

**Statement by Private Sector Mechanism
At the Committee on Food Security, October 21, 2010
Delivered by Robynne Anderson,
World Farmers Organisation
On behalf of the International Agri-Food Network**

Thank you Mr. Chairman – for the floor and for your extraordinary service to this body during your term.

The private sector is honoured to have been included in the work of the CFS, both in the Advisory Group and the Task Team, and most particularly here. During the course of the week, we have had 38 private sector representatives from 17 countries in attendance, held 5 events, and enjoyed the opportunity to interact with the member states.

Those events provided an opportunity for a free-flowing discussion between Ambassadors and private sector representatives. We were struck by serious and grave need for investment. Agriculture has too long languished with limited investment from all parties and many countries spoke passionately about not only the need to attract investment, but the path to responsible investment. Focusing on Responsible Agricultural Investment, the discussions highlighted the need for:

- a) States to provide a conducive operating with rule of law, policies to prevent corruption, and create rules on investment in a transparent manner in advance of investments
- b) International companies must link more effectively with local partners and live up to their commitments to partners, farmers, society and national governments
- c) Public and private investment in infrastructure and the value chain to better support farmers, especially smallholders.

We will be circulating a more fullsome report on this event and the others held this week.

Before you now is the modalities document for the private sector mechanism. For your reference, Members of the International Agri-Food Network include thousands of international companies, and hundreds of national associations which represent tens of thousands of small and medium enterprises, thousands of co-operatives, and millions of farmers. The Network acts as the focal point for the mechanism.

In addition, the Network works collaboratively with the International Chamber of Commerce and consults with other associations and companies that have expressed interest in the work of the CFS (UN Committee on World Food Security).

The associations which comprise the Network have members in 135 of the 193 countries in the UN.

Through consultation with these groups we have agreed the modalities document before you. We appreciate the principle of autonomy that has been respected in allowing the private sector mechanism to develop this document and participate this week.

Most particularly, we thank you, Mr. Chairman, our colleagues in civil society, your excellencies, the secretariat, and the UN agencies for the welcome and collaboration you have offered.