

Farmers' Major Group
Statement at Intersessional Meeting on RIO +20

Green Economy
January 10, 2010
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Mister Co-Chair, Your Excellencies, and delegates,

In a forum discussing the three pillars of sustainable development goals - economic, social, and environmental - I would like to stress agriculture's link to all three:

- shockingly farmers represent one half of the world's poor;
- farmers are on the front line of tackling global hunger;
- farmers are stewards of vast natural resources and subject to the vagaries of weather and climate change

Society and all relevant stakeholders have a shared responsibility to help and encourage farmers to face the challenges of climate change; to improve practices to become more sustainable, including animal welfare; and to ensure a fair income while remaining competitive in the market. These efforts need to be undertaken simultaneously otherwise we will have to face food security problems and compromised ecosystems.

We believe the Summit should further policy coherence on these issues, drawing on the CSD-17 findings and the work of the High Level Task Force on Food Security.... *We would appreciate the views on the panelists on how to achieve greater policy coherence.*

In our opinion, discussions of the green economy should be PART of the means to implement overarching sustainable development commitments under the three pillars. In relation to this, we believe the Summit should look at the role agriculture can play in a leadership in implementing the green economy. Among the topics are:

- 1) To protect biodiversity through productivity gains that minimize the need to encroach forests, jungles, and other eco-systems and meet global requirements for food**

- 2) To use a knowledge-based approach of best practices that sustain production and minimize the ecological footprint of agriculture
- 3) To find ways to reward farmers for eco-system services that foster sustainability and address poverty by enabling smallholder famers to break the subsistence cycle

In terms of emerging issues, we have empathy with the notion that the agenda is already full, but should additional issues be included we encourage a focus on **combating drought and desertification and improving disaster risk reduction** during this summit.

We look forward to Rio.

Thank you Mr. Chairman