First Rapporteur:	Ghana: H. E. Charles Agyei-Amoama

Second Rapporteur:

Libya: H.E Dr. Abdalla Zaied

Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

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

II. STATEMENTS

8. The full text of the Statements are attached as Appendices D to I

Statement by the Director-General of UNON/ Executive Director, UN-HABITAT

9. The Director General, Ms. Anna K. Tibaijuka, welcomed the participants at the UNON and reminded the Conference of the unprecedented, rapid, and irreversible urbanization Africa was experiencing. Urbanization, she stressed, was not the problem in Africa as most African cities account for a large proportion of all economic activity. Cities in Africa were the primary engines of growth and, if managed properly, they could make globalization work for every African woman, man and child.

10. She further highlighted the many social, economic and environmental challenges associated with rapid urbanization, including climate change, slums, and the urban-rural link.

11. In concluding, she emphasized that many policies explicitly or implicitly prevent change, and in the process create barriers. Urbanization was the hope for Africa and, if well managed, could make both urban and rural Africans more prosperous. Realizing this would entail an investment in the African city, to make the African city work for Africa's agriculture and rural development.

Statement by the Vice Chair of the Conference Committee on IEE Follow-up

12. The Vice Chair of the Conference Committee on Independent External Evaluation (IEE) Follow-up, H.E Ambassador Wilfred Ngirwa, of the United Republic of Tanzania, briefed the Conference on the progress made in their work, which was initiated by the 129th Session of the FAO Council held in November 2005.

13. He pointed out that their Committee made progress in addressing the IEE recommendations through transparent and extensive discussions amongst members of working groups and an interactive process of regular exchange with FAO management. He confirmed that the Committee report would be concluded by end of September 2008 for consideration by the Special FAO Conference Session in November 2008 and urged member countries to provide suggestions on priorities and programmes of FAO that could be used in the process.

Statement by the Director-General of FAO

14. In his opening speech, Mr. Jacques Diouf, Director-General of FAO, extended his gratitude to President Mwai Kibaki and to the Government of the Republic of Kenya for their warm welcome and generous hospitality.

15. The Director-General reminded the Conference that there was now an awareness of the central role that agriculture should play in national development and that agriculture had returned to the centre of the international debate. This position showed that FAO's advocacy for agriculture was succeeding.

16. He informed the Conference that 862 million people were suffering from under-nutrition at the global level in 2002-2004 against 854 million in 2001-2003. The developing countries had 7 million more undernourished people than the 823 million of the reference period (1990-92) of the commitments of the World Food Summit (WFS). The situation in sub-Saharan Africa was worse because the number of undernourished people increased by 26 percent to a total of 213.4 millions, despite a reduction in the prevalence of hunger between 1990-92 and 2002-04.

17. The Director-General stated that food insecurity was exacerbated by a series of new challenges: climate change, greater demand for food products in the emerging countries, agricultural production used for biofuels, rapid population growth and the phenomenon of urbanization, transboundary animal and plant diseases, but above all the surge in food prices that had become a key parameter in the world food security equation.

18. He emphasized that despite efforts made, African agriculture still faced many constraints, as it remained undercapitalized, inefficient and uncompetitive. He then concluded with the conviction that with the political will and good governance, Africa could change the current agriculture situation and succeed to feed its population. That political will, he stressed, expressed in the Maputo Declaration of 2003 and in the Abuja Declaration of 2006 on food security should be translated into coherent and realistic programmes that can be quickly implemented to achieve the objectives.

Opening Address by the President of the Republic Kenya

19. The President of the Republic of Kenya, His Excellency Mwai Kibaki, welcomed all delegates and urged them to make their stay in Kenya memorable.

20. He reminded them that the 25th Africa Regional Conference was being held at a time when the world, and particularly Africa, was experiencing a serious food crisis caused by stagnation in agricultural productivity, rising cost of fuel and fertilizer as well as climate change. This situation had caused a dramatic increase in food prices, thus adversely affecting the survival and well-being of the vulnerable members in our society. It was, therefore, imperative that urgent measures were taken to address this problem and to secure the livelihoods of our people.

21. The President emphasized that solutions must be found immediately for poor people who were shouldering the heaviest burden of the current high food prices and urged the Conference to deliberate on these issues. He further urged the participants to come up with practical recommendations that would facilitate the resolution of the current food crisis and find means of preventing a recurrence of the disastrous situation in future.

22. He reminded the Conference of the Maputo Declaration and the need to increase budgetary allocations to at least 10% envisaged to revamp the agricultural sector. Though substantial progress had been made, few countries had attained the threshold figure of ten percent. Part of the reason for this situation was the fact that Africa was currently a net importer of food.

23. The President recognized that the huge food import bill depleted financial resources that were crucial for investment, not only in support of agriculture, but also for the development of infrastructure as well as provision of other essential social services. He therefore emphasized the need to strengthen strategies for cooperation between African governments and development partners in order to avail both technical and financial resources to enhance and sustain food security in Africa.

24. He appealed to the delegates to radically transform agriculture in their countries. This would entail expansion of access to productive resources by farmers, building and strengthening of institutions that support farmers and availing more funds for infrastructure development.

25. He highlighted the rapid population increase in urban areas and the impact on agricultural production. The effect would be fewer people engaged in production to feed rapidly growing rural and urban populations. He therefore urged the countries to use agricultural inputs more efficiently, while at the same time maximizing the use of available land.

26. The President reminded the delegates of the enormous marine and freshwater fisheries resources potential that were not exploited sufficiently due to lack of adequate investment, and he therefore appealed to the countries to reverse this unfortunate state of affairs in order to achieve cherished objectives of food security, economic prosperity and environmental sustainability.

27. In conclusion, the President emphasized the importance of Africa's population of almost one billion people to intra-Africa trade, which constituted a large and untapped market for trade in goods and services. Therefore, increasing intra-Africa trade is crucial to facilitating rapid growth of African economies. Despite this, the volume and value of commodity trade among African countries was still low. That situation, he underscored, needed a review of tariff and non-tariff barriers that discouraged the growth of intra-Africa trade.

Report on FAO Activities in the Region 2006-2007 (ARC/08/2) and Global and Regional Emergency Issues (ARC/08/3)

28. The Secretariat presented these two reports for review by the Conference.

29. The Conference commended FAO for its active role in support of African Agriculture, particularly in the NEPAD-CAADP implementation. They expressed their appreciation of FAO support to many countries in their efforts to improve policy management for agricultural productivity and food security.

30. Member countries outlined their activities in achieving sustainable food security through land and water management, fertilizer supply initiatives for small farm holders, animal health schemes and mitigation of soaring food prices.

31. The Conference acknowledged FAO's appeal for soil erosion control and other sustainable land and water management interventions, and urged countries to commit effective budgets to national agricultural development initiatives that FAO could complement with expertise and other means.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

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

- i) Scaling up Agricultural Water Management: A Priority for the Implementation of the first Pillar of CAADP;
- ii) Intra-Africa Trade: Issues, Challenges and Implications for Food Security and Poverty Alleviation.

33. The Chairperson of the Technical Committee, Dr. Romano Kiome, presented the report of the Committee, laying emphasis on the recommendations of the above two discussion items and giving an overview of the standing item: Round Table Meeting On Africa's Follow-up to the FAO High-Level Conference on World Food Security: The Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy.

34. The Conference noted that its Technical Committee had deliberated upon the main Documents ARC/08/4 on the Scaling up Agricultural Water Management: A Priority for the Implementation of the first pillar of CAADP and ARC/08/5 on Intra-Africa Trade: Issues, Challenges and Implications for Food Security and Poverty Alleviation.

35. The Conference also took note of the other documents: ARC/08/2, ARC/08/3, ARC/08/4 and ARC/08/INF/5/6/7/8.

To scale up water management as a priority for the implementation of the first pillar of CAADP,

The Conference:

36. commended FAO for the preparation and presentation of the document and accepted the recommendations on priority investment options therein contained and as hereafter summarized:

- Increase productivity of existing and expand or develop micro, small and large irrigation schemes;
- Apply the principle of sustainability to all phases of the infrastructure development process;
- Invest in research on agricultural water management, both adaptive and basic at national and regional levels, with the view to improve water productivity and adapting to climate change and mitigating its impacts

37. recommended that member countries:

- i) and their development partners, including FAO, should adopt a holistic approach to water management, including water use strategies at basin level so as to integrate and cater for all competing needs: agricultural, fisheries, livestock, domestic and municipal, industrial and environmental uses.

- ii) promote joint development of shared river and lake basins as a means of regional integration as was the case for the Senegal River Basin, the respective initiatives of CEN-SAD and UEMOA in the *Office du Niger* area in Mali;
- iii) recognize the rapid contraction of Lake Chad and the need for initiatives on reversing it,
- iv) promote rain water harvesting to *inter alia* recharge groundwater resources for multiple uses;
- v) scale up sustainable development and management of inland valleys where an important potential for rice production was still untapped;
- vi) create the enabling political and institutional environment for public-private partnership.

To enhance Intra-Africa Trade,

The Conference:

38. recognized that intra-African trade could provide additional opportunities to Africa and welcomed the decision of the December 2006 Abuja Summit on Food Security to identify and promote strategic commodities which met Africa's food security and trade objectives, including trade within the region.

39. observed that intra-African trade faced a number of challenges that limited agricultural development. These include low agricultural production and productivity; insufficient and inappropriate infrastructure; unfair competition from the subsidized products of developed countries; insufficient agricultural financing; low value addition; and the difficulties faced by Africa to cope with food safety standards partly arising from its limited participation and the influence upon *Codex Alimentarius*.

