



# FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION

## Rome Declaration

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### **Commitment Two**

FAO defers to the Urban Poor Committee for the Urban Poor.

#### A. Findings and Conclusions

- 1) The committee acknowledges the need for continuance in the implementation of sustainable agricultural development in order to continue support ending famine and malnutrition.
- 2) The lack of communication between the member states and the donor parties and organizations with regard to the appropriation of funds has impeded the progress of the implementation of the Rome Declaration.
- 3) Continuing population growth in the context of rural poverty and in particular when it occurs in conditions of inequality of access to land, tends to push the rural poor to expand agriculture into ecologically fragile areas.
- 4) The percentage of rural poor is the majority of total poverty, and in certain regions, the rural population is greater than the urban population (In Sub-Saharan Africa, the percentage of total poor taken up by rural poor is 87.3%, and in Asia, the percentage of total poor taken up by rural poor is 79.4%).
- 5) In many developing nations, women constitute 70% of the rural poor; however, they have considerably fewer rights than men, including a lack of property rights and a lack of educational opportunities.

- 23 B. Recommendations  
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25 1) Urges states with the help of NGOs to move toward sustainable agriculture by first educating  
26 rural farmers concerning more suitable indigenous technology and then gradually  
27 introducing new technology in appropriate locations and situations.  
28 2) Recommends that bodies cooperate in the sharing of information and technology.  
29 3) Acknowledges and encourages progress in countries modifying indigenous technology to fit  
30 modern production standards.  
31 4) The committee encourages relief effort during the interim process toward sustainable  
32 agriculture, which will encourage progress toward sustainable agriculture.  
33 5) Encourages cooperation between regional, national, and international organizations in the  
34 appropriations of funds to meet the needs of specific areas without violating sovereignty.  
35 6) The committee recommends the development of rural public works (community-based  
36 initiatives as well as basic infrastructure) to provide increased employment in emergency  
37 and relief situations.  
38 7) The committee recognizes that land access does not mean access to arable land, therefore,  
39 the committee encourages the reassessment of access to arable land.  
40 8) The committee encourages NGO's, regional organizations and governments to provide land  
41 loans and to provide funding for agricultural and educational training for women.

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**Commitment Three:**

45 Agricultural development defer to Recommendations and Conclusions under Commitment Two  
46 Forestry, defer to Desertification committee  
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48 I. Finding and Conclusions

- 49 X. Under the status quo, the FAO will not be able to reach its 2015 goal stated in the  
50 Rome Declaration of reducing hunger by half.

- 51 XI. Fish is the primary source of protein for many countries. While high grades of fish are  
52 exported, fish is a domestic source of food in developing nations.
- 53 XII. There is currently a substantial decrease in the world's fish populations
- 54 XIII. Further research into the health of the ocean ecosystem along with the effects of  
55 predation on fish stocks is necessary.
- 56 XIV. Pollution has the effect of endangering the sustainability of aquaculture and the  
57 health of the world's aquatic environment.
- 58 XV. Affirming that encroachment upon fishing grounds is a breach of international law and  
59 state sovereignty as stated in the Laws of the Sea. In that encroachment takes away  
60 from the states means to use their fish for consumption.
- 61 XVI. Initial investigations show favorable financial returns for value-added production of  
62 fishery products and indicates encouraging prospects within developing nations.

63

64 Q. Recommendations

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- 66 I. Urges Fisheries Advisories Committee to review the global fish population and assess  
67 the long-term trends of dynamic stock exploitation and marine pollution.
- 68 II. Establish a comprehensive global catch assessment program designed to support  
69 management of current stocks.
- 70 III. Determine the current status of such stocks within ocean and fresh water  
71 environments and assessing the relation to catch composition, effort, export, and  
72 demand markets.
- 73 IV. Determine and document long-term trends of stock growth and depletion also to  
74 include supply and demand issues.
- 75 V. Review and evaluate existing management and conservation techniques and advise

