



*4 June 2012*

***World Food Programme Executive Board Meeting***

Mr. Shobhana Pattanayak, President of the World Food Programme's Executive Board,  
Mr. Staffan de Mistura, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Italy,  
Ms. Ertharin Cousin, Executive Director of the World Food Programme,  
Distinguished Board members and guests,  
Colleagues of the Rome-based Agencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for the invitation today to speak for the first time to the World Food Programme's Executive Board.

As we all know, strengthened collaboration between the Rome-based Agencies has been a constant request from our Members.

My message today is that we need to make cooperation the rule, not the exception.

It must be the result of conscious joint programming built around national priorities, not the occasional overlap of our field activities; and the product of an institutional commitment, not that of solely individual efforts.

FAO is committed to strengthening partnership with the WFP and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, IFAD. This is one of my top priorities, because I truly believe that we must work together to overcome the food and nutrition security challenges facing our world.



In the case of FAO-WFP cooperation, we need a new mindset. It is time to change the “big brother-little brother” relationship that has existed since the Programme was created in the Sixties. WFP is FAO’s equal partner.

Ladies and gentlemen, I wish to highlight our excellent cooperation in the preparatory work to forums such as the Rio+20, the G-20 and the G-8.

And, most importantly, our work in the field, where substantive cooperation is already taking place. At this level, I want to mention three specific areas where we could strengthen our joint efforts.

First area: working to make the food security response the model of the humanitarian transformative agenda.

In just a year since its creation, the joint FAO-WFP Global Food Security Cluster has become the ‘go to’ spot, globally and in every major crisis, for food security information and coordination.

Second area: reinforcing our collaboration and joint advocacy on the resilience agenda in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa.

Much of our cooperation has been linked with crisis management. Instead, we need to build a single Rome-based Agency approach to resilience - at the strategic, political and programmatic level - to manage the cycles of recurring drought and crisis.

And, third area: renewing commitment to the WFP/FAO programs to increase productivity and market access for small-scale producers: Purchase for Progress (P4P) and Purchase from Africa for Africans (PAA).

These programs have a tremendous potential in fighting hunger: they help answer the need of vulnerable families to access food and, at the same, stimulate



local production and local markets. It's the sort of win-win situation we should always try to implement.

Ladies and gentlemen, as you know, FAO is undergoing a strategic thinking process to better focus our resources, providing greater value-for-money. This is a participative effort, in which we are consulting Member countries, FAO staff, external experts and partners.

During this session of the Board, you will discuss WFP's next Strategic Plan. The strategic planning that both organizations are undertaking offer an opportunity to ensure that our work is coordinated and complementary, with clear responsibilities responding to our core functions.

There are also a number of important ongoing and forthcoming initiatives at the global level that we will continue to follow closely with WFP and IFAD.

And there is our common baby: the Committee of World Food Security, that has quickly grown to maturity. I believe the Rome-based Agencies need to increase their support to the CFS and become its executive arm, helping transform its decisions into action. Let's work in this direction, bringing also the High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis on board.

Finally, there are a number of Rome-based Agencies' administrative issues where there certainly will be room for additional efficiency savings. We have already begun a dialogue with WFP on these issues and will report back to you in future meetings.

Ladies and gentlemen, I look forward to continuing this dialogue with WFP, IFAD and our Members.

Thank you for your invitation and I wish you a constructive session.