

## **Statement by Farmers' Major Group by Jan Ahlen**

### **At Ministerial Roundtable 2 - Transport**

**CSD-19 May 12, 2011**

In many developing countries, sustainable practices are difficult to implement due to the lack of financial resources, infrastructure and services. This represents a major constraint on the competitiveness and viability of the agricultural sector.

If handled correctly, transportation offers a number of win-win opportunities for employment, poverty reduction, and reduced environmental impact. Infrastructure investment is needed – particularly in rural roads – to make supplies available to farmers, workers and industry and then to provide easy access to markets. A corridors approach, such as the efforts in Africa to build from ports inward to the countryside should be a priority.

A priority for development expenditure must also be focused on on-farm storage and processing facilities that reduce post-harvest losses. Reducing production losses and food waste are key elements for sustainable development. Some estimates of post harvest losses are as high as 40%.

Farmers need to have adequate and appropriate transportation infrastructure, local storage facilities including cold chain storage for food preservation to reduce losses.

Finally, the issue of biofuels has been raised several times. Farmers need assistance with the right technology for the production of biofuels on their farms. That can include alternate crops and use of biomass which is currently a waste product. We want to contribute to cleaner fuels without damaging national and global food security.

## **Workers and Trade Unions Joint Statement with Farmers' Major Group**

### **Statement on Transportation Roundtable**

**CSD-18, May 13, 2010**

Mister Chairman,

On behalf of Workers and Trade Unions, as well as the Farmers' Major Group, we provide a joint statement on transportation.

Both groups share an interest in questions related to access. Whether it is a farmer isolated in a rural area unable to sell her crops to a market, or a worker in a burgeoning city forced to commute for hours to his job; limited access to transportation diminishes livelihoods and quality of life.

Our priorities relate to improving the ability of people to use transportation for the valuable social development role it plays. We call for:

- 1) Ensuring public transport systems are adequate, efficient and affordable, and help workers reaching their jobs, education and markets. A shift from individual to collective transportation systems must be a pillar.
- 2) Investing in and building infrastructure – particularly roads and ports – to make supplies available to farmers, workers, and others and to provide access markets. We encourage use of a corridors approach, such as the efforts in Africa to build from ports inward to the countryside. The most environmentally-friendly options must be prioritized.
- 3) Building transportation and storage facilities in developing regions to reduce post harvest losses and food waste.
- 4) Promote the improvement of working conditions of transport workers as a means for reducing health risks and increasing environmental protection. Pressing issues such as HIV and safety conditions need attention.

If handled correctly, transportation offers a number of win-win opportunities for employment, poverty reduction, and reduced environmental impact. Public works spur employment, and road maintenance provides ongoing jobs. Public transportation reduces the footprint of transportation and more efficient solutions such as rail development & inter-modality can improve the movement of goods and commodities.

At the same time, Mister Chairman, both our groups are cognizant of the impact unsustainable patterns of transportation have on health, pollution, climate change and poverty. We encourage the use of sound science and engineering to reduce emissions and create systems that move people and products as efficiently as possible.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.