- 76 on appropriate interventions to strengthen such commitments
- 77 VI. Evaluate current standards in regards to handling, presentation, and preservation of
- 78 fishery products.
- 79 VII. Encourages states to research the impact of top predators, such as whales, on fish
- 80 stocks and also to examine predator populations as indicators of the sustainability of
- 81 the overall marine ecosystem.
- 82 VIII. Enact environmental legislation as stated In the Rio Declaration (*Section 11*)
- 83 IX. Urge states to reevaluate policies and procedures pertinent to off-shore drilling to
- 84 emphasize preventive measures that will insure environmental security.
- 85 X. Recommend that states that have encroachment problems take their case to ICJ.
- 86 XI. Urge states that are witnessing instances of encroachment to notify the ICJ.
- 87 XII. Recommends the promotional efforts to introduce new and improved value-added
- 88 fishery products through coordinated efforts between financial, marketing, fishery
- 89 institutions, and regional organization.

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91 **Commitment Five: Natural and man-made Disasters**

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93 A. Findings and Conclusions

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95 I. FAO recognizes that man-made disasters disrupt the agricultural capabilities and any

96 programs that are being implemented. For example, military conflicts result in

97 destruction of crops and displacement of the rural population, thus leading to food

98 shortages.

99 II. The committee acknowledges that natural disasters also negatively affect the

100 agricultural sustainability of a country and impede its development.

- 101 III. The committee points out that emergency situations need to be attended to before  
102 any long-term program related to food security and agriculture can be effectively  
103 implemented.
- 104 IV. For the goals of the Rome Declaration to be reached, man-made disasters need to be  
105 prevented, and emergencies, both natural and man-made need to be dealt with as  
106 quickly and efficiently as possible.

107

108 B. Recommendations

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- 110 I. The committee encourages more collaboration between the UN, NGO's and IGO's  
111 to deal with the aforementioned situations.
- 112 II. The committee recommends that the UN organize a plan of action in order to  
113 open up channels of communications between the above mentioned groups to  
114 deal with emergencies. This plan, when requested should specifically address  
115 who is most competent to deal with different aspects, such as assessing the  
116 situation locally, locating sources of aid, running the actual aids operations and to  
117 suggest implementation accordingly. A special meeting with all the parties (UN,  
118 IGO's, NGO's, state and local governments and etc.) involved should be set up for  
119 this purpose.
- 120 III. The committee urges that appropriate aid when requested (as determined by the  
121 local officials and the participating organizations) be given as soon as possible to  
122 all the countries listed as facing food emergencies. The committee encourages all  
123 countries and agencies that are able to provide assistance (as determined by the  
124 local officials, participating organizations, and states) to do so immediately.
- 125 IV. Acknowledging the current help provided by developed nations, the committee

- 126 sees the need to continue and expand the help in the sharing of technology and  
127 training for effective agricultural techniques, as well as funds, that can speed up  
128 the recovery process and lead to the ability to greater satisfy future needs.
- 129 V. The committee recommends that technology and information related to predicting  
130 natural disasters be shared in a global network, through organizations such as the  
131 World Meteorological Organizations and further research be supported for  
132 advances in this area.
- 133 VI The committee recommends that each government shows greater commitment to  
134 enforcing environmental regulations and environment sound agricultural practices,  
135 therefore the impact of environmental disasters can be prevented.
- 136 VII The committee encourages states in conflict to make a greater effort towards  
137 communication and resolve issues diplomatically.
- 138 VIII The committee suggests implementation of rural public works in times of  
139 emergency relief and aid to not only promote short-term relief, but helping sustain  
140 long-term effects.

## 141 URBAN POOR

### 142 I INTRODUCTION

143 As the world progresses into the 21st century a dramatic shift is occurring in  
144 demographics throughout the world. Massive populations are moving from a rural  
145 agricultural base into the cities of nations. Population growth brings with it inherent  
146 negative consequences for urban outlets unprepared for supporting these inhabitants.  
147 This overpopulation contributes to decreased political and social stability, urban decay,  
148 increased crime, deteriorating health and sanitation, increased unemployment, food  
149 insecurity and are a strain to many nation states. Among the 800 million hungry in the  
150 world meant to be addressed by the World Food Summit, the urban poor represent a

151 large percentage. Working together, governments, the private sector, and household  
152 can overcome the challenges of urban poverty, food insecurity, and malnutrition in the  
153 21st century. It is out of this group that great advances will be seen as we progress in  
154 our development as a people.

