

Speech By H.E. Ambassador

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Republic of San Marino

Mr Director General

Mr President of the Conference, Excellencies,

It is a great pleasure for me to intervene in the 39th Session of the FAO Conference and would like to take this opportunity congratulate you Mr Prime Minister of Samoa on your election as President of this Conference as well as the three Vice Chairs.

I would like to congratulate you, Mr Director-General, on your election for a 2nd mandate; the 177 votes clearly demonstrate the confidence all Member Countries have in your capacity and commitment in the new reformed, efficient and effective Organization.

We welcome the consensus on the budget level reached by the membership at the last the Council, in line with the Recommendation of the Independent Review, a budget level which will provide the Organization with efficient tools to achieving the five strategic objectives.

We welcome FAO efforts in its ongoing decentralization process, strengthening the capacities of the decentralized offices, their work at local and national level and focusing more on the needs of the regions and countries through the governing bodies at the Regional Conferences.

We welcome the outcomes of the Second International Conference on Nutrition which, under your leadership, Mr Director General, in collaboration with WHO, has elaborated *the* Rome Declaration on Nutrition; we therefore stress the importance of FAO's commitment in helping countries to implement the Framework for Action. It is only through concerted actions, the cooperation with other UN partners, the civil society and NGOs that the outcomes of the ICN2 can be developed.

Moreover, the last G20 Summit in Istanbul has described nutrition as a "prerequisite for human development, productivity and growth" and has stressed the importance of the Rome Declaration, encouraging governments

and stakeholders to incorporate the ICN2 Framework for Action into the national food and nutrition strategies and in their investment decisions.

Nutrition is a comprehensive issue which needs the commitment of all stakeholders, each within its specific mandate and in the framework of UN Delivery as One. Nutrition and under-nutrition require a holistic approach taking into account multiple sectors and all relevant actors in order to design cross-sectorial policies and programmes. The improvement of nutrition is linked to the improvement of sustainable agriculture.

On one hand, hunger and malnutrition are widespread—2 billion people suffer from micronutrient deficiencies which also have a great impact on children's lives, leaving them vulnerable to infectious diseases, causing physical and cognitive impairment and preventing them from reaching potential cognitive functions, affecting future job and income opportunities with high social and economic implications. On the other hand, obesity and overweight-related non communicable diseases are increasing in our societies.

In order to properly address these problems, we do believe that a holistic approach throughout the entire system and the creation of social protection safety nets are essential.

Therefore San Marino supports the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the context of Food Security and the RAI Principles, and stresses the importance that FAO be strongly engaged in supporting Member Countries in implementing in their national policies the Voluntary Guidelines on the Progressive Implementation of the Right to Food .

We will support all actions for promoting 2016-2025 as the UN Decade on Nutrition

We do believe in the role of an inclusive CFS and welcome the important achievements in bringing the theme of food security and nutrition on the top of the Post 2015 agenda. CFS must serve as an appropriate intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder global forum on nutrition for raising more political awareness.

The post 2015 Agenda must take into consideration the key role of climate change.

While 800 million people suffer from hunger, more will go hungry as a result of climate change if agriculture does not adapt and does not build resilience. Earth's climate is warming and experts do believe that the main cause is the greenhouses gases emitted by human activities and the destruction of forests.

This man-made warming is causing discernible climatic and environmental changes and we look at the outcomes of the December Paris Conference. **The impact of climate on small-holder farmers and on small islands needs more strong political commitment and thus welcome the FAO budget allocation for TCP.**

Therefore Agriculture has to be more and more on the international agenda and back into the negotiation processes as a fundamental tool in combatting poverty and malnutrition and as recently stressed by the G20 "to meet global food security and nutrition, natural resources must be more efficiently used and more socially inclusive".

We need to develop sustainable and resilient food systems from production, distribution, food be more accessible to all by combating social inequalities and empowering women.