40. called for deliberate action from countries, with FAO assistance, to address these difficulties and increase investment to enhance agricultural production and productivity in Africa, which could increase the current level of intra-African exchange.

41. considered the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) process to be of such great importance for Africa that the region needed to benefit from it thorough consultation among all countries with regard to the best steps forward.

42. noted that some countries were taking urgent measures to address the problem of soaring food crisis, such as the reduction or suppression of import taxes bans on exports, etc. While this was recognized as an emergency measure, it should not be adopted as a long term solution, since it impacted negatively on national budgets and overall trading environment.

43. recognized that solving Africa's food insecurity problems would require an enhancement of intra-regional trade through strengthened Regional Integration Arrangements (RIAs).

44. recognized the importance of an effective communication network in the region to enhance intra African trade between countries and sub-regions.

45. regretted that some of the declarations and resolutions made during high level gatherings like the Maputo and Abuja Summits were unfortunately not implemented.

46. recommended

- implementation of the Maputo and Abuja resolutions, which included emphasis on regional infrastructure, in order to boost African agricultural and economic development and intra-African trade;
- undertaking reforms that bring down the costs of doing business;
- strengthening the legal and regulatory framework;
- continuing with ongoing reform of the Most Favoured Nations tariffs and Non-Technical Barriers to Trade that impede cross-border trade;
- reducing tariff among African countries, especially within customs unions;
- Facilitating trade at customs points, simplifying customs procedures, and improving trade logistics (for example, transport and warehousing).

IV. ROUND TABLE MEETING ON AFRICA'S FOLLOW-UP TO THE FAO HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY: THE CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIOENERGY

The Conference:

47. noted the genesis of the food crisis presented by the panelists and expressed appreciation to FAO for taking the initiative to include this Round Table discussion in the 25th Regional Conference for Africa in Nairobi;

48. also noted that although there was a global crisis, Africa appeared to be the region most affected; and which needed to make the most strenuous efforts to combat the impact of the food crisis;

49. emphasized the full support of Africa for the Declaration adopted at the High-Level Conference;

50. recognized that the primary responsibility for addressing the crisis and ensuring sustainable growth rested with African countries which should allocate at least 10 per cent of their own resources to boost investment in agricultural development in conformity with the Maputo Declaration;

51. recommended that, at the July 2008 African Union Summit in Egypt, African Heads of State be reminded of their 2003 Maputo summit commitment to invest at least 10 % of their national budgets into agricultural development;

52. emphasized the need for effective engagement of Ministries of Finance and Economic Development in order to ensure that African countries reinforced their efforts towards allocating and disbursing more of their own resources as soon as possible;

53. noted FAO's appeal for member countries to be at the forefront of securing resources for key national food security interventions in the spirit of the Maputo Declaration;
54. requested for timely clarification from FAO on the framework and allocation of the resources pledged at the Rome High Level Conference;
55. appreciated FAO's offer to assist countries in setting clear priorities for the various interventions envisaged, including long term support in preparing projects for such priorities in order to secure local and external funding;
56. recommended that the assistance to be realized through the Rome pledges be aligned to the CAADP pillars, which had been accepted both by the African Union and its partners;
57. called for timely release of the pledged external resources to ensure effective field interventions;
58. appealed for international solidarity of oil-producing countries to mitigate the high cost of fertilizers. It also recommended the use of African raw materials, such as phosphates, to establish fertilizer plants in Africa's various sub-regions;
59. urged countries to contribute to the Africa Fertilizer Fund Mechanism and follow up on other key recommendations of the 2006 Abuja Fertilizer Summit;
60. recognized the need for the use of appropriate technology and results of applied research from national, sub-regional and regional research institutions to improve agricultural production and appealed for more effective funding of agricultural research
61. recommended more information exchange on the production and post-harvest activities in the different sub-regions to ensure more effective use of surpluses through regional trade;
62. recognized the importance of partnership between the public and private sectors in agricultural development and the need to strengthen it in the search for solutions to the current food crisis;
63. emphasized the need for strengthening cooperation between the African Union, Regional and Sub-regional Organizations in Africa and the Permanent Representatives in Rome to enhance African participation in various negotiations, especially in the framework of FAO Conference Committee on the Independent External Evaluation (IEE) process;
64. urged African Union Member States to establish an African Fund for Agricultural Development through the African Union with mechanisms that would strengthen the CAADP process with the assistance of development partners;
65. recommended that the resolutions and recommendations of the Conference be condensed into a statement to be presented to the African Union and the G8 by the Chairman of the Conference with support from FAO and Member Countries;
66. recommended to the member countries, with support from the Secretariat, to implement the resolutions/recommendations of the Conference, and to monitor and evaluate effectiveness;

V. NGO/CSO/FO CONSULTATION

67. Non governmental Organizations (NGO), Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and Farmers Organizations (FO) from the Africa Region held two meetings respectively from 21 to 23 May 2008 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and from 16 to 20 June 2008 in Nairobi, Kenya. The Conference took note of their recommendations given in appendix L.

VI. CONCLUDING ITEMS

List of Topics to be considered for the 26th Regional Conference for Africa

68. Delegates were invited to suggest topics for discussion at the 26th Regional Conference and the Secretariat would select key topics in consultation with the member countries.

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

69. The Conference accepted by acclamation Angola's offer to host the 26th ARC Session in 2010 and looked forward to an agreement on the date in consultation with the Director-General of FAO.

Adoption of the Report of the Conference

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

Closure of the Conference

71. In his closing statement, the FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa, Mr Modibo T. Traore, on behalf of the Director-General of FAO, Mr. Jacques Diouf, thanked all participants for the successful and fruitful conference. He recalled that the conference agreed that there was need to accord high priority to agricultural development and to provide sufficient investment in the sector in order to reduce levels of undernourishment and poverty in the region. He stressed the need for investment in research on agricultural water management, both adaptive and basic at national and regional levels, with the view to improve water productivity and adapting to climate change and mitigating its impacts.

72. Recalling further the endeavors of the conference, Mr Traore stressed that FAO, in conformity with its mandate, will continue to provide the required expertise to African member countries and a forum for discussion to find ways to speed up the realization of the World Food Summit (WFS) and Millennium Development Goals (MDG) targets, especially in combating hunger and poverty.

73. Mr Traore expressed his sincere appreciation to all those who in various ways rendered the Conference a success, particularly members of the National Organizing Committee and the FAO Secretariat, interpreters, translators, messengers and the media. Finally, he expressed his profound gratitude to His Excellency, Hon. Mwai Kibaki, President of the Republic of Kenya, to the Government and the People of Kenya for their generous hospitality and for the excellent facilities provided for the Twenty-fifth FAO Regional Conference for Africa.

74. In his closing remarks, the Chairperson of the Conference, Hon. William Samoei Ruto, Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Kenya stressed that he was grateful for the mark of appreciation presented to the President, the Government and the People of Kenya for the successful organization of the Conference. He confirmed that it was a great privilege for his country to host the Conference and felt highly honoured to chair the Sessions.

75. He observed that the recommendations of the the Conference deserved proper and timely follow-up and expressed his government's readiness for an effective follow-up, in collaboration with FAO.

76. The Chairperson commended FAO for its leadership and untiring efforts to improve food security and alleviate poverty in Africa.

77. He expressed appreciation for the efficient organization of the Conference by the FAO Secretariat and the National Organizing Committee. He finally thanked all those who had in various ways helped to make the Twenty-fifth FAO Regional Conference for Africa successful and wished all delegates, other participants and observers a safe journey back to their countries.

78. He then declared the Conference closed.

AGENDA OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE**Technical Committee Meeting**

16 – 18 June 2008

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. Scaling up Agricultural Water Management: A Priority for the Implementation of the first Pillar of CAADP
5. Intra-Africa Trade: Issues, Challenges and Implications for Food Security and Poverty Alleviation
6. Roundtable Meeting on Africa's Follow-up to the FAO High-Level Conference on World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

7. Challenges for Sustainable Land Management (SLM) for Food Security in Africa
8. Urbanization and Food Security
9. Agrarian Reform and Rural Development
10. Knowledge Exchange, WAICENT and Capacity Building
11. Report of the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI)
12. Report of the Sixteenth Session of the African Forestry and wildlife Commission
13. Matters arising from the Thirty-fourth Session of the FAO Conference (Rome, 17 – 24 November 2007)

III. OTHER MATTERS**IV. CONCLUDING ITEMS**

14. Adoption of the Report of the Technical Committee
15. Closure of the Technical Committee Meeting

Plenary Session
19 – 20 June 2008

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

16. Opening Ceremony
17. Election of the Chairperson and Vice Chairpersons and Appointment of the Rapporteur
18. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

II. STATEMENTS

19. Statement by the Director-General of UNON
20. Statements by the Vice-Chair, Committee on Independent External Evaluation Report
21. Statement by the Director-General of FAO
22. Statement by the Minister of Agriculture of Kenya
23. Opening Address by the President to the Republic of Kenya

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

24. Report on FAO Activities in the Region, 2006-07, with a focus on the Achievement of the Millennium Development goals
25. Global and Regional Emergency Issues
26. Report of the Technical Committee including the Conclusion of the Roundtable

IV. OTHER MATTERS

27. Report of the NGO/CSO Meeting

V. CONCLUDING ITEMS

28. Items to be considered for the 26th Regional Conference for Africa
29. Date and Place of the 26th Regional Conference for Africa
30. Adoption of the Report of the Conference (including the Technical Committee Report)
31. Closure of the Conference