155

156 A. WORKING TOWARDS THE GOAL OF 2015 SET ~~DECLARATION~~

157 As we work towards the goal of reducing urban poverty we should view this issue  
158 in conjunction with Rome Declaration on Hunger's goal of reducing the number of  
159 undernourished throughout the world. If those causes which lead to urban poverty  
160 are addressed, great strides will be made towards achieving the goal of halving  
161 the number of hungry in the world.

162

163 II. CAUSES OF URBAN POVERTY

164 A. LAND DEGRADATION

165 The flow of populations from the rural environment to the city has been caused in  
166 large part by the inability of these groups to support themselves in the rural areas,  
167 due to lack of opportunities in agriculture. Furthermore, in the rural environment  
168 there does not exist the necessary infrastructure and social services that are  
169 required for developing populations. These people are often forced to move to  
170 urban centers following the failure of their land to support their needs. This land,  
171 which has supported these people for generations, is unable to provide for  
172 expanding populations through traditional farming methods, and due to a lack of  
173 technologies. These farming methods have led to extensive land degradation  
174 resulting from the inability of the land to recycle its nutrients. As the productive  
175 capacity of the land decreases more and more, individuals are unable to support

176 themselves and are forced to move to the city to provide for themselves.

177

178 B. GLOBALIZATION - PROBLEMS WITH RELATIONSHIP OF DEVELOPING  
179 NATION WITH CORPORATIONS

180 Developing nations are at a natural disadvantage in their relationships with the  
181 private sector. As developing nations seek to industrialize in the interest of  
182 providing for their urban populations, they run up against many barriers. In the  
183 competition for new industry, nations are forced to disadvantage their poor in the  
184 interest of attracting industry. This leads to situations where even those who are  
185 working are often not paid a true living wage and therefore become a further  
186 burden on society.

187 1. BURDENS OF COLONIALISM

188 Often the lack of industry within developing nations is a direct result of the  
189 colonial legacy implemented by many of the developed nations of the world  
190 today. Much of the production within developing nations is of raw  
191 materials, rather than finished products. Developed nations of the world  
192 need to appreciate the unique circumstances that many nations have been  
193 placed under with their lack of industrialization and its relationship in turn  
194 with the urban poor.

195

196 C. RAPID URBANIZATION

197 The rapid urbanization that has occurred with the population shift into the cities  
198 has strained the resources of city and national governments. Social services have  
199 been unable to expand in conjunction with the increase in numbers. Most urban  
200 poor do not have access to adequate sanitary facilities, clean water or food.



201 These developing nations that are struggling with expanding their capacity in the  
202 interest of greater public health and improved quality of life for the urban poor.

203

204 D. TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENTS

205 The transition to democracy has left many countries with large portions of their  
206 population in jeopardy. Several states have struggled with this transition from a  
207 centrally planned economy to a free market economy. States which had never  
208 before experienced widespread poverty, due to governmental assistance, are now  
209 experiencing poverty rate of over 40%. The developing democracies in Central  
210 and South America are struggling to assert themselves in the face of substantial  
211 political unrest due to the struggles in addressing issues such as urban poverty. If  
212 the expansion of democracy is to remain a key goal for many developed nations,  
213 they must realize the burdens that are placed upon these governments in light of  
214 the problems associated with urban poverty.

215

216 E. DIFFICULTIES IN DISBURSEMENT OF AID

217 In several cases the assistance that has been provided for the suffering urban  
218 poor has been extremely ineffective due to the obstruction of aid efforts by  
219 governments. When the government of countries does not have the best  
220 interest of their people in mind, it has been observed that the aid often is used  
221 for other means and therefore does not reach its intended target. With this in  
222 mind, initiatives for aid that are undertaken should seek in many cases to deal  
223 as directly as possible to the group at risk, rather than proceeding through  
224 excessive governmental channels.

