



CONFÉRENCE DES RÉGIONS PÉRIPHÉRIQUES MARITIMES
CONFERENCE OF PERIPHERAL MARITIME REGIONS



FORUM GLOBAL D'ASSOCIATIONS DE REGIONS
FORUM OF GLOBAL ASSOCIATIONS OF REGIONS

PRESS RELEASE

Dakar, 20 January 2010

Ref: GENEMOD050015

THE WORLD'S REGIONS TACKLING HUNGER

A Summit of the World's Regions on Food Security took place in Dakar on 18 and 19 January 2010, hosted and attended by **Mr Abdoulaye Wade**, President of the Republic of Senegal. The Summit was organised by the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) and the Forum of Global Associations of Regions [\[1\]](#) (FOGAR). It had the backing of the FAO, UNDP, World Food Programme (WFP), the French Development Agency (AFD), the Spanish and Catalan agencies for development and cooperation (AECID and ACCD), the Association of Senegalese Regions (ARS), the European Commission (EC), the French Ministries for Foreign and European Affairs and for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, UEMOA (West African Economic and Monetary Union) and Dakar Regional Council.

This Summit provided an opportunity to establish dialogue on food security between local authorities, national governments and international organisations. Discussions were led between Regions from all over the world, which have undertaken to tackle food security in areas that fall within the scope of their remit. They used this occasion to launch a working group of Regions from the 'North' and 'South', which will work together with FOGAR in a multi-partner framework (EC, FAO, UNDP, AECID, AFD) on multi-Region, multi-country and intercontinental cooperation activities, so as to avoid a dispersion of cooperation actions and ensure bigger impacts on food security.

"Food security should be a priority area in all regional policies," stated **El Hadi Malick Gakou**, President of the Regional Council of Dakar when putting forward a proposal for a 'Global Food Security Fund', and above all addressing his comments to the representatives of the United Nations present, in particular **David Nabarro**, the UN Secretary General's Special Representative for Food Security and Nutrition. In his speech, Mr Nabarro delivered a message to the assembly from **Ban Ki Moon**: *"This meeting is an opportunity to engage in decentralized cooperation on food security. The UN system is here in full force and we are all strongly committed to working with you to help those at risk enjoy food and nutrition security, and to build up their resilience in the face of today's grave economic, climatic and environmental threats."* Mr Nabarro also declared that food security is linked to a certain number of challenges: increasing worldwide production, providing permanent access to food for all, and improving product quality. Only by meeting these challenges will the five continents be in a position to cope with the current increase in population and the high level of urbanisation.

Bernard Hubert, Chair of the International Research Centre Agropolis shared this view, adding to the list of challenges the issue of climate change and its impact on agriculture, the question of stability of prices and the problem of land security. Mr Hubert also affirmed that *"agriculture should be one of the tools for development and play an instrumental role in achieving the Millennium Goals. I do not know what will happen in 2050 but I know that whatever occurs will depend on the decisions we make today! It is essential to regulate food transactions in order to make them fairer"*.

The Summit was organised into thematic sessions where delegates were able to exchange views on food availability, malnutrition, the right to food and the role of regional and local authorities in training, natural resources management and funding to tackle food insecurity.



CONFÉRENCE DES RÉGIONS PÉRIPHÉRIQUES MARITIMES
CONFERENCE OF PERIPHERAL MARITIME REGIONS



FORUM GLOBAL D'ASSOCIATIONS DE REGIONS
FORUM OF GLOBAL ASSOCIATIONS OF REGIONS

On behalf of the United Nations, **Hafez Ghanem**, Assistant Director General of the Economic and Social Development Department at the Food and Agriculture Association (FAO) announced the creation of a Partnership between the FAO and the world's Regions with a view to including the Regions in the international consultation and coordination processes on food security (CFS) and in the preparation process for national actions (NFSP). This partnership should also help networking among regional and local authorities, the exchange of expertise in nutrition and access to databases between the different partners. **Olivier De Schutter**, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, underlined the importance of "food security mapping" to help identify those territories most affected by hunger. He added that "Regions need to be included in national food security strategies and must be capable of introducing their own regional strategy".

The European Commission was widely represented (DG AGRI, DEV and EuropeAid) and **Luis Reira**, Director at DG Development in charge of food, recalled that in terms of external cooperation, the EC is providing funding for the role of regional and local actors through the "[Food Security Thematic Programme \(FSTP\)](#)" and *Aid for Non-State Actors*". He indicated that "we feel that regional and local actors from Europe are capable of mobilising their counterparts in other parts of the world as well as other stakeholders present in the territories such as businesses, foundations or civil society". An idea shared by the President of Brittany Region (FR) **Jean-Yves Le Drian** representing the CPMR and FOGAR in the formal session of the Summit, who stated: "We do not want the Regions to act alone in their territory but rather as facilitators for the activity of producers and their professional organisations, non-governmental organisations and all social forces, especially half the human race, namely women and women farmers. These fall into many different categories and they are all invited to come and speak with territorial leaders."

Among the different States that were represented, **Antoine Joly**, France's International Delegate for Decentralised Cooperation, highlighted the importance of FOGAR and stated that his country was committed to supporting it in order to promote decentralised cooperation and the integration of Regions throughout the world. He also recalled that "food security is a flagship of French cooperation".

A [declaration](#) was approved by the delegates and addressed to the International Organisations and European institutions.

[i] FOGAR was launched in March 2007 by the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR) and brings together 17 networks of Regions from the 5 continents. It aims to promote on the international scene the voice of the Regions as public local governments with a role as stakeholders in a globalisation process that promotes fairness.

For further information, please contact Enrico MAYRHOFER:
Gsm: + 32 486 56 19 67 - E-mail : enrico.mayrhofer@crpm.org
Web: www.crpm.org