

# Taking Action for the World's Poor and Hungry People

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## SPEAKER SUMMARY NOTE

**Session:** How to Develop, Finance, and Implement Effective Partnerships for Action for the Poor and Hungry

**Speaker:** *Fatou Gaye Sarr, Ministre Delegee chargee du Developpement Rural, Ministere de l'Agriculture et du Developpement Rural, Senegal*

**Title:** To Act in Favor of Those Who Suffer from Poverty and the Hungry in the World

Ladies and Gentlemen.

In the name of high authorities of Senegal which are under the direction of the president of the Republic, Maitre Abdoulaye Wade, I greet the organization of this conference and feel greatly honored to take part in it besides this platform of eminent personalities.

I would like first of all before starting my proposition, to express very cordially my thanks to the Chinese authorities and the IFPRI for having invited us to this important meeting of which the topic is: «to act in favor of those which suffer from poverty and the hunger in the world», I am convinced by it, impossible to be better selected.

Indeed, in spite of the various meetings at the international level and the efforts made in all the countries, approximately 1 billion people suffer from the hunger in the world, at the moment when humanity has realized the progress and unprecedented technological development in the history

The Africa with 16% of the poor of the world is the continent the most affected by this phenomenon. In addition, not less than half of its population lives under the poverty line.

However thus, the poverty and the hunger have a strong rural dimension, since it is found out that 80% of the poor of the whole world live in the rural zones and this is why, our proposals for actions of exit of crisis must give a very detailed attention to this dimension.

Already in 1974 the program "World Food Survey" of FAO declared that in the following 10 years, on this ground, no man, no woman, no child would go to the bed with the empty belly.

Unfortunately all the made promises, thereafter with the course of later bases, in particular by the world summits of the alimentation of 1996 and 2002, the conference of the United Nations on the environment of 1992, have not been held.

It is urgent today, more than in the past, to act more resolutely to eliminate the hunger in the world, by remembering, with the passage, a relevant assertion of the former General Secretary of the United Nations Mr. Boutros Boutros GHALI who says that: "poverty is morally odious, economically destroying and politically dangerous".

Our nowadays bases expecting a rupture with the preceding ones, we must approach to the poverty as a multidimensional phenomenon for which the causes are as well national as international, since there is no miracle solution which can be applied in a uniform way on a worldwide scale.

This is the reason why the various strategies and developed experiences, throughout the world could become, here, the object of division and capitalization for illuminating the path of our future combat against the hunger.

We should however agree that, for our countries suffering from the poverty and the hunger, the agriculture and the rural development should constitute the spearhead of this noble combat.

Constant efforts must be made to reverse the tendency of the low level of the public expenditure in the national budgets and the constant fall down of the government aid to the agriculture and the rural development, taking into account the importance of the agricultural sector in the national economies.

Concerning the world trade, as a factor of creation of richness, therefore a combat against the hunger and the poverty, a critical glance will have to be concentrated on the bilateral trade negotiations and multilateral conducts in OMC and within the framework of the Economic Agreement of EU/ACP Partnership.

Indeed, notwithstanding the opportunities offered to our countries through the existing various systems of preference, the access of our products to the markets of the developed countries continue to encounter the conflicts with standards and other increasingly severe no-tariff obstacles.

In addition, the persistence of the export subsidies, source of serious distortions of the world trade ruins all of our efforts in direction of the competitiveness of our products of export. In fact, we annually record a loss of more than 100 billion dollars, that is to say the double of the amount of the received assistance from the partners.

The happy conclusion of the cycle of Doha says that the cycle of development and a renegotiation of the APE, combined with the scrupulous respect of engagements relating to it, would constitute the powerful levers of hunger against the poverty and the hunger.

Strategies and initiatives taken in Senegal for fighting against the poverty and the hunger

In Senegal, the primary sector (agriculture, breeding, Sylvie-culture, and fishing) occupies approximately two thirds of the population and remains an important sector of the economy, from its role in food safety and employment like a lever of development of the other sectors of production.

For a few decades, this sector has passed through a major crisis. In this context, to modernize and reform the agricultural sector, the Government worked out a law of Agro-Sylvo-Pastoral Orientation law to make the agriculture as the engine for the growth of the economy. This Law is considered as the foundation of the policy of Agro-Sylvo-Pastoral Development and constitutes the base of the elaboration and the implementation of Operational Programs of the sector.

This orientation is clearly affirmed in our Document of Strategy of Reduction of Poverty (DSRP).

After having worked out and implemented the DSRP I whose results over the period 2003-2005 are considered to be satisfactory, the Senegal obtained a DSRP II (2006-2010) which, with the strategy of accelerated growth which accompanies it, should allow to carry out appreciable performances as regard of the fight against urban, periphery-urban and rural poverty.