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F. IMMIGRATION

The plight of some nations is occasionally so severe as to force individuals to leave their country. The burden imposed by these immigrant search for prosperity in the urban areas of other nations, often places an undue burden upon that country and its services. In many cases the arrival of immigrants brings about unrest. This can be seen in France with the populations backlash against the newly arrived Algerian immigrants. The international community must seek to a have a broad approach to the development of nations so as to relieve the burden imposed upon the urban areas of nations.

G. REFUGEES

The issues associated with refugees are in many ways similar to those encountered in dealing with immigrants; however there are additional problems, namely land degradation. The mass movement by a large group of people, is often devastating to arable lands, as they not only decrease available farmlands, but also sap resources from those native to the land. A lack of available rural resources, in turn causes more urban poverty. Dealing with the issues associated with refugees is the purview of the GA 3<sup>rd</sup> committee.

H. HEALTH ISSUES

The urban poor are unable to acquire adequate health care. Medical facilities and experts to staff them are extremely rare in many environments in which the urban poor reside. The age old tropical diseases that have long plagued developing nations is now joined by a new scourge, the rapid spread of

251 HIV/AIDS. It is not surprising that the regions hardest hit by this epidemic are  
252 the developing nations in Sub-Saharan Africa and South-East Asia. The lack  
253 of basic health services and the education that accompanies them that is  
254 preventing measures that would stop the decimation of these populations.  
255 The world community requires the extension of basic health services into the  
256 centers of urban poverty in the interest of basic human right.

257

#### 258 I. UNEMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION

259 In order for the urban poor to change their economic position, it is crucial for  
260 widespread education in sustainable agriculture initiatives to take place.  
261 Through education and technical training it becomes possible for the urban  
262 poor to improve their conditions. Even those urban poor who are able to find  
263 work are forced to live on a day to day wage existence in which they are  
264 constantly in danger of slipping into hunger. It was a lack of education in many  
265 cases that brought these populations to the city and unless they are educated  
266 they will remain a burden upon the governments that support them.

267

#### 268 J. NATURAL DISASTERS

269 Due to the high population density and the lack of quality building materials,  
270 natural disasters can have an especially devastating effect and cause many  
271 casualties in urban areas. Lack of planning, involving early warning systems,  
272 and long-term relief efforts, especially by regional partners, usually  
273 exacerbates the negative results of natural disasters further.

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#### 275 III. RECOMMENDATIONS

276 A. AID FROM NGO'S, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND DEVELOPED  
277 NATIONS

278 Many of the problems of the urban poor, can be helped by an increased  
279 amount of internal attention to the plight of a nations own citizens, but the  
280 problem of increased urban poverty cannot be faced by most nations,  
281 especially developing ones, alone. Although many NGO's and regional  
282 organizations exist that readily contribute both technical and financial support,  
283 more assistance is needed. The United Nations Conference on Environment  
284 and Development and member nations agreed to provide 0.7% of developed  
285 nations GNP be pledged to assist developing nations. If this pledge is upheld  
286 it will greatly assist the development of all nations. Also, there has been  
287 discussed the 20-20 initiative which has received significant interest from such  
288 large donor nations as Japan. This initiative would involve the pledging of  
289 matching funds that provide assistance equal to that which is pledged by a  
290 developing country up to 20%. In this initiative donor nations, such as Japan,  
291 would match funds to provide assistance equal to what is budgeted by the  
292 developing countries, up to 20%. This would encourage nations to allocate  
293 more of their budget to the problem of food security and sustainable  
294 agriculture.

295  
296 B. DEVELOPMENT OF THE MARKET

297 For the poor living in urban settings the market is their sole source of food.  
298 They are no longer able to produce their food; therefore, their security blanket  
299 of self-sufficiency has been removed. The inevitable result is dependence  
300 upon the market as the sole source of agricultural sustenance. Furthermore,

301 due to the fact that many of these urban dwellers are on a day to day wage  
302 that is extremely transient, their amount of savings is very small. Because of  
303 this lack of a safety net, small events in their life can have a huge impact on  
304 their ability to provide for their family. In addition, since the market is the sole  
305 source of food and it is extremely unregulated, the safety and health issues  
306 involved in the market threatens the population. What is required is support  
307 for the development of the market systems in developing nations to better  
308 provide for the urban poor by such organizations as United Nations  
309 Development Program, local government, regional organizations, and NGO's.  
310 This is not meant to reflect poorly upon the market as a whole, but is meant to  
311 point out areas for improvement.

