



ADDRESS BY DAVID HARCHARIK

**THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF FAO
TO THE
TENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
OF THE
UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

15 DECEMBER 2004

President Carlos Kirchner,
Minister Gonzales Garcia,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for the opportunity to address this Tenth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Although the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has actively participated in all previous Conferences of the Parties, this is the first time that we are represented in the High Level Segment. I wish to register FAO's deep concern about the impacts of Climate Change on global development, and, more importantly, our commitment to work with our member countries to help develop and implement effective mitigation and adaptation strategies.

More than 840¹ million people worldwide suffer from hunger, of whom about 800 million live in developing countries.

Climate change will hurt particularly this segment of our global society by compounding the effects of droughts, floods, storms, and land degradation on agriculture, forestry, fisheries and livelihoods. We are especially worried that climate change is adding to the large food insecurity burden already borne by the poor.

Mr President,

You have asked us to reflect back over the past ten years. In doing so, I believe we should applaud the Secretariat of the UNFCCC and the IPCC for many achievements since signature of the Convention in 1992. In exactly two months, the Kyoto Protocol will become operational. This success of the international climate negotiations would not have been possible without the support, the engagement and the commitment of the Secretariat, its Executive Secretary and its staff.

I should also like to mention the Third Assessment Report. With this report, the IPCC has reduced the uncertainty about the possible extent and impacts of global warming, and has helped to raise public awareness about the looming dangers of climate change.

With the Kyoto Protocol in force and firm emission reduction commitments in place, much will have been achieved. However, we know all too well that

this is not enough!

The world community must drastically increase its efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel use and deforestation. Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries must adapt to that part of climate change that is already taking place and we must also help vulnerable societies to cope.

¹ SOFA 2001, 842 mio., 34 mio in CIT, 11 mio in OECD, 60 % in Asiapacific, 24 % in Africa

And here FAO sees its role.

- First, we aim to increase our efforts to assist our **Member countries** in implementing their commitments under UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol. Together with international partners, we will work with countries to help develop the capacity to adapt their agriculture, fisheries, and forestry practices, and to strengthen the resilience of their societies.
- Second, we will continue to **provide global data and information**, e.g. agro-ecological zoning for impact modelling and vulnerability assessment; agro-meteorological data for extreme weather impact assessment and for guiding adaptation, and assessments of agricultural production and of global forest resources.
- And third, since climate change negotiations will not stop with ratification or the first commitment period, we will continue **to collaborate with the Secretariat, the IPCC, and other partners** in Assessment Reports², Good Practice Guidance³, and by harmonizing definitions⁴.

Mr President,

We know that to contribute our share to the fight against climate change a long and sustained effort will be needed. It must be comprehensive and mainstreamed, addressing all of our programs. We must not lose sight of the fact that Climate Change is already affecting the food security of the current world population and of an additional two billion people by the year 2030.

² Pingali, Bruinsma and Killmann are Lead Authors for Chapter 5 (Food and Fibre) of the 4th IPCC Assessment Report.

³ Schoene is Lead Author for the IPCC 2006 Guidelines.

⁴ 3rd Meeting on Harmonizing Forest-Related Definitions, January 2005, with IPCC, CIFOR, IUFRO, ITTO, and UNEP.

In this regard, I am glad to announce that the impacts of climate change will also be addressed at the next session of FAO's Committee on World Food Security, in May 2005.

Mr President,

I am confident that implementing the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol will gain momentum as a consequence of this 10th Conference of the Parties, and I can assure you that FAO is ready to play its part in this enhanced international effort.

Thank you.