APPENDIX B**LIST OF DELEGATES**
LISTE DES DÉLÉGUÉS**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**
COMITÉ TECHNIQUE

Chairperson: Président:	Romano Kiome Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Kenya
First Vice-Chairperson: Premier Vice-Président:	Sponkie Malewa Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Lesotho in Italy
Second Vice-Chairperson: Deuxième Vice-Président :	Medi MOUNGUI, Second Counselor, Alternate Permanent Representative of Cameroon in Italy
Rapporteur :	Ms. Adelaide Boateng-Siriboe Alternate Permanent Representative of Ghana in Italy
Co-Rapporteur :	Abdalla Zaied Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in Italy

PLENARY SESSION
SESSION PLÉNIÈRE

Chairperson: Président:	William Samoei Ruto Minister for Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Kenya
First Vice-Chairperson: Premier Vice-Président:	Jean Nkueté, Vice-Prime Minister, Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development, Cameroon
Second Vice-Chairperson: Deuxième Vice-Président:	Ramootsi Mokone Lehata Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Lesotho
Rapporteur:	Charles Agyei-Amoama Ambassador and Permanent Representative to FAO, Ghana Embassy in Italy
Co-Rapporteur:	Abdalla Zaied Ambassador to FAO, Permanent Representation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya Embassy in Italy

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Ms. Fatima Mastour Interpreter, UNON	Ms. Isabel Maria Catalano Interpreter
Mr. Noel Agnel De Souza Interpreter	Ms. Marina Ferreira Costa Interpreter

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

ARC/08/1	Provisional Annotated Agenda
ARC/08/2	Report on FAO Activities in the Region, 2006-07, with a Focus on the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals
ARC/08/3	Global and Regional Emergency Issues
ARC/08/4	Scaling up Agricultural Water Management: A Priority for the Implementation of the First Pillar of CAADP
ARC/08/5	Intra-Africa Trade: Issues, Challenges and Implications for Food Security and Poverty Alleviation
ARC/08/INF/1	Provisional List of Documents
ARC/08/INF/2	Provisional Timetable
ARC/08/INF/3	Information Note
ARC/08/INF/4	Statement of the Director-General
ARC/08/INF/5	Challenges for Sustainable Land Management (SLM) for Food Security in Africa
ARC/08/INF/6	Urbanization and Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa
ARC/08/INF/7	Agrarian Reform and Rural Development
ARC/08/INF/8	Knowledge Exchange, WAICENT and Capacity Building
ARC/08/INF/9	Report of the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Committee on fisheries (COFI)
ARC/08/INF/10	Report of the Sixteenth Session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission
ARC/08/INF/11	Matters Arising from the Thirty-fourth Session of the FAO Conference (Rome, 17 – 24 November 2007)

STATEMENT BY
Modibo Traoré
Assistant Director General/
FAO Regional Representative for Africa

Mr. Chairman,
Honorable Ministers,
Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honor and a great pleasure for me to welcome all of you, on behalf of the FAO Director-General, Dr. Jacques Diouf, to the Technical Committee Meeting of the Twenty-fifth FAO Regional Conference for Africa, which is being held in this great African city of Nairobi.

Your massive response to this conference confirms your commitment to FAO and also the importance of the issues that the Conference will be debating during these next few days.

I wish to express the sincere appreciation of FAO and that of all delegates to the Government of the Republic of Kenya for accepting to host this important Conference and providing such excellent facilities in coordination with the UNON. I also thank them for the warm welcome that has been extended to all of us since our arrival in this city.

My appreciation goes also to the Chair and the members of the National Organizing Committee, for the diligence and commitment with which they accomplished their assignment in collaboration with the FAO Conference Secretariat.

Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Delegates,

In 1996, leaders from all over the world gathered in Rome during the World Food Summit (WFS) and set the objective to half the number of malnourished and hungry people in the world by 2015. Today's statistics show that the situation of food insecurity in the world is still critical, with per capita food availability of many commodities failing and the resource base being put under pressure by growing populations. Furthermore, the current soaring food prices have contributed to compromise the accomplishments of the WFS goals. Other challenges like the biofuel, climate change and increasing urbanization and population are also slowing down the progress made so far in fighting hunger. This indicates that the gap between the commitments made to reduce hunger and poverty and the achievements to date do not ensure that the goals set by the WFS and the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) would be attained by 2015. Therefore, the region will need to accelerate the pace dramatically in order to achieve sustainable development.

Every two years, we meet to reflect on the prevalent situation of food insecurity in our region and adopt concrete actions towards the realization the WFS and MDG goals.

As you all recall, the previous regional Conference was held in Bamako Mali, in February 2006. Participants at that Conference adopted recommendations towards the accomplishment of the MDG and WFS goals in the Africa Region and showed great determination to mobilize and optimize the allocation and utilization of human, technical and financial resources towards fighting hunger and poverty.

Today, two years later, it is time to revisit those recommendations, analyze the prevailing situation and adopt further measures that can enable the world to accelerate the pace in order to free our region from hunger.

Mr. Chairman,

FAO, in conformity with mandate, will continue to provide to member countries in the region the required expertise as well as a forum for discussion, to find ways to speed up the realizations of the WFS and MDG target. We are therefore pleased to present for your study and deliberation a number of papers touching on key areas of agricultural production and rural development.

Distinguished Delegates

I wish to commend for your study two important papers prepared for the present Conference namely: “Scaling up Agricultural Water Management: A priority for the implementation of the first Pillar of CAADP” and “Intra-Africa-Trade: issues, Challenges and Implications for food security and Poverty Alleviation”. It is expected that discussion under these items will address concrete actions required to improve water management and intra-Africa trade in our Region and therefore lead to greater production and increased competitiveness of African agriculture.

The ministerial section of this Conference will be called to analyze the outcome of your discussions and adopt the recommendations that you will propose.

A number of information documents present other issues for your attention including the following:

- Challenges for Sustainable Land Management for food security in Africa;
- Urbanization and Food Security; and Agrarian Reform and Rural Development;
- Agrarian Reform and rural Development;
- Knowledge Exchange under WAICENT and Capacity Building.

Distinguished delegates,

I trust that you will examine these papers with renewed commitment and come up with specific recommendations that will assist your governments to formulate policies that can bring improvements in agricultural and food production in the region. It is also expected that the Conference will be making decisions that will have a positive impact on our people livelihoods so that, when we meet again after two years in 2010, we can report positive results of our recommended concrete actions.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is in that line that FAO has been undergoing a profound reform so that the Organization can fulfill its mandate and contribute effectively to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. FAO needs indeed to be in a position to rise to the 21st Century's new challenges of food security and be able to meet people's demands and expectations. In Africa, that reform resulted in the establishment of four sub-regional Offices in the four sub-regions (Central, West, East and South) that are complementing the Regional Office and the country offices in carrying out FAO mission in the field.

In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm FAO's commitment to place its technical expertise and experience at the service of all our member states in the region to ensure that our common fight against hunger and poverty in Africa yields good dividends.

I thank you for your attention and wish you a very successful and fruitful meeting as well as a pleasant stay in Nairobi.

Thank you.

STATEMENT BY
Hon. William arap Ruto, EBS, MP
Minister for Agriculture, Kenya
During the opening of the Technical Session of the 25th FAO Regional
Conference for Africa: 16th June 2008

Ministers Present,
FAO Regional Representative for Africa, Dr. Modibo T. Traoré,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure and honour to preside over the opening of this Technical Session of the 25th FAO regional Conference for Africa. As a Country and in particular, the Ministry of Agriculture we are greatly honored to host this Conference. I therefore take this opportunity on behalf of the Government of Kenya and that of my Ministry, to welcome you all to Nairobi. Please take time to sample our cultural and touristic sites in and around the city.

This technical session proceeds, as preparations for the main conference later in the week are ongoing. During the next two days, we shall assess the status of implementation of the various recommendations from earlier conferences and in particular those from the 24th conference held in Bamako in 2006 along side the new challenges of high fuel and food prices and recommend the appropriate course of action. We shall also take stock of the opportunities, and emerging challenges facing the agricultural sector in our continent and propose the way forward. The topics for discussion have been well selected to adequately give a good account of what the continent needs to make progress.

Ladies and Gentlemen

As we proceed with this session, there are a few issues I would like to bring to the fore. First and foremost Africa has not only the fastest growing population, but one comprising of a very large proportion of youth. Currently Africa is home to over 750 million people with nearly 50% of the population below the age of 18 years. With an annual growth rate of 3%, Africa's projected population by the year 2020 is more than one billion people and the population is expected to steady at 2.5 billion by the year 2050. In contrast, India's population will steady at only 1.6 billion by the year 2050. The development trends over the last 40 years show that Africa has lagged behind in nearly all fronts of development, and continues to do so even when other regions have continued to register steady growth.

If current trends continue in Africa, the number of poor people is expected to increase steadily through the middle of the current century. The per-capita GDP share in the continent has declined steadily over the last four decades, which equates to the post-independence period for most African countries. The available calories per capita are still around 1800 per day; worse still, the per-capita availability of calories continues to slump in Africa, leading to severe malnutrition and consequent physical and cognitive stunting. Overall life expectancy is still low, averaging below 50 years before the arrival of HIV/AIDS, which has reduced the life expectancy further by an average of 5–10 years. The literacy rate is still below 80% in most countries of the

continent, with the exception of seven countries—Zimbabwe, South Africa, Mauritius, Lesotho, Botswana, Equatorial Guinea and Kenya, which all have mean literacy rates slightly above 80%. The quality of life in rural Africa continues to deteriorate; the availability of basic amenities like water and nutrition is steadily worsening, and consequently so, is people's health.

