



THE *DAKAR AGRICOLE* DECLARATION

In recent years the international community has been concerned with the great problems of agriculture, main source of food for billions of people around the world who are going through periodic crises, despite huge expenditures by States, populations and foreign aid.

Even though it must be conceded that significant progress has been made, that famines have been combated or avoided, it remains that millions of inhabitants of the planet, particularly in Africa, still suffer of hunger periodically, or even structurally. Women, especially children, are affected by malnutrition causing a high infant mortality.

This situation persists despite the many organizations and specialized agencies that are involved in the fight against hunger. Indeed, agricultural production, affected by the proliferation of climatic hazards, cannot always meet the expectations, as speculation affecting prices, puts food products out of reach of most people.

The Dakar Agricole, international forum which convened for the first time in 2005 at the initiative of Maître Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal, had its conference sessions attended by hundreds of participants from around the world, to address the problem of the world agricultural divide thus shifting away from usual and redundant approaches to consider new ways of thinking.

At the invitation of Senegal, the Second Edition, organized in partnership with the *think tank* Momagri (movement for a World Organization of Agriculture), just convened in Dakar.

It had a record attendance of several heads of State and Government, many Ministers and ambassadors from 40 countries and representatives of international institutions. Also 77 Scientific Experts, Scientists, Scholars, Researchers, Representatives of the Administration, the Civil Society, Farmers organizations, Associations of Producers and Consumers.

The very rich and substantial discussions were focused on four issues:

1. The regulation of agricultural markets: according to what new principles can we regulate the prices of key agricultural products so as to better prevent food crises and permanently ensure to small farmers in Africa and the rest of the world, a decent minimum guaranteed income? More generally, how to avoid repeated agricultural crisis at a global scale?

For example, States may be invited to make a commitment to adopt price fluctuations limitation policies in agreed upon margins

2. Food security: with what international cooperation steering instruments, in the new context of globalization, can we ensure food security and sustainably combat poverty?
3. Global agricultural governance: on what basis to renew global agricultural governance and initiate the establishment of a central coordinating organization operating according to consensual principles, at the global

and regional levels, to make agriculture, food supply and preservation of the environment a major priority?

4. A global agricultural strategy: how, beyond the simple regulation of prices, to develop agricultures in developing countries, especially Africa, by targeted investments, in a way, for example, to gradually reduce productivity differentials, and at the same time increase the quantities and improve qualities?

After two days of work in workshops and round tables.

We,

Experts from the private sector and States, from all continents,

Meeting in Dakar, Senegal, on April 18 and 19, 2011.

Aware that food security is a strategic issue for the future of the planet, we are unanimous in considering that the free interactions of market forces cannot, alone, ensure a remunerative price to farmers. Therefore we suggest that we adopt, first and foremost, urgent measures of prices regulation of key agricultural products, which is possible only in the frame work of the creation of a central organization of global governance of agriculture which will have, of course, other complementary missions.

Adopt, as a result, the present Dakar Declaration through which we are calling on the agricultural G20 to be meeting in France in June, to take the following actions at the international level:

1. Establish a global organization responsible for the governance of Agriculture, headquartered in Africa, with a primary mission of regulating the prices of agricultural raw materials.

2. Boost and better coordinate the functioning of international organizations which are currently worrisome and inadequate in that it no longer provides a necessary cooperation adapted to these new challenges,
3. Gradually improve agricultural production systems in developing countries to enable them to access the high productivity of developed countries, with the help of the international community, through policies aimed at the progressive elimination of productivity differentials;
4. Support strongly the agriculture of developing countries that will not improve without true farmers well trained in place of the traditional peasant. This is why we recommend an ambitious training policy for the passage of the stage of a peasant to that of an individual, familial or collective agricultural enterprise, benefiting from adequate financing.

To implement all these measures, we propose the creation of a World Organization of Agriculture and food security which would be a watch over agency of anticipation and management of agricultural crises, directly attached to the G-20 or to the United Nations, and working in synergy with relevant international organizations.

This new organization would be based on the following principles:

- Taking into consideration agriculture and food as global public goods,
- The constitution of buffer stocks at regional and international scale
- The establishment of a Monitoring and cooperation committee per product,

- The creation of a global food Security Council, like the UN Security Council,
- The use of piloting and decision-making assistance tools adapted to the specificities to the agricultural sector and to its strategic dimension,
- Increase transparency on the features market and regulate them, including mutual agreement markets where most transactions are operated.

One must go beyond the cyclical approach of prices regulation and set sustainable strategic actions with direct effects on the production of developing countries: improving soil structure, water policy, access to selected seeds and fertilizers for the purpose of curbing the differentials of productivity from one continent to another, through a true investment strategy.

On the basis of these analyses and reflections, the Forum invites the President of the Republic of Senegal, His Excellency Maître Abdoulaye Wade, to make this call at sub-regional (ECOWAS), continental (African Union), and international (G8, G20) forums for their effective implementation.

Made in Dakar, April 19, 2011