

The UN Response to the Global Food Crisis

The timeliness of FAO's High Level Conference on World Food Security held in June 2008 in Rome, Italy, was widely acknowledged by participants and countries alike. During the conference, participants agreed that the issues of food, energy and climate change are all closely linked.

While many analyses were presented, there was general agreement on the fact that agriculture would once again play a prominent role in the international agenda, and that increased agricultural investment and enhanced agricultural productivity would be crucial for the future. Short, medium and long term responses were identified.

On 28 April, 2008, the UN Secretary-General, Mr. Ban-Ki Moon, established a Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis composed of the heads of the UN specialized agencies, funds and programmes, Bretton Woods institutions and relevant parts of the UN Secretariat. The Task Force is chaired by the UN Secretary-General, with FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf as Vice-Chairman. The primary aim of the Task Force is to promote a unified response to the global food price challenge. The proposed framework for action is to:

- 1 address the current threats and opportunities resulting from food price rises;
- 2 create policy changes to avoid future food crises; and
- 3 contribute to country, regional and global food and nutritional security.