

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**MODTAGET
LEDELSESSEKRETARIATET**

The Director-General

Dato 15?/
13-09 KI

K/DG-153

Rome, 9 MAR 2009

Dear Sir,

At the last World Food Day celebration in New York on 23 October 2008, I proposed the convening of a World Summit on Food Security in order to reach a broad consensus for the rapid and final elimination of hunger from the world. I renewed this proposal in the congratulatory message I sent to The Honourable Barack Obama on his election as President of the United States of America, and had also proposed it to Heads of State and Government of FAO member countries.

The current world food insecurity situation is unbearable. In 2007 alone, mainly because of high food prices, the number of people suffering from chronic hunger has increased by 75 million and is estimated to have risen further by 40 million in 2008, bringing the total number of hungry people to almost 1 billion human beings, that is 15 percent of the world population. In addition, food production must double if we are to ensure adequate food for a world population that will reach 9 billion in 2050.

The objective of totally eradicating hunger has already been set for 2025 for Latin America and Caribbean countries by the XVI Ibero-American Summit held in Montevideo (Uruguay) in November 2006. This was recently reaffirmed by the Latin American and Caribbean Summit on Integration and Development held in Salvador de Bahia (Brazil) last December.

My proposal has been endorsed by Kings and Heads of State and Government of the League of Arab States at the Arab Economic and Social Development Summit held in Kuwait City on 19 and 20 January 2009, with the adoption of Resolution no 6, and also by Heads of State and Government of the African Union at their 12th Summit which took place in Addis Ababa from 1 to 3 February 2009, with the adoption of Decision no. 231 (XII).

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Mr Thor Pedersen
Speaker of the Folketing
The Danish Parliament
Folketinget, Christiansborg
DK-1240
Denmark

cc: The Permanent Representative to FAO

It is envisaged during this proposed World Summit, which would take place in Rome on 14, 15 and 16 November 2009 on the occasion of the FAO Conference, to hold an inter-parliamentary session on world food security. This would ensure the effective contribution of parliamentarians, which is so necessary for the success of such an initiative and also for carrying out the ensuing commitments. I hope I can count on your support and participation.

Yours sincerely,



Jacques Diouf