

Speech by His Excellency Mr. Oscar Godoy Arcaya, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Chile, in his capacity as Chairperson of GRULAC during the 38th Special Session of CFS on 11th May, 2012, on the occasion of the adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the context of national food security.

The adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of the Land, Fisheries and Forestry is a source of great satisfaction and legitimate pride for the GRULAC, for FAO Member States of FAO and for the UN system.

The Guidelines were adopted in a consensus exemplary process which can be displayed as a spectacular triumph of the rule of unanimity, which is a procedure that only applies to a pluralistic community that can agree on fundamental and long term issues within the project of collective life. The unanimity rule gives a veto to each member of the deliberative assembly, which allows to move forward only with the agreement of all. And this was the hard and intelligent exercise that representatives of the Member States carried out to bring forward the Voluntary Guidelines, whose adoption we celebrate today. A triumph of the spirit of harmony, tolerance and cooperation that now encourages the Member States of our organization.

During the process, representatives heard the voice of various civil society organizations and the private sector who were attended and collected to the extent that consensus made it possible. This dialogue was particularly fruitful, because it enriched the debate on the future governance of the land, fisheries and forests, bringing it more close to reality.

The consensus reached by Member States is a body of principles, proposals and ideas to be disseminated and go through a settling in the United States and the international community to take the form of public policies adapted to the reality of each country and regions becoming a powerful instrument of public good. The Committee on Food Security now accounts for a key role in building an ongoing consistent and coordinated process. Member States, for which the guidelines are voluntary and do not involve binding obligations, bear the ultimate decision on their application to public sphere. But their involvement in the genesis of the Guidelines is already an indication of political will to include on the public agenda the major issues of governance of the land, fisheries and forests, and, therefore, initiate a deliberative process and social policy on its possible implementation and institutionalization nationally and internationally.

GRULAC countries have experienced a long history in the domains of tenure, land reform and rural development. Consequently, many principles and proposals of the guidelines are already in development in our region. This explains the enthusiastic and active participation of GRULAC in the work leading to the adoption of the Guidelines. Indeed, we see reflected in them a substantive dimension of our own reality. For this reason we are optimistic about the future of the Guidelines.

We are optimistic, regardless of our desire to promote what is good for our people, because the content of the Guidelines is a paradigm of governance of land, fisheries and forests, anchored on food security, which other than being realistic, feasible, adoptable by all countries and peoples of the earth, respecting their identity and idiosyncrasy, has a powerful persuasive burden, because it removes our consciousness and appeals to our sense of justice and universal good. A representative of the Brazilian delegation, active protagonist of the last debate of the Guidelines, noted that: "By promoting responsible governance, stable and secure land for food security, by finding an administration that respects the rights of all, including producers large and small, traditional communities and indigenous peoples to seek conciliation, mediate and promote the interests of local communities and the productive forces of the market, by promoting the principles of transparency,

efficiency, participation and justice, the Voluntary Guidelines have the potential to be an important tool in the pursuit of the objectives of rural development, of responsible investment in agriculture and the fight against hunger and poverty". This is the persuasive and moral core of the Guidelines. We do not see how we can be pessimistic regarding its future.

Let me conclude by expressing these words, as representative of GRULAC, of gratitude and appreciation to the Coordinator of the Working Group, Dr. Gregory Myers, from the United States, who with diligence, prudence and patience almost without limits, lead to the discussion of the Guidelines. This gratitude is extended to an efficient collaborator, Ms. Elizabeth Kvitashvili and the Secretariat of the FAO.

Naturally our thanks also go to the Chairperson of CFS, Mr. Yaya Olaniran, who, in our view, during this process, strengthened the role of the Committee on World Food Security as a negotiating forum that produces effective results.

I also wish to acknowledge the valuable support of Mr. José Graziano da Silva, Director General of FAO. We know this support will remain in effect when FAO, as the leading international organization in this area, will assist those countries that choose to implement the Voluntary Guidelines in the near future.