We therefore welcome the Declaration on Antimicrobial resistance in food and agriculture and the environment and the need for more political awareness and engagement. It shows the new positive environment between the Regional Groups and the Secretariat in reaching consensus.

Poverty and hunger eradication can be reached only through Women empowerment and we welcome the Director's General efforts in promoting gender as a cross-cutting issue in FAO programs

Women have less access to everything. Empowering women through education, equal access to land and to micro credits, will enhance their role in society, in the family and I would say moreover it will contribute to the international political stability.

*We would recommend FAO to elaborate the **Voluntary Guidelines on the mainstreaming of gender equality and women empowerment in food security and nutrition policies** under the mandate of the CFS and in the context of sustainable development in the context of the Post 2015 agenda.*

Healthy soils are the foundation of food production, for achieving food security, nutrition, for mitigating the negative impacts of climate change, *but* the level of soil degradation is alarming.

We therefore welcome the Year 2015 as the International Year of Soils which aims at raising awareness on soils issues in the UN's Sustainable Development Goals currently under discussion.

Forests play a fundamental role in providing carbon emissions which decreased by 25% between 2001-2015, a phenomenon linked to deforestation and

degradation and to the increasing concentration of greenhouses gases in the atmosphere.

San Marino would like to take this opportunity to thank the Government of South Africa for hosting the next September XIV World Forest Congress in Durban.

The Republic of San Marino endorses the role of the three Rome-based agencies, their collaboration although within their specific mandate.

San Marino, a landlocked territory, has now developed best practices in the agricultural sector promoting policies on the protection of land and the environment and the development of biological cultivation.

We are aware that a country of small dimensions can be easily monitored to achieve food security and nutrition, and we are ready to share best practices on social protection policies such as the right to food, to water, to energy, and to education for all. Since decades a national campaign in favor of adequate breastfeeding and complementary feeding has been implemented in line with WHO recommendations. Universal health care coverage, labor protection, protection of pregnant women and working mothers during lactation as well as gender equality are assured by national legislation.

The agricultural policies are focussed at protecting the territory by favouring a less aggressive agriculture, the respect for biodiversity and raising awareness of youth in agriculture. Being fully integrated into the Mediterranean context, the promotion of food culture is particularly important to uphold ancient traditions. To this end, institutions dealing with agriculture, farmers and schools work in synergy to foster nutrition into education programs. Children aged 6 to 14 participate annually in laboratories for children on the origin of food, on traditional processes of transformation, the culture of taste, opposed to the culture of consumption.

The awareness that interaction between obesity and the consumption of non-healthy food and non-correct lifestyles have developed a strong collaboration among small-holder farmers into a cooperative called "Land of San Marino", promoting local agricultural products, their traceability and dedicated labels as well as promoting the culture of production as cultural heritage.

It is certainly easier for a small country to promote food security, both through sustainable production and through a rigorous control of the food chain. Registration and control measures of plant protection products used in agriculture have been introduced several years ago and, since the 80s, an integrated control strategy of all small vineyards and olive groves has been carried out. A bovine registry was introduced in 1989 and all animals are

recorded and monitored. This allowed us to easily overcome the problem of mad cow disease.

Our challenges for the future are:

- To develop sustainable agriculture and the agri-food sector so as to make San Marino a country with a totally organic agricultural production;
- To increase biodiversity, through the recovery of seeds, vine varieties and breeds;
- To enhance landscape through less aggressive farming methods, hedgerows separating fields and the promotion of traditional agricultural systems.

We are present at Milano Expo with our technological innovations and best practices in the Bio-Mediterranean Cluster and we welcome the Charter of Milano as the legacy of Expo Milano.

As President Lula said at the McDougall Memorial Lecture the World agriculture production is enough; conflicts, hunger and malnutrition are manmade and if there is true strong political commitment, we can overcome them.

Let us all play our role.

Thank you Mr President.

Daniela Rotondaro

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of the Republic of San Marino