But behind this gloomy picture lies a great opportunity. With appropriate technology, credible policies, investments in key areas especially agriculture, the rapidly increasing population can potentially be a big market that would spur rapid economic growth so as to expand employment and tackle the crippling poverty in the continent. *The Youth in Africa, instead of being a liability and threat to stability can provide the much needed human capital to drive growth as we expand opportunities and enhance African enterprise.*

Secondly and perhaps most importantly, agriculture, not only supports the rural masses in their quest for food, but also provides a large share of GDP, contributes approximately 30–40% of exports and 70% of employment. Small-holder farmers who constitute the majority of farmers have, however, fared badly in rural Africa. *Many African governments while admitting that agriculture is the engine for growth of our economies, have neither allocated sufficient funds, nor developed appropriate well researched policies and programmes, to make agriculture the focal point that it really is.* While many African countries spend as much a 20% of their budget in the purchase of military hardware and other unnecessary luxuries, funding to the all important agricultural sector is yet to reach 10% in almost all African countries. The developed countries on the other hand readily finds resources to assist African countries with food hand-outs and purchase of military hardware but never finds the cash to tap into the great potential of agricultural products in Africa. *We must not only liberate our continent from our own shortcomings but also from the schemes of our friends who wish to delay our potential.*

The third issue I would wish to bring to the fore is the increasing food insecurity. The latest figures show that some 300 million people or 46 percent of Africa's population – are chronically hungry. While the proportion of the population facing hunger is dropping slightly, the absolute numbers are rising inexorably. During the 1990's declines in the number of hungry have been registered in only 10 countries. At the end of the 1990's, 30 countries had over 20 percent of their population undernourished and in 18 of these, over 35 percent of the population were chronically hungry. As of 2006, about 32 million people in Africa were facing food emergencies due to droughts, floods and strife, of which some 28 million needed emergency food and agricultural assistance.

In line with the rise in the number of hungry, there has been a progressive growth in food imports in the last years of the 20th century, with Africa spending an estimated US\$18.7 billion in 2000 alone. At the same time, food aid gives evidence of considerable external dependency: in 2006 Africa received 3.8 million tons of food aid, which is over a quarter of the world total. Imports of agricultural products have been rising faster than exports since the 1960s and Africa as a whole has been a net agricultural importing region since 1980. Agriculture accounts for about 20 percent of total merchandise exports from Africa, having declined from over 50 percent in the

1960s. For Africa as a whole, the agricultural sector accounts for about 60 percent of the total labour force, 20 percent of total merchandise exports and 17 percent of GDP.

Until the incidence of hunger is brought down and the import bill reduced by raising the output of farm products which the region can produce with comparative advantage, there is no way in which the high rates of economic growth to which we all aspire can be attained. People suffering from hunger are marginalised within the economy, contributing little to output and still less to demand. Investing in reducing hunger is a moral imperative which also makes economic sense. Agriculture-led development is fundamental to eradicating hunger, reducing poverty (70 percent of which is in rural areas), generating economic growth, minimizing the burden of food imports while opening the way to expansion of exports and employment opportunities. *Without policies backed by extensive research, funding both by national budgets, development partners, Bretton Wood institutions including the private sector, plans of economic growth in our continent will be a mission in futility as poverty will be our bed and unemployment our pillow.*

Distinguished Delegates,

I am aware that the topics for this technical session have been organised in the form of thematic areas, on food security, water management, sustainable development, and the role of trade in the agriculture sector. I am also aware that issues of rising fuel and food prices and climate change are currently topical and will be thoroughly discussed during this conference. I have however, intentionally brought to the fore issues of the increasing population and in particular of our youth; the issues of our economies being predominantly agrarian and the increasing food insecurity so that we do not lose sight of the big picture. It is my conviction that these issues are the bottom line. When all is said and done, we must address and resolve them.

With these remarks, it is now my pleasure to declare the Technical Session of the 25th FAO Conference for Africa Officially Open.

Thank you and God bless you all.

APPENDIX F

**STATEMENT BY
Ms. Anna K. Tibaijuka
Director-General of UNON / Executive Director of UN-HABITAT**

UNON, Gigiri, 19 June 2008

Your Excellency President Mwai Kibaki of the Republic of Kenya,
Honourable Ministers,
Honourable Representatives of the Parliamentary Committees of the Republic of Kenya,
Ms. Anne Nyikuli,
Permanent Representative of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour to welcome you back to our headquarters here in Gigiri Mr. President. And, it is a great pleasure to have you joined here today by so many distinguished members of the Government of Kenya.

Karibu!

It is a privilege for us to welcome also our colleagues and all the experts gathered here today for the 25th Regional Conference for Africa of the Food and Agriculture Organization. We thank you most heartily for choosing Nairobi as the venue for this meeting.

We are gathered here just little over a week after the tragic deaths in an air crash of two members of the Kenyan government, the Roads Minister, Honourable Kipkalya Kones, and the Assistant Minister for Home Affairs, Honourable Lorna Laboso. Let us observe a minute of silence now for them.

[Thank you.]

Mr. President, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

This gathering here is of great significance because every day there are more reports in the media about soaring food prices on our planet. Such is the concern, particularly here in Africa, that your deliberations are being closely watched.

The new urban era

Research by UN-HABITAT, the agency for urban development which I head, shows that half of humanity is today living in towns and cities. We have entered a new urban era. And it is projected that by 2030 two-thirds of humanity will be living in cities. We are living in a world of unprecedented, rapid, and irreversible urbanisation, with the most rapid rates of urbanisation occurring here in Africa.

In 1994, the urban population in Africa was approximately 172 million. By 2004 it had grown to 264 million. Our projections indicate that it will increase to 742 million by 2030. The annual urban growth rate in Africa is 4.87 percent, twice that of Latin America and Asia. Cities and towns in Africa are also growing at twice the growth rate of the rural population in Africa.

Urbanization, in itself, is not the problem in Africa. In fact, in most African countries, cities account for a large proportion of all economic activity. Nairobi, with a population of about 2.6 million represents about 5 percent of the national population, but accounts for over 20 percent of the GDP. As we all agree, there are two sides to the development debate: one is ensuring growth, and the other is ensuring equitable benefits resulting from growth. Cities, in Africa are without the doubt the primary engines of growth. If managed properly, African cities and towns could make globalization work for every African woman, man and child.

There are many social, economic and environmental challenges associated with rapid urbanisation. I will just mention two of them which are of direct relevance to your deliberations.

Climate Change

The first is climate change. It is no coincidence that climate change is emerging at the forefront of international debate at the same time, and virtually at the same pace, as the world becomes urbanized. With half of the world's population living in cities, cities are already consuming 75% of the world's energy and contributing to an equivalent proportion of all wastes, including green house gas emissions. The changing consumption patterns that come inevitably with urbanisation will thus continue to put pressure on the price of energy. This, in turn, will directly affect costs of transport and food.

Slums

The other challenge is the slum challenge. The number of slum dwellers has now reached the 1 billion mark. If present trends continue, this figure is likely to reach 2 billion by 2030. Today 71.9 per cent of urban Africans live in slums, variously known as shanty towns or bidonvilles. This figure is 46 percent for Asia and a little over 30 percent for Latin America and the Caribbean. The vast majority of slum dwellers in Africa live on less than two dollars a day and most of them lack access to safe water and decent sanitation. Recent studies have shown that urban poor are suffering levels of deprivation often worse than those experienced by their rural counterparts. Indeed the very locus of poverty is moving to the cities.

And it is the urban poor that will suffer first and suffer most from rising food prices. This is because they rely almost exclusively on monetary means to buy food. At the same time, they also bear the brunt for rising costs for transport and energy.

Right here in Nairobi, a resident of the Kibera slum earning less than two dollars a day pays as much as ten times the price paid by an average North American for a litre of water. School age children, especially girls, are often forced to trade education for water. Sanitation can be far more than a public health issue to a school girl: it

determines her privacy, safety and dignity; it determines whether her potential to become a productive citizen in society will ever be fulfilled.

The urban-rural link

These grim facts tell us that urban and rural development policies must be closely linked. We no longer live in a world where we can afford to have different departments in national and local governments dealing with urban and rural matters as separate matters.

As we have seen, cities are undeniably the engines of economic growth. But they must also fulfill their role as engines of rural and agricultural development.

For this to happen we must invest in urban and regional infrastructure. This is especially the case in Africa where investment in urban infrastructure, in ports and airports, in rail systems, in marketplaces, and in market intelligence has been lagging.

In a globalised world economy, the success of agricultural development policies depends to an increasing degree on the effectiveness and productivity of cities. Modern agriculture depends upon products and services generated by the city. Today, improvements in agricultural technology are found not in the field but in urban universities and research laboratories. Modern agricultural research requires an integrated approach that calls upon high technology disciplines ranging from genetic engineering to climate change modeling.

Farm implements are manufactured in urban industrial zones. The ability to export farm produce in a global marketplace depends as much upon storage, packaging, transport, market intelligence, and international finance as upon the farmer.

In summary, if we are to boost Africa's agriculture potential beyond subsistence levels, we must invest massively in our cities. We must have a vision of our cities as hubs of transportation and communication, of finance and administration, of markets and market intelligence. In short, the most useful investments we could make today for boosting Africa's agricultural production for tomorrow is probably a combination of metropolitan transportation and the internet.

Local governments generally understand well how closely urban and rural areas are connected. But they need the backing of regional and national spheres of government to ensure that their initiatives are not blocked by sectoral policies or broad national strategies. The better the connections and infrastructure between urban and rural districts, the better people will live, and the better the employment opportunities. This also reduces the risk of social unrest.

