

38<sup>th</sup> FAO Conference (Rome 15 -22 June 2013)

Plenary Session

**NEW ZEALAND STATEMENT,**

**Delivered by Deborah Roche (DDG, Ministry for Primary Industries)**

Mr Chairman, Director General, distinguished delegates

I am honoured to speak on behalf of New Zealand at this Conference. We meet at an interesting time in the history of the FAO; a new Strategic Framework has just been completed after wide consultation with the Membership, and we are beginning to see how the five Strategic Objectives are likely to be delivered.

Even with a new Strategic Framework, FAO will be asked to do many things. But FAO is not resourced to do everything. Nor should it attempt to do everything. Strategic use of partnerships will be required, in this regard we are encouraged by the Director General's increased emphasis on developing partnerships with the private sector, and with NGOs and civil society.

FAO will need to make a clear headed, objective assessment of the demands made on it, pay greater attention to prioritisation and continue to reform in order to deliver. We look to FAO to continue to prioritise delivery of the global public goods for which it has a comparative advantage; including data gathering and analysis, normative and standard setting work and policy advice in fisheries, forestry and agriculture. We place a high value on this work and will continue to support the allocation of resource to it.

The theme for this conference is "Sustainable Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition". Sustainable food systems will be supported by FAO's leadership role in sustainable global fisheries management and cross-sectoral land use policy, which includes discussion of the role of forestry. Codex activities have a direct impact on the safety and quality of food and International Plant Protection Convention assists with protecting plant health and maintaining the sustainability of plant -based production systems.

A sustainable food system that supports food security and nutrition will necessarily rely on trade and undistorted markets. It is only common sense that food should be produced in the areas of the world that have the best environmental and climatic conditions for doing so. Trade enables communities to efficiently produce what they are good at producing and exchange that for products they are less able to produce on their own. Professor Sen's concept of food entitlement, which he reminded us of in his excellent lecture on Saturday, gives support to the idea that economic development is supported by trade, and enables improved access to food.

Improved access to food will also depend on the development of partnerships between governments, industry, consumers, international organisations and civil society. In New Zealand we have recognised the value to be gained from working in partnership with industry. Our Primary Growth Partnership is a Government and industry joint initiative that invests in significant programmes of research and innovation to boost the economic growth and sustainability of New Zealand's primary, forestry and food sectors.

Internationally, New Zealand was pleased to initiate the partnership inherent in the Global Research Alliance, and we have been encouraged by the way other Members have come on board to develop what is now a comprehensive research programme in the areas of agricultural greenhouse gas mitigation.

Two other FAO-based partnerships that New Zealand is pleased to participate in, and financially support, are the benchmarking partnership for livestock, and the Global Agenda of Action in support of Sustainable Livestock Sector Development. We believe that these initiatives can be instrumental in mitigating and reducing the environmental footprint of the livestock sector whilst at the same time contributing to economic, social and community well-being.

New Zealand was a founding member of the FAO, we have a long and proud history of active and effective engagement, and we look forward to this continuing.

Thank you