

**COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY (CFS) - ROME, OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2006**  
**SPECIAL FORUM ON REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF WORLD FOOD SUMMIT PLAN OF ACTION**

*Statement by Mr. Paolo Rozera - WOSM, Coordinator of Ad Hoc Group/INGOs*

Mr. Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I represent at FAO in Rome the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM), and I take the floor on behalf of my Organization, but also as Coordinator of the AHG/INGOs representatives to FAO in Rome. This group, which comprises representatives, based in Rome, of over 30 international NGOs, is now well known for its long association and cooperation with FAO on subjects of common interest. The Group participated actively in the WFS, in the WFS: *fyI*, and in the related NGO/CSO Fora. A first report on action taken by its members for the implementation of the WFS Plan of Action was prepared and distributed by the AHG at the WFS: *fyI* in 2002. This report has been updated for the Special Forum and is distributed here today. I wish here to emphasize a few points included in that report, while encouraging all concerned to read the details directly from the text.

AHG members informed their respective HQs of the Commitments of the Plan of Action, stimulating them to help implement it at regional and national levels within their specific fields of interest. A newsletter "Call to Action" was produced in cooperation with the Geneva INGOs Working Group on Nutrition to disseminate information on the various issues and problems highlighted by FAO member governments and on the need to combat hunger in the world.

Special attention was given, for example, to supporting participation of women in development processes, and education of girls and boys for family and public life. Water supply, nutrition, food, agriculture and rural development were among the subjects discussed and on which the attention of our HQs was focussed for further international and field action. The "right to food" is another item on which we are concentrating since the launching of the Voluntary Guidelines. Last but not least the participation in the IAAH - International Alliance Against Hunger, launched by FAO, WFP, FAD and IPGRI after WFS: *fyI*. AHG is member of the Rome IAAH Working Group and individual members have joined the Alliance being active at national levels.

Our report to the Special Forum includes the AHG programme 2006/2007, on which I wish to draw your attention, since we are open to any suggestion, advice and proposals for better cooperation. Please note that an AHG website is now open for contacts. Now allow me, Mr. Chairperson, a few comments on the documents prepared by FAO for the CFS, particularly CFS:2006/3 and its Supplements. I will limit my comments to situations of developing countries which are those most in need of attention and support.

While we appreciate the efforts made to collect and provide information on action taken for the implementation of the WFS Plan, it is disappointing that only a small number of governments have reported to the CFS; and that no mention is made apparently in those reports to any cooperation with and involvement of local NGOs and "actors of civil society" as specifically indicated in each Commitment of the Plan approved and undersigned by governments in 1996. We wonder whether this is due to lack of interest - by whom? governments? local NGO's? Lack of information and difficulty of communication; or simply forgetfulness. (Incidentally, we regret that at international level, even the NGO/CSOs efforts through the AHG and the IPC are not acknowledged in the FAO official reports, in spite of the close cordial and continuous cooperation existing at central and international level.)

Having analysed in detail the FAO reports, we are encouraged to notice that attention was given by reporting governments to some issues of special importance in fighting poverty and hunger, such as gender equality and the role of women in development, Commitment 1; nutrition, food safety, safe water supply, healthy life styles, Commitment 2; on resources, Commitment 6. Limited attention is reported by governments on participatory development policies and practices, Commitment 3, a subject pursued actively by the AHG over the years with FAO, both at secretariat level and at official meetings (conference, council, technical committees). Again this requires active involvement of local civil society and NGOs in the countries, which appears to be neglected,-or not reported- by those responsible for implementation of national plans. Few countries have reported on mechanisms for monitoring, Commitment 7, with the only laudable exception of Cambodia, where NGOs are mentioned as collaborating agents.

To conclude: the information available shows that now, at midterm, the international community is far from reaching the, still modest, goal of reducing by half the number of undernourished people established in 1996. As representatives of INGOs deeply concerned with the issues under discussion, the AHG has tried in the above analysis to underline at least a few weaknesses existing in the efforts to reach the goal. We of course recognize that governments have the full responsibility of implementing the Commitments of the Plan of Action, but that responsibility includes the involvement of civil society at all levels, which does not appear to have been applied in all countries. It is clear that more efforts are required by all concerned. INGOs are prepared to do their part, provided there is encouragement to their participation at both national and international levels. We wonder also whether developing countries need more assistance in implementing their plans, and in preparing them where they do not yet exist. I wish finally to mention a proposal made in year 2000 to the UN by one of our members, the International Federation for Home Economics, and repeated recently, namely the designation of an International Year of Food Security. The proposal may be worth of support by the international community, if it may encourage initiatives towards reaching the goal.