The suggested strategy after analysis of the causes and determinants of the poverty relies on 4 axes: (I) the creation of richness (II) the acceleration of the promotion of the access to the basic social services, (III) social protection and prevention of the risks and catastrophes (IV) the governorship and the decentralized and participative development.

Apart from the DSRP II which is, by excellence, the principal tool having to make it possible Senegal to reduce half of the poverty form the year 2015 and to reach the OMD, the State of Senegal undertook various initiatives which will have to contribute to these objectives, in particular:

The Program of mobilization and the valorization of water ruissellement called "National Program of Retaining tanks and Artificial Lakes" which started in 2000 allowed the storage and the use of water at ends of agricultural diversification by in parallel allowing the increase in the working time of the producers and the increase of the incomes.

In our country, it was carried out through this program, since 2000 more than one hundred of retaining tanks which made it possible to mobilize more than 6 million m<sup>3</sup> of water which can ensure the valuation of a million hectare, the thickening of the water points, for the cattle and the experimentation of pisci-culture.

These basins caused the passion of the populations in what the practiced mode of irrigation is simple and the diversified cultures of against-season which are practiced there make it possible to increase their incomes substantially, limit the rural migration and therefore fight against poverty.

It is that in fact, in the countries of the Sahel, except Cape Verde, the Mauritania and the Niger, the question of the control of water is a strategic priority, to solve the equation of poverty in the Sahel.

In this point of view, the Senegal and the sahéliens countries in general were directed in the programmers of control of water for the promotion of the small irrigation using the hydraulic equipments more adapted to the capacity of management and exploitation of the producers.

Here, in Beijing, I have great pleasure to make note that, thanks to its fructuous co-operation with India, Senegal is engaged in a capital program entitled "National Program of self-sufficiency in rice" which should allow the production of 700,000 tons of rice, by 2010, with an determining impact on all the economic indicators of our country

In the field of the reinforcement of the capacities, the State of Senegal, in order to make of the producer a modern economic actor, has set up the program of Polyvalent Center of Training of the Producers (CPFP) who, in its first phase has realized 17 and for a second stage it should cover all the Departments of the Country.

On another register and in a field contributing indirectly to the fight against poverty, it was set up the National Program of the Box of the All Small ones. This one is a structure of assumption of responsibility of the children from 0 to 6 years old and which offers a complete package of services: education, health, protection, nutrition, water, hygiene, cleansing. Let us recall simply that the idea of the box of the all small ones was presented by President Abdoulaye WADE at the international Community in Dakar during the world Forum on education (April 2000).

In a specific way, this program makes it possible to ensure that all the Senegalese children, conceived at 8 years, who originate in priority from disadvantaged mediums, have access to the adequate and integrated services according to a participative approach, so that the needs for each child are dealt with in a sound environment.

As regard of environment, the idea of Green Great Wall of 150 7.000 km broad and 7000 km long starting from Dakar in Djibouti should contribute largely to stop the progressive advance of the desert in the countries in the south of the Sahara. In this point, the regional approaches such as the NEPAD and the South-south Co-operation must be supported and reinforced.

Apart from the Strategy of Reduction of Poverty, here are some initiatives taken at the local level which, fully developed, could influence directly or indirectly in accomplishing the objectives of the International Conference of the Food of 2002 with knowing to reduce half the number of people suffering from poverty

It should be noted that, everywhere in the world, on the level of the most vulnerable layers, these are the women who are the victims of poverty, which implies that in the fight against this plague, it is essential that the strategies and approaches take into account the specificity of the kinds

More and more, since the first World Summit on the Rural Woman held in GENEVA, in 1992, followed by others like that held also here, in Beijing, the poverty of the rural women is in the middle of the concerns of many countries, like Senegal, directed by a President who is one of best lawyers of the women, so much at the national level as in the various international authorities

Today, the humanity, with the technical progress and the accumulation of the resources, financial as well as the food availability can admit or tolerate only the sixth (1/6) of the population who is still tortured by the hunger.

Our bases of Beijing, capital of a pioneer and reference country as regard of the fight against hunger and poverty throughout the world, should contribute to forge further the political good-will and the necessary determination at the international level to extirpate this hideous gangrene of the face of the world.

It remains agreed that at the local, national and regional level, the endogenous efforts should be deployed while having as line of sight the objectives which are fixed in the different documents of strategies of reduction of the poverty for which the partners of development have agreed of the enormous means and for the elaboration of implementation

Without falling into an imprudent optimism, I will conclude, with hope, by this word of regret, Abbé Pierre who said, I quote it: "that those who are hungry is eager for bread! That those which have already bread are eager for justice and love".

I thank you for your pleasant attention!