312

#### 313 C. DECENTRALIZATION OF GOVERNMENT AND AID

314 Many of the aid initiatives in the past have not achieved complete success due  
315 to the inefficiencies involved with the bureaucracy of government. In future  
316 efforts, aid organizations should seek to deal as directly as possible with the  
317 urban poor. By making the government and aid organizations more accessible  
318 to the people, it increases their accountability and makes them more  
319 transparent to oversight. FAO encourages governmental accessibility and  
320 transparency to achieve aid objectives. These initiatives seek to increase the  
321 amount of aid that actually assist the urban populations. This is meant to  
322 influence new aid efforts and to provide encouragement to deal as directly as  
323 possible with the population.

324

#### 325 D. SENSITIVITY TO COUNTRY NEEDS

326 The solutions that are applied to the problems of urban poverty and all issues  
327 before the FAO cannot be applied universally. Rather, initiatives must be  
328 based upon the needs of each nation as they would apply to them. It is  
329 through regional actions plans and especially national action plans that  
330 meaningful results will be achieved. This attitude of sensitivity must also be  
331 kept in mind when aid is given to developing countries in an effort to assist  
332 their poor.

333

#### 334 E. DEBT RELIEF

335 One of the major impediments to developing governments assisting their  
336 urban poor populations is the heavy burden of external debt that requires them  
337 to pay large interest payments and deny assistance to their poor. Through  
338 debt alleviation measures, those governments who have no hope of ever  
339 repaying their loans will be able to allocate larger amounts of their revenue  
340 towards assisting the urban poor.

341

#### 342 F. SMALL SCALE LOANS

343 Rather than increasing the debt burden through large inter government loans,  
344 the world community should seek to assist developing nations through small  
345 scale loans to urban dwellers as well as those in rural environments. These  
346 loans which often are less than \$500 (US) allow for these people to more  
347 effectively use their land or to be small scale entrepreneurs within the city  
348 providing a support for themselves, their family and their community.

349

#### 350 G. LOANS TO WOMEN AND THE UNEMPLOYED

351 In many nations, the only opportunities for employment that exist are in urban  
352 areas, thus leading rural men to leave their families in search for employment.  
353 In the absence of the men, women are left to cultivate farmlands, but are not  
354 recognized as the main contributors sole source of income. Women are  
355 placed in difficult financial situations, and are forced to choose between their  
356 families and employment. In order to alleviate these burdens placed solely  
357 upon women the FAO would like to stress all nations to offer more  
358 opportunities for women to receive loans, so that women have opportunity.  
359 Through these loans, women will be empowered with the ability to take care of  
360 their family, and have the chance to retain land ownership and property rights  
361 in the absence of a husband.

362  
363 H. LARGE SCALE LOANS v. AID TO DEVELOPING NATIONS

364 In the effort to develop their nations many leaders are no longer seeking the  
365 large scale government to government loans that characterized the assistance  
366 programs of previous decades. If large scale assistance is going to be given it  
367 is advantageous for this to be given in the form of direct aid rather than  
368 unpayable payable loans. This will allow developing nations so as to take  
369 steps such as capacity building initiatives and direct aid to better assist their  
370 urban poor populations.

371  
372 I. IMPROVED EDUCATION

373 If meaningful advance in the developing world is to be made the general  
374 educational level of all nation must be made. Education of the population  
375 should be of primary importance to the governments of all nations.

376 Furthermore, there must be incentives within the country to entice the  
377 educated to remain, rather than going abroad. Through better educational and  
378 technical training the entirety of the population will be able to better support  
379 themselves and break the chronic cycle of urban poverty. Governments  
380 should strive towards universal primary education as a means for improvement  
381 of the population.