Mr. President, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

In concluding, my message is that many policies explicitly or implicitly aim to prevent change, and in the process create barriers. Urbanisation is the hope for Africa, both urban and rural. Urbanisation, if well managed, can make both urban and rural Africans more prosperous. But for this hope to be realised, we must begin to invest in the African city, to make the African city work for Africa's agriculture and rural development.

Let us be lucid in our analysis, for our policies can only be as good as our diagnosis. The current crisis is not about food shortage or food production. The current crisis is about food pricing. As any economist will tell you, pricing is a function of supply and demand. The demand side of equation today is to be found in our cities, in the poorly planned, poorly managed cities that require more and more land, energy and water. These are the key determinants we are dealing with. Any lasting solution will therefore have to include more sustainable urbanisation - as characterised by efficient and equitable land markets, world class infrastructure, decent housing and good urban governance as an integral part of the equation.

I thank you for your kind attention.

**STATEMENT BY
H.E. Wilfred Ngirwa
Vice-Chair of the Conference Committee on IEE**

Honourable Ministers
Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen

Distinguished Members of the FAO Regional Conference for Africa, I had the honour of being appointed by the FAO membership during the 35th conference Session of November, 2007 as the Vice-Chair of the Conference Committee for Follow-up to the Independent External Evaluation of FAO (the IEE). Therefore, I would like to take advantage of my attendance at this Regional Conference to bring you up to date with where we stand in the process of our work.

As you will recall; the process was initiated by membership: at its 129th session in November, 2005, the FAO Council, in a decision endorsed by the Conference at its 33rd Session later that month decided upon final arrangements for the Independent External Evaluation (IEE). The Report of the IEE was presented to the 133rd Session of the Council and 34th session of the Conference in November, 2007.

The Resolution approved by the 34th conference can be abbreviated that you Honourable Ministers as members of FAO, you welcomed the IEE Report as a basis for decision making on integrated package of reform with growth for FAO.

Immediately after the 34th session of the Conference, in December, 2007 a Conference Committee for the IEE-follow-up (CoC-IEE) held its first meeting and established three working groups as follows:

Working Group I: FAO Vision and Programme priorities
Working Group II: FAO Governance reform
Working Group III: Reform systems, culture change and organization structure

The working Groups first met in January, 2008 and established their preliminary programmes of work, beginning with a review of the IEE recommendations as they pertain to each working group.

There has been considerable progress in addressing each of these areas through extensive discussions amongst the members of working groups and an interactive process of regular exchange with FAO management. This will be recalled to be one of the busiest involving year of the Permanent Representatives to FAO in Rome. Nevertheless, the process has reinforced our common purpose and unity to the FAO reform. Openness has prevailed. As well as sometimes differences of interest among members which is healthy for such an important process.

The timetable for our work established at the FAO Conference last year calls for preparation of the draft Conference Committee Report by the end of July, 2006 and finalization of the Conference Committee Report by end September, 2008.

A Special Session of the FAO Conference will consider the results of our deliberations in November, 2008. It will be possible to implement some decisions quickly as part of an Immediate Plan of Action while for others a longer-term calendar will be established including finalizing the new Strategic Framework and Medium-Term Plan for the Organization at the 2009 session of the Conference.

We have a challenging but exciting opportunity which is not going to come around again quickly if we do not grasp it now to build a better Organization to serve us better. An FAO operating with shrinking resources cannot undertake its mandates. However, with a common members agreement on actions for reforms actions there is hope and willingness for additional resources. The FAO Director General has already identified areas for early actions which are within his authority.

The Independent External Evaluation which the membership commissioned and welcomed its report contains worthwhile proposals, and a few which we might want to change or not accept. Much positive progress is being made in the working groups, but we could be making more. Africa region has played a very crucial role from the very beginning of this process. Your representatives in Rome are very pro actively participating in the process and in constant consultations with their capitals.

I would like to highlight a few areas of particular importance for the Regional Conference and regarding work at the regional and national levels. The Working Groups have in general agreed that:

The Regional Conferences should become a full part of the governance structure of FAO, feeding into the Conference and Council. This will have implications for the future timing, content and conduct of the Regional Conferences;

The Regional Conferences enhanced role would include with respect to each region, addressing policy coherence for development by governments in the region and beyond; discussion of global priorities as they relate to the region; and discussion of FAO's own working priorities;

There has been strong emphasis on grounding the work of FAO in national priorities and processes, with strong devolution of authority to the regional, sub-regional and national offices. The sub-regional offices in our region are intended to play an enhanced role in providing technical support and services.

These points will be reflected in the discussions and draft report of the Conference Committee in the course of our further deliberations during July.

The Independent External Evaluation recommends an enhanced role for regional conferences in FAO's decision-making. This Conference along with the other regional conferences this year can provide both impetus and important views for us to take forward in the evaluation Follow-up process. There is some urgency in receiving your views given the calendar with a deadline to complete our basic work by July. I

hope that you will take the opportunity to provide those views in your interventions during the Conference and informally to me and other colleagues from your own delegations who are your representatives in Rome.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Participants

The Reform process at FAO is taking place in a world which is now facing a crisis of food price rises and supply shortages. There can be no doubt that many of the underlying pressures which are contributing to this situation are with us to stay. These pressures have a particular importance and are having a dramatic impact on our African continent, where agriculture remains the foundation of most of our economies and the basis of the livelihoods of the majority of our citizens.

These issues were addressed in Rome at the recent High Level Conference on World Food Security as it was highlighted today by the FAO Director General. The Declaration of the Conference calls for strong commitment from governments with robust support from all donors and the United Nations system. The issues are of acute concern for Africa in order to overcome low production, productivity and hunger and to mitigate the projected impacts of climate change on the continent.

While all participants in the High Level Conference recognized an important potential role for FAO, also others emphasized that this role could only be fulfilled if FAO reformed, hence the importance of rapid progress in follow-up to the Independent External Evaluation.

Distinguished Members of the Conference, in pursuit of FAO Reform and to effectively address world food security, climate change and bio energy, the views of the Africa region on the way forward for the work of the Conference Committee on IEE-Follow-up will be invaluable in order for FAO to fulfill the promise of its logo "FIAT PANIS" (Food for All). – And in particular what should be addressed by FAO in the interest of the Africa Region.

I hope the conclusions reached at this Conference will have a reflection to some extent pertinent to feed into the IEE-Follow-up process.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Statement by
Director-General of FAO
Nairobi, Kenya, 19 June 2008**

*Mr. President of the Republic of Kenya,
Your Excellency the Representative of the Chairman of the Council,
Mrs Executive Director UN/Habitat
Dear Colleagues from UNEP,
Distinguished Ministers,
Honourable Delegates,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Introduction

It is an honour and a great pleasure for me to be with you today on the occasion of the Twenty-fifth FAO Regional Conference for Africa.

On behalf of the Organization and of all of you, I should like to express my deep gratitude to His Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya, Mwai Kibaki, to his Government and to the Kenyan people for their warm welcome and their hospitality.

*Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

State of food insecurity in the world and the region

The work of this Regional Conference is taking place in a new environment. There is now an awareness of the central role that agriculture must play in development. In the last two years, agriculture has returned to the centre of the international community's concerns. A position that is welcomed by FAO, which has always advocated that agriculture must be placed at the heart of the development process. I am therefore delighted to note that, for the first time in a quarter of a century, the World Bank devotes its *World Development Report 2008* to the theme of "Agriculture for Development".

At the global level, 862 million people were suffering from under-nutrition in 2002-2004 against 854 million in 2001-2003. The developing countries have 7 million more undernourished people than the 823 million of the reference period (1990-92) of the commitments of the World Food Summit (WFS).

The situation in sub-Saharan Africa is worse. Between 1990-92 and 2002-04, although the prevalence of hunger fell from 35 to 33 percent, the number of undernourished people increased by 26 percent to a total of 213.4 millions.

Global and regional problems and challenges

Food insecurity is exacerbated by a series of new challenges: climate change, greater demand for food products in the emerging countries, agricultural production used for biofuels, rapid population growth and the phenomenon of urbanization, transboundary animal and plant diseases, but above all the surge in food prices that has become a key parameter in the world food security equation.

(Climate change and bioenergy)

The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) clearly indicated, in its fourth assessment report published in 2007, that global warming and extreme weather events will affect the world's poorest regions most. In sub-Saharan Africa, for example, yields from rainfed crops could drop by half between now and 2020. The mitigation of those impacts is going to depend on progress made in breeding more resistant varieties and on investments in irrigation, storage facilities, transportation and communications, etc.

As regards bioenergy, in-depth studies should be carried out on the specific cases of individual countries in order to assess the opportunities that bioenergy offers to farmers and the risks posed to world food security from converting food crops into fuel.

(Soaring food prices)

The unprecedented hike in food prices, which rose 52 percent between 2007 and 2008, has had severe economic, social and political consequences. Urgent and innovative measures are needed to offset the negative impacts and to rapidly boost food production in the countries that are most affected.

That is why, last December, I launched an initiative to support Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries (LIFDCs) by facilitating the access of poor farmers to inputs.

Agricultural development in the region in 2006-2007

(Results)

Agriculture continues to play a predominant role in the national economies of sub-Saharan Africa. It accounts for 17 percent of GDP, 57 percent of employment and 11 percent of export earnings.

During the last twenty years, grain production in Africa has only risen by 2.6 percent per year, leading to a rapid increase in imports (3.5 percent per year) to meet requirements.

