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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Commission

pursuant to Rule 110(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the FAO World Summit on Food Security - eradicate hunger from the face of the earth

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United in diversity

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B7-0172/2009

European Parliament resolution on the FAO World Summit on Food Security - eradicate hunger from the face of the earth

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the declaration of the First World Summit on Food Security, organised by the FAO from 13 to 17 November 1999,
 - having regard to the declaration of the World Summit on Food Security, adopted by the members of the FAO on 16 November 2009,
 - having regard to the United Nations' International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD), which was initiated by the FAO and the World Bank and carried by UNDP, UNEP, WHO and UNESCO, and which made detailed recommendations to governments on how to strengthen sustainable agricultural systems and end hunger and poverty,
 - having regard to the recent article published in *Nature* by eminent scientists entitled 'A safe operating space for humanity', which quantifies planetary boundaries for unsustainable production systems, including the consequences of climate change, biodiversity loss, nitrogen and phosphorus cycles and water management,
 - having regard to the implications of global trends in eating habits for climate change, public health and global food security, as stated in Parliament's Natural Resources Study (IP/A/STOA/IC/2008-180),
 - having regard to the EU's commitment to policy coherence for development, meaning that no measures in other policy fields shall run counter to development objectives (European Consensus on Development, 2005; Lisbon Treaty),
 - having regard to Rule 110(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas representatives from 185 countries committed themselves at the World Food Summit in 1996 to cutting by half the number of hungry people by 2015; whereas more than 40 million people die from starvation every year; whereas family farmers, herders and rural workers represent more than half of the world population and are the primary victims of hunger,
- B. whereas, instead of having decreased, the number of hungry people in the world is now estimated by the FAO to have passed one billion in 2009, with a world population of six billion people, while the planet, according to the FAO, could currently feed 12 billion people,
- C. whereas the final declaration of the 2009 World Food Summit neither sufficiently analyses the reasons for the failure to eradicate hunger, nor does it make concrete proposals on how to step up the fight against hunger, but instead simply puts back the

deadline for achieving the goal of eradicating hunger to 2025,

- D. whereas a global decrease in public investments in agriculture and rural development in the past decade has weakened a stable global food supply, while commercial investments in export oriented production were often undertaken in developing countries at the expense of domestic food supply,
- E. whereas export subsidies and food aid from the EU and the United States have been one major cause of the destruction of rural livelihoods and small-scale subsistence farms in developing countries and, as a consequence, have left millions of families landless and without reliable access to food or a sufficient income to feed themselves,
- F. whereas the proportion of deforested land and agricultural resources used for the production of animal feed, meat and biomass for agro-fuels has grown, contributing considerably to food-price volatility and encouraging worldwide speculation in agricultural commodities,
- G. whereas, over the past few decades, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organisation have imposed trade liberalisation measures on developing countries, which has intensified unfair competition in the field of agriculture at the expense of local food supply and sustainable farming systems,
- H. whereas the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report predicts a deterioration in agricultural capacities and production in most of the sub-Saharan countries,
- I. whereas climate change is having a serious impact on farming, for example in the form of reduced crop yields due to water shortages, making agricultural activities more difficult, especially in the poorest countries,
 - 1. Reaffirms that access to sufficient and wholesome food is a basic human right which forms part of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and must be safeguarded through the common action of governments, international bodies and corporate entities; stresses that withholding or denying this right must be considered a violation of a universal human right;
 - 2. Considers that a genuine fight against hunger requires the establishment of comprehensive policies, including agriculture, rural development, and fisheries, that enhance sustainable farming and food supply systems, so as to enhance developing countries' capacity to feed their population, rather than undermining their domestic food supply with cheap imports; when necessary developing countries must be allowed to increase their import tariffs or limit exports of agricultural commodities, without negatively impacting on food importing countries;
 - 3. Believes that the fight against hunger must be based on recognition of the right to food sovereignty, defined as the capacity of a country or a region to democratically implement its own policies, priorities and strategies to protect its populations' livelihoods and social, economic and cultural rights, and that these principles should take precedence over trade liberalisation, deregulation and privatisation, without negatively impacting on food

importing countries;

4. Welcomes the Food Summits' general agreement that small farmers are the key to fighting hunger and poverty and calls for this conclusion to be properly reflected in future EU development, agriculture, fisheries and trade policies; insists also that small-scale fishing has the potential to contribute to food security in coastal zones;
5. Welcomes the ongoing reform of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and urges the Commission and the Member States to commit themselves fully to renewed, fully inclusive cooperation by all stakeholders to overcome hunger and poverty;
6. Expresses its deep concern about the current acquisition of farmland by foreign investors, particularly in Africa, a process which is often secretly backed by governments and which risks undermining local food security; points to the far-reaching implications of this process in terms of unsustainable land management and denial of access to domestic food resources; is also concerned about the extent to which the EU and other distant-water fishing nations acquire access to fish stocks in the waters of developing countries, potentially leading to overfishing, which can in turn seriously compromise fish supplies in the markets of those countries;
7. Urges the FAO and the Member States to prevent these adverse effects of farmland acquisition, such as expropriation of small farmers, unsustainable use of land and water and food riots caused by food shortages, and to work towards common rules and legislative initiatives, recognising the right of the populations of individual countries to control farmland and other natural resources vital to their food security;
8. Calls on the Commission to carry out a full impact assessment that takes in the implications outside the EU of policies and programmes under the common agriculture policy, common fisheries policy, development and trade policy, and the 'facility for rapid response to soaring food prices in developing countries', in order to establish a coherent sustainable policy approach to global food security and to increase policy coherence for development;
9. Urges the Commission and the Member States to include equitable financial mechanisms and concepts of burden sharing in climate adaptation in the forthcoming negotiations in Copenhagen, paying special attention to making the inevitable support for climate-friendly agricultural practices a coherent tool in fighting hunger, by concentrating on the needs of small and subsistence farmers in the South;
10. Urges the Commission and the Council to abandon all visible and invisible forms of export subsidies, which have been proven to contribute to increased hunger and poverty;
11. Urges the Commission and the Member States to use development aid to decrease farmers' dependence on fossil fuels and agro-chemical inputs, such as artificial fertilisers and pesticides, and on seed varieties which require such inputs and are subject to exclusive intellectual property rights; suggests, moreover, stabilising local and regional farming systems which are based on sustainable farming practices and provide strategic food reserves in the developing countries themselves;

12. Urges the Commission and the Member States to increase the share of development aid allocated to rural development and agriculture and to combat financial speculation on food commodities;
13. Emphasises the need for new joint efforts to combine the fight against hunger with the necessary action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change, to take coordinated measures to stem any further loss of soil fertility and biodiversity, two essential components of food production systems, to increase overall efficiency and reduce waste in global food chains, to foster agro-ecological approaches involving low-input agriculture and climate-friendly agro-forestry, and to improve local market access;
14. Calls on the FAO, its member governments and the EU Commission to follow the recommendations made in the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD) to reverse top-down transfer-of-technology concepts of science and replace them with bottom-up, participatory, farmer oriented innovation concepts;
15. Decides to establish a high-level standing working group on the EU's contribution to achieving global food security, in order to decide on common action points for the major challenges, as defined by the Commission, for sustainable agriculture, fisheries and rural development, these being climate change, loss of biodiversity, sustainable management of water and soils, and renewable energy;
16. Deplores the fact that, with one exception, Member State leaders did not participate in the recent Food Summit and calls on its President to inform all participants at the recent Food Summit of this regret and to encourage the Council and FAO Member States to take coherent action against hunger and poverty;
17. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.