

**Presentation of H.E. Dr. José Ignacio da Silva
Director-General of the FAO**

To

The Committee of Ambassadors

By

**H.E. Patrick I. Gomes
Secretary-General**

Special meeting of the ACP Committee of Ambassadors

Brussels, 10:00, on Wednesday 15 April 2015

Mr Chairman of the Committee of Ambassadors,
Coordinator of the CF Group,
Director-General of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization,
Dean of the ACP Ambassadors,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The FAO Director-General, who honours us with his presence this morning, has been working on issues of food security, rural development and agriculture for the past 30 years.

Since assuming office as Director-General in January 2012, he has spearheaded major transformational changes within the organisation. These reforms have entailed, among other things, refocusing the FAO's work, strengthening its institutional capacities and its partnerships with civil society, the private sector and academia, and boosting the FAO's support for South-South Cooperation.

Dr. da Silva has already achieved the transformation of the FAO into a knowledge organisation, firmly grounded in reality, by strengthening its field presence and instilling a more decentralised approach.

At the international level, our guest has sought to build consensus on food security issues, actively supporting the Committee on World Food Security, the United Nations High-Level Task Force on Global Food Security, of which he is Vice-

Chair, and the Zero Hunger Challenge launched by UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon.

As Special Minister of Food Security and the Fight against Hunger in 2003, under the former President of Brazil, Lula da Silva, he helped to lift millions out of hunger and extreme poverty by focusing on social inclusion and linking policies that address macro-economic, social and productive challenges.

His advocacy for development and the eradication of hunger and malnutrition have earned him global recognition.

In fact, several countries have expressed their gratitude for his invaluable service by presenting him with many honorary awards.

This all attests to the fact that this morning, the Committee of Ambassadors is receiving a renowned interlocutor, who is sensitive to the problems facing ACP countries.

I am convinced, Excellencies, that our discussions with him will indeed be fruitful and of lasting significance for the eradication of hunger from ACP countries.

Thank you.