Gains in animal production are not sufficient to cover population needs. The rate of growth of cattle production is 1.4 percent, sheep production 2.5 percent and goat production 4.3 percent.

Africa's fish output has remained stagnant over the last ten years, with a declining availability per inhabitant. Consumption of fish and aquaculture products fell from 8.8 kilos in 1990 to about 7.8 kilos in 2001.

In some countries, the forestry sector is the second contributor to GDP, but deforestation poses a serious threat to the region.

Finally, agricultural imports have been increasing more rapidly than exports since the 1970s. Africa as a whole is a net importer of agricultural commodities, 87 percent of which were food products in 2005. The region's agricultural exports grew annually by 2.3 percent since 1996, but its export share in global trade fell drastically from 8 percent in the 1970s to only 1.3 percent in 2005.

*Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

(Constraints)

Despite the efforts that have been made, African agriculture still faces many constraints, as it remains undercapitalized, inefficient and uncompetitive. The situation is as follows:

- Water control: Africa has significant water resources which are not equally distributed among the regions. For 93 percent of its arable land, African agriculture is dependent on unpredictable rainfall, with a high risk of drought. Africa only uses 4 percent of its available water reserves for irrigation, compared to 14 percent in Asia.
- Land: in 2002, only 14 percent of Africa's 184 million hectares of arable land were cultivated. In addition, soils are currently under an accelerated degradation, affecting 21 million hectares of arable land.
- Fertilizers: Africa uses only 23 kilos of fertilizer per hectare of arable land compared to 151 kilos in Asia. The level is even lower in sub-Saharan Africa which only uses 9 kilos per hectare. However, the commitment made by Heads of State at the Africa Fertilizer Summit, held in Abuja in June 2006, provides hope for the implementation of an action plan for a sustainable increase in fertilizer use in Africa.
- Seeds: there is scarce use of improved seeds in Africa, although we know that it was those seeds that underpinned the success of the Green Revolution in Asia and Latin America. In Africa, only one-third of seeds pass through a system of control. Access to improved seeds is constrained by high costs and limited supplies on local markets.
- Rural infrastructures: rural roads and the infrastructures of transport, storage and packaging are largely inadequate in Africa. Without investment, including for their maintenance, African agricultural commodities will remain uncompetitive in relation to imports.

- Financing of agriculture: Heads of State and Government undertook in Maputo in 2003 the commitment to allocate at least 10 percent of their national budgets to agriculture and rural development in order to accelerate the implementation of the actions agreed upon. However, the African Union's report on the implementation of that commitment indicates that only one country in five has reached or exceeded the 10 percent level.
- Transboundary pests and diseases: since 2003, avian influenza has affected 60 countries and millions of birds worldwide. FAO has mobilized more than 150 million US dollars to fight this epidemic, which has not so far become a human pandemic as was feared. But there are other challenges: foot-and-mouth disease, classical swine fever, Rift Valley fever, bovine peripneumonia, New World screwworm, but also black smut of wheat and desert locusts, which require the strengthening of the veterinary and phytosanitary services so they are able to carry out the necessary preventive actions.

*Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Execution of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)

In order to facilitate implementation of NEPAD's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), 51 countries prepared National Medium-Term Investment Programmes (NMTIPs) and Bankable Investment Project Profiles (BIPPs) between 2004 and 2006. These exercises, which received technical support from FAO, have resulted in the formulation of some 200 projects, with investment proposals amounting to some 10 billion US dollars.

At present, 17 countries have integrated their investment projects into their national development programmes, notably the *Poverty Reduction Strategies*, sectoral development programmes and medium-term expenditure frameworks. Some have successfully started their implementation, thanks to combined internal and external funding. Ten or so other countries have initiated partial implementation, without full integration into their national development plans. The other countries are seeking funding from their development partners.

*Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Agenda of the Conference

At this 25th Regional Conference, you will be informed of FAO's activities in Africa and you will have an opportunity to examine the emergency situations that are affecting millions of people in the region. The Conference will also examine two priority themes:

- the scaling-up of water management for agriculture and the priority implementation of the first pillar of the CAADP; and
- intra-African trade, a major issue for food security and poverty reduction.

Also, as you have just added to the agenda an item on “Follow-up to the High-Level Conference on World Food Security”, which was held in Rome from 3 to 5 June 2008, you will have the opportunity to discuss the outcome of that Summit in particular the Conference Declaration, as well as the actions that are needed to mobilize the 11.5 billion dollars of contributions that were announced to finance the short-, medium- and long-term actions required to boost food production in the world and especially in Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries, which are for the most part located in Africa, in order to achieve the intended objectives.

Conclusion

*Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Only seven years separate us from 2015, the date by which the governments of 186 members of the Organization have set themselves the target of reducing by half the number of people suffering from hunger.

I remain convinced that with the political will and good governance, Africa can change the current situation of its agriculture and succeed to feed its population. That political will, which was expressed in the Maputo Declaration of 2003 and reaffirmed in the Abuja Declaration of 2006 on food security, should translate into coherent, realistic programmes that can be quickly implemented to achieve the objectives.

The problem of food insecurity is a political issue. It is a matter of priorities in the face of the most fundamental of human needs. And it is the decisions made by governments that determine the allocation of resources.

As for FAO, with your support it will continue unabated its mission of providing technical support to Member Nations for the formulation and implementation of policies, strategies and programmes in order to overcome the challenge of food insecurity in the world.

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

**OPENING ADDRESS BY
His Excellency Hon. Mwai Kibaki, C.G.H., M.P.,
President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Republic of
Kenya**

Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am indeed pleased to warmly welcome you all to Nairobi and to the 25th Food and Agriculture Organization Regional Conference for Africa.

We are honoured to host you in our county. On behalf of the Government and the people of Kenya, and on my own behalf, I wish you a most enjoyable and rewarding stay in Kenya.

This year's Conference has come at a time when the world, and particularly Africa, is experiencing a serious food crisis caused by stagnation in agricultural productivity, rising cost of fuel and fertilizer as well as climate change. The situation has caused a dramatic increase in food prices, thus adversely affecting the survival and well-being of the vulnerable members in our society. It is imperative that urgent measures are taken to address this problem and to secure the livelihoods of our people. I am encouraged to note that this conference will deliberate on agricultural policies, including key issues affecting agricultural development and food security in Africa.

Let me emphasize, however, that for the poor people who are shouldering the heaviest burden of the current high food prices, a solution must be found now. Therefore as you deliberate on these issues, I hope that you are also considering the fact that we need urgent and decisive action that will lead to prompt improvement of the situation. In this respect, I urge you to come up with practical recommendations that will enable us to resolve the current food crisis, and more importantly, let us endeavour to find lasting solutions so as to prevent a recurrence of this disastrous situation in future.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the ACP Heads of State and Government Summit in Maputo, in 2004, we undertook to put agricultural growth and food security at the center of the development agenda. Indeed, the Maputo Declaration, encouraged each of our Governments to formulate comprehensive strategies to revamp the Agricultural Sector. We also undertook to increase budgetary allocation to agriculture to at least ten percent of our national budgets. Though substantial progress has been made, few countries have attained the threshold figure of ten percent. Part of the reason for this situation is the fact that Africa is currently a net importer of food.

The huge food import bill takes away resources that are crucial for investment, not only in support of agriculture, but also for the development of infrastructure as well as provision of other essential social services. There is, therefore, need to strengthen strategies for cooperation between African governments and development partners in

order to avail both technical and financial resources to enhance and sustain food security in Africa.

I would like to emphasize that such cooperation is both necessary and urgent, given that the majority of our economies in Africa are agriculture based. Moreover, in many of our countries, farming is predominantly small scale and rain fed. In addition, institutional support and infrastructure are poor and inadequate. Furthermore, most agricultural produce is marketed with little or no value addition, thus yielding low returns on investment. The net effect of these challenges is that the performance of the agricultural sector in Africa is low. This situation makes it difficult for our economies to master the high economic growth rates needed for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other development targets.

It is imperative that we radically transform agriculture in our countries. This will entail expansion of access to productive resources by farmers, building and strengthening of institutions that support farmers and availing more funds for infrastructure development.

As we seek to transform the agricultural sector, it is important to note that in the next one to two decades, over 60 percent of the total population in Africa will be living in urban areas. Those engaged in agricultural production will, therefore be much fewer than is the case today. However, they will be expected to feed a rapidly growing population in both urban and rural areas. For this reason, and in view of the current trend in the cost of production, we should be prepared to use agricultural inputs more efficiently, while at the same time maximizing the use of available land.

Distinguished Delegates,

While the African continent is considered to be a water deficit region, we have some of the largest global water basins which are yet to be fully exploited. For instance, only 4 percent of our annual renewable water resources have been developed to either irrigation, domestic and industrial water supply or hydropower use compared to 70-90 percent in the developed countries. Exploitation of these water resources provides immense opportunities for the production of rice, sugar and other crops more than three-fold, if we can harness our water resources more effectively.

Apart from crop production, some of the water basins in Africa, have enormous potential for production of high-value freshwater fish. At the same time, this continent has access to valuable marine fishery resources. Regrettably, few of these resources are being exploited sufficiently due to lack of adequate investment. There is therefore need to reverse this unfortunate state of affairs in order to achieve our cherished objectives of food security, economic prosperity and environmental sustainability.

Another dimension to the current food crisis is climate change. A few years ago, climate change was largely the subject of discussion amongst experts in science journals and conference halls. Today, the reality of climate change is with us. From the decline in the ice caps on Mount Kenya and Mount Kilimanjaro, to the erratic weather patterns characterized by irregular seasons, severe droughts, floods and storms, the effects of climate change are evident to all. Furthermore, climate change

is having a disastrous impact on infrastructure, agricultural production and on the survival and well-being of our people.

