

**Statement by the Private Sector Network
On the Occasion of the Special Session of the CFS
May 11, 2012**

**Endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines on the
Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests**

Mr. Chairman, Your Excellencies, Ministers, and Colleagues,

Land tenure is fundamental to food security. It is fitting, then, that the newly-reformed Committee on World Food Security has led this process, focusing on proper governance of critical productive resources. Mr. Chairman, you, the secretariat, and Dr. Gregory Myers have ably led us through complex issues in a ground breaking manner.

On behalf of the International Agri-Food Network and the private sector mechanism, we thank you for your willingness to listen to our concerns, value our participation, and be open to the contributions the private sector and civil society can make. We thank, too, the member states for their tireless efforts to complete these guidelines and for the mutual respect we have fostered with our civil society colleagues.

As we reflect upon these guidelines, we can see important key elements to make land tenure function. In many places, land tenure systems are in effect non-existent. To us in the private sector and to our farmer partners, it is important that there should be effective local administration of land registries without corruption. Dispute resolution mechanisms are essential. There must also be equal access to land for women.

Ultimately, fair, transparent rules benefit everyone. We appreciate the acknowledgement of the need for clear national guidelines on land management, recognizing the needs of agriculture in land planning and the vital role of farmers. These are essential to successfully producing the food the world needs.

So, today, we mark the completion of the land tenure guidelines. It is an important milestone. However, Mr. Chairman, today I think we also all note the first step on the transition to a more relevant CFS. It is a historic day and we offer our congratulations.

Thank you.