

**Interview with Alberto López García Asenjo
Deputy Permanent Representative of Spain to FAO/WFP/IFAD**



Improving Food Security and Nutrition

1) What motivation underlies this essential funding, agreed by the Spanish government, to support the UN Joint Programming?

The right to food is a fundamental pillar of the UN Charter and is directly linked with human dignity. Under this premise, Spain is supporting and working to address such an important issue in order to guarantee a global approach to the right to food, seeking to maximize cooperation and multilateral consultations that will effectively address this problem. From our point of view, the joint work of different UN agencies will lead this process which enjoys the support and recognition of governments. Such work is indeed complex and challenging for all of us.

2) The thematic window of the MDG Achievement Fund on “Children, Food and Nutritional Security” was launched relatively late compared to the other thematic windows, yet it seems to be the most successful one, with 48 countries submitting proposals, and the largest amount of funds allocated globally. How do you explain this? Would you say that child nutrition is a key entry point for achieving the MDGs?

In the food crisis context, the child population is considered as the most vulnerable but it is also considered to be part of our short and long term core activities because children will enjoy the success of our decisions and fulfilled work. It is significant to highlight that agriculture is now returned high on international agenda, as a food security component and it has been approached from different perspectives at various forums and meetings over recent months. In this respect, I would like to point out that, in occasion of the High-Level Conference on Food Security and Nutrition held last January in Madrid, Prime Minister Rodríguez Zapatero announced an important economical commitment in order to achieve our targets in the fight against hunger and in promoting food security and nutrition.

3) Do you think this initiative will influence the aid priorities of Spanish policy on cooperation?

The UN role is essential to strengthening our operations with a global, open and inclusive approach that effectively allows fighting against hunger. In this sense, Spain is supporting and reaffirming its commitment to cooperate on a joint programme together with UN agencies. Spain is remarkably increasing fund contributions addressed to this purpose which is a clear sign of our support. Besides, with the endorsement of the ‘Plan Director de la Cooperación Española’ (Master Plan for Spanish Cooperation) for the period 2009-2012, Spain reconfirms its priority to fight against hunger and defends food security and our determination to continue working together with the UN agencies, in this program.