Most regrettably, although the African continent contributes only a minimal 5 percent of the total global greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change, we are the most vulnerable region to its negative effects. Indeed, droughts, floods and famine take their heaviest toll on this continent, where millions are afflicted every year.

Furthermore, even though the full impact of climate change is still not very clear, the frequency and severity of extreme weather patterns have become serious threats to food and water security, poverty and disease. There is therefore urgent need to develop models for adaptation by building more capacity towards climate resilience. These measures would include, deepening of mitigation strategies in maintaining strategic grain reserves, developing futures markets for our commodities, adjusting planting and harvesting schedules and promoting new drought and heat resistant crops and livestock. We will also need to reduce dependence on rain-fed agriculture, expand the land under irrigation and apply new technologies of rainwater harvesting and storage.

Turning to intra-Africa trade, it is important to note that with a population of close to one billion people, Africa constitutes a large and untapped market for trade in goods and services. Therefore, increasing intra-Africa trade is crucial to facilitating rapid growth of our economies. Despite this, the volume and value of commodity trade among our countries is still low. This underscores the need for us to review our tariff and non-tariff barriers that discourage the growth of intra-Africa trade. The establishment of regional trading blocs has played an important role in enhancing trade amongst our countries.

As the infrastructure connecting the countries of this region and telecommunications systems improve, it will be possible to consider merging some of the existing blocs to create bigger regional economic blocs. This will not only contribute to greater trade volumes between African countries, but it will also give Africa an edge in world trade.

In conclusion, Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to thank all the delegates from the different countries in Africa, United Nations, NGOs and the Civil Society for finding time to attend this conference.

I would like to encourage you to set aside some time to visit some of our renowned tourist attractions as well as the countryside to enjoy the hospitality of our people.

With these remarks, it is now my pleasure to declare the 25th FAO Regional Conference for Africa officially open and to wish you fruitful deliberations.

Thank you and God bless you all.

Report of the Technical Committee

16 – 18 June 2008

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS**Organization**

1. The Technical Committee of the Twenty-Fifth FAO Regional Conference for Africa met from 16 to 18 June 2008, at the United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNON), in Nairobi, Republic of Kenya.
2. The Meeting was attended by 136 delegates from 37 Member Nations of the Africa Region, 1 observer from Member Nations outside the Region, 2 representatives of the United Nations Specialized Agencies and 23 observers from intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations, the list of delegates is given as Appendix B.
3. The objective of the Conference is to review the implementation of the recommendations of the 24th Session held in 2006 in Bamako, Mali, review the activities in the region in 2006/2007, discuss priority issues and challenges related to scaling up agricultural water management initiatives and intra-African trade.

Opening Ceremony (Agenda Item 1)

4. The FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa, Dr Modibo Traore, welcomed the delegates on behalf of the Director-General of FAO, Mr. Jacques Diouf. He expressed FAO's appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Kenya for hosting this Conference and for putting at their disposal the excellent facilities at the United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNON) in Nairobi. He also thanked the National Organising Committee for the diligence and commitment with which they accomplished their assignment in collaboration with the FAO Conference Secretariat.
5. He stressed that FAO, in conformity with its mandate, will continue to provide the required expertise to African member countries and a forum for discussion to find ways to speed up the realizations of the WFS and MDG targets, especially in combating hunger and poverty.
6. The Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Mr. William Samoei Ruto, in the company of his colleagues from the Ministries of Fisheries Development (Mr. Paul Nyongesa Otuoma), Livestock Development (Mr. Mohamed Abdi Kuti), Water and Irrigation (Ms Charity Ngilu) and Cooperatives Development (Mr. Joseph Nyagah), who briefed participants on their respective sectors, welcomed the delegates and observers and expressed appreciation of the Government of the Republic of Kenya for the honour to host the Twenty-Fifth FAO Regional Conference for Africa. He stressed the importance of the event for Kenya, because it allowed his country to reflect on the contribution of agriculture to alleviating poverty.
7. He reminded the meeting of Africa's population of 750 million with 50%

below 18 years and growing at a fast rate of 3%. At that rate, it will register more than a billion people in 2020 and 2.5 billion by 2050. This increase, he noted, does not correspond to the very slow development. If the current trends continue, the number of poor people in Africa is expected to increase steadily through the middle of the 21st century.

8. He concluded by emphasizing the importance of reducing hunger and food import bill by raising farm outputs which the Africa region can achieve with comparative advantage. That, he believed, will facilitate high rates of economic growth to which all countries in the region aspire to attain. In addition, without policies backed by extensive research, funding from national budgets; donor partners and the private sector, plans of economic growth in Africa will be a futile mission.

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

9. The Meeting unanimously elected Dr Romano M. Kiome, Permanent Secretary, 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:	Lesotho: Ambassador Sponkie Malewa
Second Vice-Chairperson:	Cameroon: Mr. Medi MOUNGUI
Rapporteurs:	Ghana: Ms Adelaide Boateng-Siriboe
	Libya: Dr. Abdalla Zaied

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

Scaling up Agricultural Water Management: A Priority for the Implementation of the first Pillar of CAADP

12. The Secretariat presented Agenda Item No. 4. . The expected 60% area expansion for agricultural water management by 2015 as was projected by CAADP will not be attained if the current 1% annual growth rate was maintained. Decreasing crop yield contributes to poverty and justifies the need to invest in agricultural production to close the widening yield gap. It stressed the productivity improvement potential of rainfed agriculture and the need for reliable water and inputs such as improved seeds, fertilizer and other good agricultural practices. Africa should be encouraged by the fact that it is achieving improved Internal Rates of Return (IRRs) on new agricultural water development projects

13. The delegates and observers were reminded of new investment opportunities in agricultural water harvesting as noted in the recent World Development Report, the June 2008 High Level Conference on Food Security: the Challenges of Climate

Change and Bioenergy, as well as the forthcoming Sirte High Level Conference on “Water for Agriculture and Energy: the Challenges of Climate Change” to be held in December 2008. All these conferences emphasize the firm commitment of Heads of State to scaling up investment in agricultural water.

14. The Meeting commended FAO for the preparation and presentation of the document and accepted the recommendations on priority investment options therein contained and as hereafter summarized:

- Increase productivity of existing and expand or develop micro, small and large irrigation schemes;
- Apply the principle of sustainability to all phases of the infrastructure development process;
- Invest in research on agricultural water management, both adaptive and basic at national and regional levels, with the view to improve water productivity and adapting to climate change and mitigating its impacts

15. The Meeting recommended that Member countries

- vii) and their development partners, including FAO, should adopt a holistic approach to water management, including water use strategies at basin level so as to integrate and cater for all competing needs: agricultural, fisheries, livestock, domestic and municipal, industrial and environmental uses.
- viii) promote joint development of shared river and lake basins as a way to regional integration as was the case for the Senegal River Basin, reversal of the contraction of Lake Chad, the respective initiatives of CEN-SAD (100,000 ha) and UEMOA (11,000 ha) in the *Office du Niger* area in Mali;
- ix) promote rain water harvesting to *inter alia* recharge groundwater resources for multiple uses;
- x) scale up sustainable development and management of inland valleys where an important potential for rice production still lie untapped;
- xi) create the enabling political and institutional environment for public-private partnership.

Intra-Africa Trade: Issues, Challenges and Implications for Food Security and Poverty Alleviation

16. The meeting recognized that intra African trade can provide additional opportunities to those Africa has in the global environment. It welcomed the decision of the December 2006 Abuja Summit on Food security to identify and promote

strategic commodities which meet Africa's food security and trade objectives, including trade within the region. It observed that intra African trade faces a number of challenges that limit agricultural development, and these include low agricultural production and productivity; insufficient and inappropriate infrastructure; unfair competition from the subsidized products of developed countries; insufficient agricultural financing; and the difficulties faced by Africa to cope with food safety standards partly arising from its limited participation and the influence upon Codex Alimentarius. Accordingly, the Meeting called for deliberate action to address these difficulties and to increase investment that enhances production and productivity in Africa, which can increase the current level of intra African exchanges.

17. The meeting was reminded that Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA) are currently being signed by some African countries while others are considering the implications of doing so. The meeting considered the EPA process to be of such great importance for Africa that the region needs to benefit from thorough consultation among all countries with regard to the best steps forward.

18. Regarding the current soaring food prices, the meeting noted that some countries are taking urgent measures to address the problem such as the reduction or suppression of import taxes bans on exports, etc. While this is recognized as a welcomed emergency measure, it should not be adopted as a long term solution, since it impacts negatively on national budgets and overall trading environment.

19. In conclusion, the meeting recognized that solving Africa's food insecurity problems would require an enhancement of intra-regional trade through strengthened Regional Integration Arrangements (RIAs). However, they regretted that some of the declarations and resolutions made during the very important gatherings like the Maputo and Abuja Summits were unfortunately not implemented. It was, therefore, recommended that such resolutions should be implemented in order to boost African agricultural and economic development and intra African trade.

III. ROUND TABLE MEETING ON AFRICA'S FOLLOW-UP TO THE FAO HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY: THE CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIOENERGY

20. Under the chairmanship of Dr Romano M. Kiome, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture of Kenya, a panel constituting of African Union Commission/NEPAD, CGIAR Group and FAO facilitated discussions on Africa's follow-up to the FAO High-Level Conference on World Food Security and the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy.

