



Presidenza della Camera
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LA PRESIDENTE DELLA CAMERA DEI DEPUTATI

MESSAGE FOR OPENING CEREMONY - 2014 EDITION OF CHANGE THE WORLD FAO (CWFAO)


(Rome, 18 March 2014)

First of all, please allow me to welcome you to Rome.

I am currently the President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies - the lower house of Parliament - but I spent twenty-five years of my life as a UN official, working for UNHCR (the UN Refugee Agency), the World Food Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization. I know what it means to meet and work with people from very different cultures and backgrounds, and to strive to further development and respect for human rights.

The four years I spent with FAO enabled me to grasp how complex the global food supply chain is and how apparently minor innovations in food production can have a major impact on ordinary people's access to staples. Since I left the organization in 1993, there have been major changes – the impact of climate change is now evident in many countries around the world and sustainability, which FAO has been championing for decades, is now the core issue in all food security programmes.

I am certain that your discussions will be extremely interesting and fruitful, and truly hope that you will be inspired by your experience here.


LAURA BOLDRINI