

UNCCD Eighth Round Table of Parliamentarians Delivers Its Message to the World Food Summit

Bonn, 18 November 2009. On the occasion of the World Food Summit concluding today in Rome, Italy, Aristides Lima, President of the National Assembly of Cape Verde and President of the Steering Committee of the Parliamentarians Networks of the UNCCD, has delivered the message on Food Security from the UNCCD's Eighth Round Table of Members of Parliament.

In his message, sent through Jacques Diouf, Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Mr. Lima expressed the hope that the Summit would take the message from the Round Table into account during the decision-making process of the Summit.

In their Declaration on Food Security in the drylands, the Parliamentarians underlined:

- that there is no human security without food security, above all for the poorest living in the world's degraded and drought-prone drylands;
- the three baselines that are the starting points for parliamentary activities on food security, namely, the primary role of affected states in combating desertification, the participation of affected populations and local communities, and developed country support of affected developing countries;
- the need for enabling legislation to combat desertification;
- the responsibility of Parliamentarians in enacting legislation to enhance food security;
- the role of parliaments in monitoring and influencing land deals that are in the public interest;
- the need for Parliaments to establish and strengthen food security systems;
- that Parliaments should mainstream sustainable land management into long-term policies and national development strategies;
- the need to re-evaluate agriculture in the political arena, with at least 10% of national budgets allocated to agriculture, and a review of development assistance, rural disinvestments and subsidies in agriculture;
- that Parliaments ensure that food, agricultural trade and overall trade policies can foster food security.

The Declaration was adopted at the conclusion of Eighth Round Table of Members of Parliament that took place on 24-25 September 2009, in parallel with the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The World Food Summit kicked off on Monday, 17 November, in Rome, Italy, to address five key challenges, including how to eradicate hunger from the earth and how to put in place a more coherent and effective system of governance of food security at both national and international levels.

The full text of the Declaration of the Eighth Round Table of Parliamentarians is available [here](#).

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About the UNCCD

Developed as a result of the Rio Summit, the UNCCD is a unique instrument that has brought attention to land degradation in some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and affected populations in the world. Thirteen years after coming into force, the UNCCD benefits from the largest membership of the three Rio Conventions and is recognized as an instrument that can make an important contribution to the achievement of sustainable development and generate global benefits.

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