



AD HOC GROUP OF INGOs
Representatives to FAO
residing in Rome

Council - Rome, 20-25 November 2006

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. This group, which comprises representatives of 30 international NGOs, is well known for its long association and cooperation with FAO on subjects of common interest. An updated report is available on our website.

The International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty also endorses this statement.

During the last Committee on World Food Security it was officially declared that we won't reach the goal of reducing by half the number of undernourished people before 2015. In 1996 we condemned to death the first half of undernourished people, now we are saying to the other half that we aren't able to help all of them before many years. The situation is serious.

Mr. Chairperson, I would like to bring to your attention that I've said WE won't reach, WE condemned and WE are saying, because we believe that there isn't a unique owner of this goal. There are different levels of responsibility but it is a collective responsibility to achieve it, it is the responsibility of all. To work effectively toward this goal the contribution of all the actors involved is fundamental.

With these words, we would like to reassert that we, the INGOs, the civil society, are not the problem, but that we are part of the solution.

Yesterday, I had the pleasure to attend the afternoon session of the Council, during which I listened to some distinguished delegates affirming that resources are reducing and for this reason experiences such as the Special Forum and ICARRD are not cost effective.

But if we affirm now that we won't reach the goal of reducing by half the number of undernourished people before 2015, it isn't a problem of resources, but of how resources have been used. We the INGOs and civil society organizations are attentively following the reform proposal set forth for FAO. We must reaffirm that we are doing so with a cooperative attitude. In fact we would like to point out that at a time when resources are diminishing and must be better utilized the INGOs represent a resource whose great potential has not yet been fully exploited by FAO.

It is therefore clear that it would be to our mutual benefit if we increase communication and cooperation. To this effect, we would welcome a reform which would allocate more resources to the department that is dedicated to the relations with the civil society, which we consider of paramount importance for the future cooperation between FAO and INGOs. In this light, we believe that the method of multi-stakeholder dialogue used in the Special Forum during the CFS should be implemented and institutionalized. And the process used for the ICARRD should be monitored and implemented too. Many other UN Organizations and agencies are working effectively with this method, we don't understand why here in FAO it is not possible go ahead in this manner. We also believe that is fundamental to continue supporting the existence of Rural Development in order to offer technical assistance in this area, as well as to ensure the follow-up to ICARRD, which contains in its name the words rural and development.

We welcome a reform of FAO, if it leads to a strengthening of the role of FAO in the fight against hunger and poverty. We don't need FAO only as a technical office. Yesterday the distinguished delegate from Mali was right on target affirming that the mission of FAO is to feed people.

For this reason we are here with you all, to build together the road which could bring us to see a glimmer of hope for reducing at all deaths for hunger.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson, ladies and gentlemen.