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Intervention by the Farmers Constituency

COP20/CMP10

ADP Opening Plenary

Thank you, Chair,

Agriculture is at the heart of this convention and must therefore be at the heart of the 2015 agreement. Article 4 of the convention calls for cooperation in preparing for adaptation to the impacts of climate change in agriculture, as well as for promotion and cooperation in the development and transfer of technologies, practices and processes that control, reduce or prevent, anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases in agriculture.

The farmers' constituency, which represents millions of farmers from all corners of the world, is highly active in the UNFCCC process and brings a cohesive and multi-disciplinary approach to global agriculture policy processes.

It is clear that the risks posed by climate change have a direct bearing on food security and the development of the economies of our rural landscapes. Farmers face the twin challenge of producing enough food for the world's growing population while ensuring the livelihoods of those dependent upon subsistence agricultural production.

This year we have seen important progress towards adopting a SBSTA work program on agriculture. We have been encouraged by Parties' hard work and can ensure you that the farmers' constituency remains united in its call for a work program on agriculture covering food security, adaptation and mitigation. This work program must be urgently established under SBSTA as a critical input to ensuring that agriculture in a future agreement is on a strong scientific footing to become an effective vehicle for mobilizing appropriate and effective international action on agriculture.

We welcome the ADP initiatives to organize Thematic Expert meetings. Earlier this year we had meetings on Land Use and Non-CO2 Greenhouse Gases, both related to agriculture. This underlines the need to have a continued focus on the agricultural sector and the need for a comprehensive inclusion of the sector in a future agreement.

We look forward to further progress in the ADP negotiations.

Thank you