



**CFS – May 2005 - Doc.CFS: 2005/4
Statement by
International Federation for Home Economics**

**News from the FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization of UN
By Francesca Ronchi Proja, Permanent Representative of IFHE**

An important event is planned next year, for which preparations are starting now at FAO. A mid-term review of the implementation of the World Food Summit (WFS) Plan of Action will be prepared, reported and discussed at a Special Forum, which will be held in Rome as part of the 32nd session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), September 2006. The main objective will be the assessment of progress made in achieving the goal of reducing the number of undernourished people as indicated in the Plan of Action of 1996, namely by half in 2015. The participation of NGOs, among others, is invited in this assessment, and NGOs will be invited at the Forum as active members. Consultations will be held during the period before the Forum: of special importance will be the FAO Regional Conferences early in 2006, and the FAO/NGOs Regional Consultations held just before those Conferences. The food security situation in each region, reported and discussed at those meetings, will form the basis for discussion at the Forum in Rome. It would be desirable for IFHE to be represented at the FAO/NGOs Regional Consultations, by members having good knowledge of home economics in the respective regions. The dates of the Conferences can be found in the FAO site.

At the recent session of the WFS in May 2005 in Rome, where the subject was discussed, I spoke on behalf of IFHE: my intervention is reported below.

1. The IFHE, which has a history of long cooperation with FAO, is interested in all commitments of the WFS Plan of Action, as stated in the official paper submitted in 1996. Of course, it is especially concerned with home economics and nutrition, two topics which have been receiving decreasing attention in FAO in recent years. This is greatly regretted because of their importance not only at elementary level of education but also for agriculture and rural development extension programmes. We recommend that these topics - nutrition education and home economics education and training - be included in the Special Forum programme. This is fully justified since they are included in Commitment 2, para 2,4.

2. We wish to support the recommendation that NGOs should be involved by governments at national levels since the planning stage of the national plans, as indicated in the Plan of Action, as well as in the monitoring of the implementation.

3. We wish to emphasize the importance of participation of NGOs at the FAO/NGOs/CSOs Regional Consultations held next year in preparation for the Forum. One problem many NGO faced in the past was the shortage of funds. Therefore, in order to ensure more representative participation, if funds will be available from extrabudgetary resources to FAO, we recommend that their use and distribution be decided together by all NGOs groups concerned.

Roma, 3 July 2005