382

#### 383 J. TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND SUPPORT

384 In many cases the technology, especially the capacity building potentials of  
385 these countries are not sufficient. The development of these technologies and  
386 the support for them is essential for the urban poor as they do not have the  
387 facilities in their communities to support a healthy and safe lifestyle.

388 Developed nations should seek to assist these developing nations with such  
389 things as water and sewage treatment and expansion of medical facilities, to  
390 name a few.

391

#### 392 K. EDUCATION AND UTILIZATION OF INDIGENOUS TECHNOLOGY

393 There exists in the developing world the ability for populations to support  
394 themselves through traditional measures. This is preferable to large scale  
395 changes in the techniques of the population. What is required is education of  
396 the population as to increase the effectiveness of these techniques.

397

#### 398 L. REINFORCEMENT OF ROME DECLARATION

399 All the measures advocated in this report seek to further the commitments of  
400 the Rome Declaration, implied for hunger. As we continue to progress in the



401 21st century, increasing proportions of the world's population will be found in  
402 urban neighborhoods, especially in the developing nations. Currently in the  
403 world, much of the population at risk for hunger can be found in urban regions  
404 and the surrounding areas. By effectively addressing the causes of urban  
405 poverty, not only will we eradicate poverty, but we will remove hindrances that  
406 suspend the advancements of developing nations and all of humanity.

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## Desertification

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411 As commitment three of the Rome Declaration and Plan of Action states, "We  
412 will pursue participatory and sustainable food, agriculture and rural  
413 development policies and practices which are essential to adequate and  
414 reliable food supplies...and combat pests, drought, and desertification,  
415 considering the multi functional character of agriculture." This commitment  
416 correctly links desertification with food security, as the production of food is  
417 severely inhibited by the unavailability of land on which to produce.

418

419 Desertification has long been a grave concern of the world. As the Earth is  
420 slowly converted into lesser and lesser degrees of arable land the planet is  
421 slowly depleted of the critical resources required to sustain life.

422

423 This problem reaches every nation in the world either directly or indirectly  
424 regardless of size, location, population, or wealth. Currently, over 100  
425 nations are at serious risk from desertification containing over 1 billion  
426 people. Over 73% of the Earth's rangeland is non-arable, restricting the  
427 potential of a majority of nation-states to become self-sufficient through  
428 sustain ability. Approximately 33% of the Earth's total landmass is effected

429 by desertification.

430

431 Desertification does not refer to the expansion of existing deserts, but rather,  
432 the jeopardization of existing marginal ecosystems through land degradation.

433 The causes of desertification are multifaceted, and as diverse as the  
434 countries affected by it. Primarily human factors, but also natural causes,  
435 contribute to the continued loss of arable lands.

436

437 These causes include but are not limited to overpopulation, drought, poor  
438 land management, lack of education, incongruous government policies and  
439 economic choices, inadequate and unshared technologies, war and social  
440 instability, climate change, and inflexible attitudes. FAO has examined four  
441 key issues regarding desertification. These issues include water  
442 management, biodiversity of crops and livestock, conservation agriculture,  
443 and deforestation.

444

445 Recognizing that every country shares in this problem and is affected by it in  
446 a unique fashion, FAO encourages nations to fulfill their obligations  
447 undertaken in the ratification of the World Food Summit Plan of Action.

448

#### 449 Funding

450 FAO recommends that donors (including states, national, and regional  
451 organizations, non-governmental organizations, IFAD, and Global  
452 Mechanism) uphold their commitments through prudent and proper  
453 appropriations of funding by means of financial, technical, and/or educational  
454 means that are appropriate to region, with the consensual end of integrated  
455 development aimed at self-sufficiency.

456

#### Water

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458 Water has always been one of the Earth's most precious resources. The  
459 allocation of fresh water is of critical concern to much of the world's  
460 population. Currently, access to fresh water is a serious concern that must  
461 be addressed by the world's community. This problem reaches all corners of  
462 the planet and concerns every one of us.

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464 The FAO has identified four key areas regarding access to water that should  
465 be addressed by the international community. These issues are:  
466 desalination, watershed development, water toxicity, and irrigation.

