



Distinguished Member State Representatives,

We are writing to share with you the outcomes of the second senior management meeting of the Rome-based United Nations food and agriculture agencies (RBAs), held on 15 April at IFAD headquarters. The meeting brought together about 40 managers from FAO, IFAD and WFP to discuss collaboration among our agencies in field operations, administration and corporate systems.

We are excited about the outcomes of the meeting and will pursue joint work under the leadership of deputy heads of FAO, IFAD and WFP. The next meeting will be hosted and organized at WFP during the fourth quarter of the year.

In particular, we concluded the following:

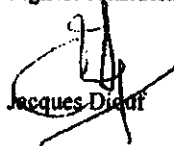
1. Lessons learned from the ongoing joint action by the RBAs in Haiti, after the devastating earthquake, point the way for our collaboration in Niger, where a food security crisis looms. The Haiti task force focused initially on meeting urgent humanitarian needs, where WFP took charge of emergency food distributions, and FAO coordinated the supply of seeds and agricultural inputs. In part supported by IFAD, FAO is distributing seeds to ensure that this planting season is productive and has already reached 9,000 families. IFAD has further approved a US\$2.5 million grant for a post-earthquake support programme in affected rural areas and the three agencies are collaborating to support temporary employment schemes that address soil erosion concerns and improve rural infrastructure. The three agencies also conducted joint assessments and worked to ensure that food security, agriculture and nutrition needs were well represented in the Post Disaster Needs Assessment and in the Agriculture Investment Plan of the earthquake's impact in rural areas.
2. All three agencies are concerned with the lack of progress on the first Millennium Development Goal (MDG1) – halving hunger and poverty by 2015. Before the MDG Summit in September, we will be sending out strong messages that reflect our common commitment on all dimension of food security, including nutritional security and incorporate the climate change, trade, conflict and gender dimensions. We will also be highlighting how growth in food security and agriculture strongly support the attainment of MDG1, and underlining its catalytic effect on other MDGs. In particular, we will encourage the inclusion of food security and attention to agricultural growth in country-level United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks across the developing countries.

3. World Food Week, from 11 to 17 October 2010, is an opportunity for us to call attention to the food security agenda and showcase the successful work that we are doing together. We agreed that each agency would host at least one joint event. To expand our outreach beyond Rome, we will provide our country offices with communications materials and encourage them to mark the week, so that this becomes a truly global event.
4. We received an update on the pilot common procurement unit, which started work in January this year. This involves a joint procurement initiative of as much as US\$100 million, through which we are expecting to achieve savings and efficiencies. This pilot programme is based on our previous experience with joint tenders for banking services, travel agents, utilities and custodian services for our funds. We have also completed agreements for IT system back-ups, and we are seeking to make greater collaborative use of one another's country offices. The first joint FAO and WFP evaluation, which focused on food security information systems, also highlighted the complementary strengths of the two agencies, with recommendations for further enhancements to ensure sustainability and to better communicate results, as part of a joint strategy.
5. Another example of increased collaboration is that IFAD has more than doubled its use of FAO Investment Centre technical work on project preparation over the past two years. For 2010, IFAD is planning a US\$4 million programme with the centre.
6. We agreed to convene the second meeting of the security management team for the RBAs, to focus on security risk assessment and finalize a joint security management plan.

We also took stock of the progress made since our last meeting in November 2009, when we launched our strategy for cooperation, and agreed on the way forward.

In the run-up to the next meeting, we will be intensifying our collaboration. We will keep you informed of our achievements, as we continue to work together in our joint effort against hunger and poverty.

Accept, Distinguished Member State Representatives, the assurances of our highest consideration.



Jacques Diouf



Kanayo F. Nwanze



Josette Sheeran