21. The Meeting noted the genesis of the food crisis presented by the panelists and expressed appreciation to FAO for taking the initiative to include this Round Table discussion in the 25th Africa Regional Conference in Nairobi. The Meeting also noted that although there is a global crisis, Africa appears to be the most dislocated and needs to make the most strenuous efforts to combat the impact of the food crisis. The Meeting, therefore, emphasized the full support of Africa for the Declaration adopted at the High-Level Conference.

22. The Meeting agreed that the primary responsibility for addressing the crisis

and ensuring sustainable growth rests with African countries which should allocate at least 10 per cent of their own resources to boost investment in agricultural development in conformity with the Maputo Declaration. Such follow-up by the countries will enable Africa to seize the opportunity that high prices offer for encouraging domestic production. Africa needs to promote international community action to minimize the impacts of speculation and all other factors that lead to concurrent increase in the prices of oil and other important inputs for development.

23. As much as the pledges were appreciated, the delegates would like to have timely clarification from FAO on the framework and allocation of the resources for the activities. They also recommended that the assistance be linked to the CAADP as the African Union Commission's recognized regional agricultural development framework. For this to be effective, it will be necessary to accelerate the existing CAADP processes.

24. The Meeting emphasized the need for effective engagement of ministries of finance and economic development in order to ensure that African countries reinforce their efforts towards allocating and disbursing more of their own resources as soon as possible. It also called for timely release of the pledged external resources to ensure effective field interventions.

25. The Meeting appealed for international solidarity of oil producing countries to mitigate the high cost of fertilizers. Other countries have been urged to contribute to the Africa Fertilizer Fund Mechanism and follow up other key recommendations of the 2006 Abuja Fertilizer Summit, including greater exploitation of Africa's phosphate and other resources.

26. FAO informed the Meeting that it is available to assist the countries in setting clear priorities for the various interventions envisaged, including long term support in preparing projects for such priorities in order to secure local and external funding. In this respect, FAO emphasized the need for Member countries to be in the forefront of securing resources for key national food security interventions in the spirit of the Maputo Declaration.

27. The Meeting noted the need for the use of appropriate technology and results of applied research from national, subregional and regional research institutions to improve agricultural production and appealed for more effective funding of agricultural research.

28. The Meeting recommended more information exchange on the production and post-harvest activities in the different sub-regions to ensure more effective use of surpluses and regional trade.

29. The Meeting recognized the partnership between the public and private sectors in agricultural development and the need to strengthen it in the search for solutions to the current food crisis.

30. The Meeting emphasized the need for strengthening the cooperation between the African Union and other Regional and Subregional Organizations in Africa with the Permanent Representatives in Rome to enhance African participation in various

negotiations, especially in the framework of FAO Conference Committee on the IEE process.

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

31. The Meeting noted the Secretariat's presentation on the following topics of importance to agricultural development and in particular to Africa:

- Challenges for Sustainable Land Management (SLM) for Food Security in Africa (ARC/08/INF/5);
- Urbanization and Food Security (ARC/08/INF/6);
- Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ARC/08/INF/7);
- Knowledge Exchange, WAICENT and Capacity Building (ARC/08/INF/8).

Adoption of the Technical Committee Report

32. The Meeting considered its report and adopted it for consideration by the High Level segment of the Conference.

List of Topics to be considered for the 26th ARC

33. Delegates were invited to submit their suggestion of topics to the Secretariat

Date and Place of the 26th ARC Session

34. The Meeting welcomed Angola's offer to host the 26th ARC Session in 2010 and looked forward to agreement on the date in consultation with the Director General of FAO.

APPENDIX K

**African Civil Society and Farmers' Organization joint statement
to the 25th FAO Regional Conference for Africa,
Nairobi 16th to 20th June 2008.**

“Reforms now! The Poor can't wait! The future of Africa is in its small scale farmers!”

We, the undersigned African civil society and farmers' organizations meeting in Nairobi from 16th to 18th June 2008 to review the implementation of the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD) Declaration of March 2006.

We wish to bring to the attention of this conference the outcome(s) of the recent meeting of farmers' networks held in Addis Ababa, 21st – 23rd May 2008 to review the current state of African agriculture. Considering the importance of the need to work together at the continental level, the four sub-regional farmers' networks – Agricultural Producer Organizations of Southern Africa (SACAU), Eastern Africa (EAFF), Central Africa (PROPAC) & Western Africa (ROPPA) reaffirmed their total commitment leading to the formation of Pan African Farmers Platform

In furtherance of this commitment, the Addis Ababa meeting agreed to establish a steering committee composed of the presidents of the four sub-regional farmers' networks and appointed Mr. Mamadou Cissokho as the chair. This new instrument constitutes a powerful lever to promote a resurgence of African agriculture.

Realizing that the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) goal number 1 to reduce the number of hungry people by half by 2015 is unattainable, when out of the 854 million people that go to bed hungry 313 million are in Sub-Saharan Africa. In Africa hunger kills more people every year than AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis combined.

Noting that 80% of food in Africa is produced by women and yet they own less than 1% of land and also comprise 60% of those who suffer from hunger. In addition they remain shackled by discriminatory cultural, traditional, social and economic structures which hinder them from access, control and ownership of land/natural and productive resources making them increasingly vulnerable to food insecurity.

The present global food crisis that is unprecedented in magnitude and impact is caused by international policies that reduce the policy space of southern governments to design and implement appropriate national policies which results in decreased investment in agriculture, reduction of support to peasants and small scale farmers and dismantling of state managed food reserves.

However we recognize that climate change, unfair trade, increasing promotion of biofuels, forced privatization of vital resources, high energy prices, internal conflicts and disasters are all contributory factors to the food crisis.

Recognizing the outcomes of the ICARRD that emphasized the need for appropriate national policies for agrarian reform and rural development, we decry global trends in agriculture that promote large scale capital intensive farming to the detriment of other

systems of agricultural production (e.g. peasant farming, farm workers, pastoralists, animal husbandry, fisheries, and hunter-gatherer societies).

With the proposed green revolution in Africa led by Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), we observe a lack of recognition of indigenous knowledge and the plurality of agricultural systems. We strongly believe that the hallmark of this global homogenization is the role of multi-national corporations seeking to make agriculture subservient to their profit motives.

Taking cognizance of these facts, we the under-mentioned civil society organizations:

- Re-affirm our commitment to farmers and regenerative sustainable farming to ensure self reliance in the development of agriculture and the achievement of food sovereignty.
- Reiterate that women must be at the centre of an inclusive, appropriate and participatory agrarian reform and rural development.
- Emphasize that trade must serve the development of agriculture and livelihood of the poor people than the interest of the multinational corporations.
- Insist that governments must prioritize inter and intra Africa trade especially in agriculture rather than negotiate unfair bilateral trade agreements such as the EPAs.

Recommendations

The 25th session of FAO Regional Conference for Africa should consider the following:

1. Advance the follow up of ICARRD recommendations through:
 - a. A clear mechanism for monitoring that guarantees women, youth and marginalized groups to have access, control and ownership of land, water and other natural and productive resources.
 - b. Acknowledgement of CSOs as fundamental actors in designing national and regional agrarian reform and rural development policies that is people-centered.
 - c. Allocation of resources by African Union and national governments to the whole agriculture chain and the promotion of indigenous knowledge.
2. Build consensus on the need to exclude sensitive agricultural products from the unbridled trade liberalization and establish an effective special safeguard mechanism to regulate influx of imports and overcome the food crisis.
3. Urge African governments and institutions at all levels to provide solidarity and technical support to the Pan African Farmers' Platforms and other civil society networks working on food security in order to fully engage in developing viable alternatives for agrarian and rural development.
4. Countries must fulfill the commitment of allocating a minimum of 10% of their national budget to agriculture development as stated in the 2003 Maputo declaration and increase the allocation of resources to the development of irrigation systems.
5. African governments should fully implement the UN voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Adequate Food and FAO should take practical measures to ensure compliance.

6. FAO and African governments should commit to promote sustainable agricultural development that aims to achieve food sovereignty with emphasis on the right holders (i.e. women, men and youth, small scale farmers, fisher folks, pastoralists, agricultural workers, landless and off farm rural communities). Agricultural practices must seek to strengthen social structures and farmers identity as political, social and economic actors as well as to support agro-ecological agriculture.
7. FAO should come up with a moratorium on the production of biofuels until African governments have put in place strong policy frameworks in which regulation and enforcement are adequate. The use of food crops as biofuel must be immediately stopped.

Thank you.

<p>Coast Women's Rights (COWER) - Kenya, Rwanda Women's Network(RWN), Plateforme Sous Regionale Des Organisations Paysannes d'Afrique Central (PROPAC) – Cameroon, Food Security Advocacy Network (FOSANET) – Malawi, National Youth Association for Food Security (NaYAFS)/IFSN - The Gambia, Kenya Food Security Network (KEFOSPAN), Kenya Land Alliance (KLA), Eastern African Farmers Federation(EAFF) - Tanzania, National Women's Farmers Association (NAWFA) - The Gambia, Network of Ethiopian Women's Associations (NEWA), Uganda Land Alliance (ULA), Community Land and Development Foundation (COLANDEF) - Ghana, Landless People's Movement (LPM/La Via Campesina) - South Africa, Conseil National de Concertation et de Cooperation des Ruraux (CNCR) – Senegal, Network of Organizations Working on Food Sovereignty (ROSA) - Mozambique, Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers Forum (ESAFF) - Zambia, Shelter Forum - Kenya, Food Rights Alliance-Uganda, Volunteer Efforts for Development Concerns - Uganda, ACORD International, ActionAid International.</p>
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