467

468 **Desalination:**

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470 Without access to fresh water, countries must look to their seas for water.

471 Unfortunately, sea water cannot sustain crops, livestock, or people.

472 Technology exists in many countries to make this water potable.

473 Desalination technology removes salts from sea water, essentially making  
474 salt water into fresh water. In order to reach FAO goals of making nations  
475 sustainable, it is highly encouraged that member states with this technology  
476 make it available to other states that do not have this technology.

477

478 **Water control:**

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480 Water control in two key issues must be addressed.

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482 First, water from seasonal rains and storms can be used if the correct  
483 technology is applied. Dams can be used to regulate and collect water.

484 However, many member states cannot afford to erect dams. It is the opinion  
485 of FAO, that these countries be given aid to build, operate, and maintain  
486 these dams, when necessary.

487 Second, these rains can be collected in reservoirs and storage tanks. This  
488 water can be utilized both for drinking and agricultural purposes. This water,  
489 in addition, can be stored for use in times of drought; however, finances limit  
490 many nations from doing so. FAO recommends generation of funds and the  
491 creation of a pool of international expertise to make this possible.

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493 Not only do these dams have the immediate affect of holding and channeling  
494 water, there are additional benefits. One such benefit is a source of energy  
495 through hydroelectric power. These dams can be converted with turbines to  
496 generate electricity.

497

#### 498 **Water Toxicity:**

499 Pollution of water is a serious concern. Pollutants, both intentional and  
500 unintentional, lead to negative ecological ramifications. Sewage wastes  
501 causes great harm to the ecosystem of every community that connected to a  
502 watershed. This water can carry with it serious illnesses to the populations  
503 drawing from these sources. Offal from factories and power plants should  
504 be minimized. New standards regarding sewage waste should be examined.

505

#### 506 **Irrigation:**

507 In arid regions of the world, the transportation of fresh water is critical.  
508 Agriculture in arid regions is very water intensive, and without irrigation,  
509 nations are unable to produce sustainable crops. Sustainable development  
510 is important for all regions. When countries become dependent on other  
511 countries for food, it creates an environment of political destabilization.  
512 Creation of irresponsible irrigation programs not only lead to serious political  
513 conflicts, but if not well designed also can exacerbate water distribution  
514 problems, such examples include groundwater mining which is highly  
515 successful on a small-scale (at a community-level) however because this

516 method is highly dependent on rainfed fossil waters on a large scale this  
517 method is highly impractical. The growth of such a practice on a larger scale  
518 could lead to a greater scarcity of irreplaceable water. FAO encourages the  
519 world community to support efforts to disseminate technology and expertise  
520 to better improve the flow of water.

521

### 522 Deforestation

523 Combating deforestation and allocating the limited supply of woodland  
524 resources is of utmost relevance to the issue of desertification. 0.8% of the  
525 world's rainforests are cut down each year. The effects of corporate, local  
526 and national logging practices include the erosion of fertile top soil, the  
527 destruction of species' habitats, the incapacity to absorb water (thus causing  
528 run-  
529 off), and further, contributes to global warming because of the release of  
530 carbon dioxide. Policies currently in place aimed at preserving natural  
531 woodlands have not been effective, neither halting the increasing destruction  
532 nor offering viable alternatives to the use of wood as a fuel source. Under  
533 commitment three of the Rome Declaration, the FAO delineated a plan which  
534 includes suggesting policies to optimize and increase forestry production,  
535 reduce the deforestation rate, increase forest coverage. At this summit, FAO  
536 would like to add strength to this commitment.

537 Including the implementation of these measures, we would like member  
538 states to encourage the use of alternatives to wood products and give  
539 national and international attention to the ill effects of enterprises such as  
540 irresponsible mining, over logging, and unchecked urban development.  
541 Beyond man-made felling, natural disasters such as storms and fires, cause  
542 immense short-term damage to forests. We welcome the meeting on Public  
543 Policies Affecting Forest Fires, originated by FAO, to help harness damage  
544 from conflagrations. Furthermore, we call member states' attention to the

545 education of those who are directly associated with timber harvesting and  
546 that contribute to deforestation practices. By doing so, methods currently in  
547 use which are contributing to excessive deforestation will be reevaluated and  
548 reformed to prevent desertification.

