

**FAO AND WFP SPECIAL EVENT**  
**“RECOGNISING NOTABLE AND OUTSTANDING PROGRESS IN FIGHTING HUNGER”**  
**ROME, 7 JUNE 2015**

**UAE INTERVENTION**  
(Approx 2.5 minutes)

Excellencies,  
Director-General,  
Executive Director,  
ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honor to be here today. Thank you for inviting the UAE to participate in this special event.

The UAE is privileged to be among the countries that have met the World Food Summit and MDG-1 hunger targets. Since its establishment in 1971, under the leadership of the country's late founder, His Highness Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the UAE is fortunate to have experienced very rapid development in all sectors. With the understanding that adequate food and nutrition is an essential prerequisite for a full and healthy life, we have made concerted efforts

to ensure that this basic need is met across society. HH Sheikh Zayed himself said, "give me agriculture, and I will give you civilization".

Having achieved our development targets at home, the UAE is committed to eradicating hunger worldwide, and enjoys close cooperation with two of the most important agencies in this regard, the Food and Agricultural Organisation and the World Food Programme. HH Sheikha Fatima, wife of HH Sheikh Zayed, has, for example, served as an FAO Goodwill Ambassador since 2010, helping mobilize support for international efforts to eliminate hunger.

In four years alone, from 2010-2013, the UAE has disbursed US\$207.6 million in an effort to counter extreme hunger. In addition to providing direct food aid and food security programs, the UAE has drawn on its own experience to conduct major projects, from Haiti to Afghanistan,

to develop agro-industries, agricultural water resources, and crop and livestock management and export.

Looking beyond 2015 and towards the Sustainable Development Goals, the UAE will continue to play an active role in these areas through its foreign assistance programs. I look forward to our continued collaboration, and hope that, together, we will make great strides in our efforts to eliminate hunger.

Thank you.