

Speech by H.E. Sándor Fazekas minister for Rural Development of Hungary
38th FAO Conference

Mr. Chairman, Ministers, Heads of delegations!
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honored to participate in the 38th Session of the FAO Conference and to speak on behalf of Hungary.

First of all I would like to congratulate for the new Member States of the FAO. I am convinced, the with the accession of Brunei Darussalam, Singapore and South Sudan the organization will be even stronger.

The points on the agenda of the Conference are all very important. The state of the hunger and the malnutrition is unacceptable, that is why we support all the efforts the reach the Millennium Development Goals. We are very glad that the UN General Assembly Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals elected Hungary as one of the Co-chairs. Beside the active participation of the member states the role of FAO is obvious with close collaboration with the two other Rome based Agencies.

We think, that the changes started recently are forward looking and are going into the right direction. Jose Graziano da Silva's proposal for the Program of Work and Budget for 2014-15 is in line with the strategic objectives approved by the member states and serves the continuation of the changes and the renewal of FAO's institutional structure. That is why we support the revised PWB for the next biennium, and we think the financial background for its completion has to be ensured.

I would like to speak about another important element of the document, the support of the smallholder farmers. As it reads in the document C2013/12, the need for accelerating sustainable productivity growth in agriculture and recognizes the special importance of enhancing productivity in smallholder family farming. Family farming plays a central role in achieving global and local food security as well as keeping up sustainable use of natural resources. By supporting family farms – along with encouraging local production, processing and sales – we can ensure the production of healthy food in a sufficient quantity.

That is why we are happy to note that the UN decided that 2014 will be the International Year of Family Farming. I would like to take the opportunity to officially announce the in the framework of the International Year of Family Farming Hungary plans to organize "Global Forum and Expo on Family Farming" between 4-7 March 2014 in Budapest. All member states are welcome.

As you all know, Hungary is hosting the FAO European and Central Asian Regional Office and the Shared Services Centre of FAO. Our country has provided suitable facilities for the FAO offices in Budapest. I wish to confirm the commitment of the

Hungarian Government that we do our outmost in order to provide the best conditions for the most efficient functioning of these offices.

I wish a good work for the conference!

Thank you Mr. Chairman!