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### 550 Biodiversity and Crop Diversity

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552 In the efforts to combat desertification, it is crucial to employ diverse  
553 approaches, as the multiform causes must be met with equally diverse  
554 solutions. Monitoring the local ecosystem is a crucial step in gauging the  
555 overall health of the environment and the extent of degradation. Human  
556 impacts on ecosystems, such as industrial pollution, deforestation, and land  
557 mismanagement, lead to a depletion of natural resources and the  
558 degradation of plant and animal species. Species diversity is beneficial for its  
559 own sake as well as for the betterment of humanity, both directly through  
560 such applications as medicinal plants and indirectly through stability of the  
561 ecosystem.

562 Crop rotation is a viable option for states whose main crop base is either a  
563 monoculture or cash crops. In both of these situations, the land is not given  
564 an opportunity to rejuvenate itself and replenish the minerals and nutrients  
565 that sustain its productivity. While these crops can provide short-term income  
566 to countries, they are fraught with the inherent risks of price fluctuations. Also,  
567 degradation of the soil causes lower crop yields. Crop rotation allows for the  
568 rejuvenation of soil nutrients, and so by sustaining production, can better  
569 provide for the sustenance of communities.

570 Low nutrient content of the soil in which cash crops are grown, due to the  
571 heavy taxation of the soil, can have negative impacts on the livestock that  
572 graze on the land, lowering livestock yields. The implementation of crop  
573 rotation and the small-scale introduction of subsistence farming into a cash-

574 crop economy would provide greater food security. The socio-economic  
575 repercussions of a possible crop disaster would be lessened the self-  
576 sufficiency of the community that would result from the introduction of  
577 subsistence farming. Promotion of crop diversity should help to avoid the  
578 onset of desertification.

579 FAO notes the possibilities implied in discussion on genetically modified  
580 (GM) crops related to food security. The higher yields produced by GM crops  
581 in some circumstances have successfully assisted production in areas  
582 suffering from natural disasters and extensive land degradation. However,  
583 FAO asserts that the full impact of GM crops on ecosystems and social  
584 systems is yet to be evaluated, and therefore warrants further research,  
585 which would include joint efforts and exchanges of information between and  
586 among regional, national, and international organizations. Encourages the  
587 disclosure of information related to the safety of genetically modified foods  
588 and the creation of an international database on allergies and genes.

#### 589 590 Conservation Agriculture

591  
592 The most direct link between cause and effect in the phenomenon of  
593 desertification is the destruction of arable land because of unsustainable or  
594 irresponsible farming practices. Problems such as slash and burn  
595 techniques, which strip the land of its rich supply of nutrients and minerals;  
596 overproduction, which, as well as stripping the land, also disrupts markets;  
597 and homogenous crop dependence, which makes nations susceptible to  
598 fluctuations in global prices. In addition, reliance on chemical fertilizers, lack  
599 of expertise in conventional methods of production, and overgrazing all  
600 contribute to unsustainable agriculture. To combat these alarming trends, the  
601 FAO recommends support of the following agricultural policies on regional,  
602 national, and global levels. FAO promotes the retention of natural fertilizers in

603 the soil by using biological controls: such as the introduction of natural  
604 predators to the environment so as to reduce the counts of pests; organic  
605 farming methods including farming of leguminous crops and nitrogen-fixing  
606 algae; new methods like hydroponics which cultivates plants and crops within  
607 water rather than land, as well as the future support of crop diversity in  
608 maintaining and increasing the health of the land. In connection to  
609 overgrazing and crop rotation the consideration of land rotation programs  
610 should be recognized on both national and regional levels. The FAO  
611 encourages cooperation between relevant international organization, NGOs  
612 and bilateral agencies in assisting governments of affected countries with the  
613 preparation of desertification control programmes and their integration into  
614 national planning strategies. Finally the FAO encourages the integration of  
615 new technologies with existing techniques, and promotes the use and spread  
616 of successful sustainable indigenous techniques over new technology.

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