

INTERVENCION VP EN RP PRESENTACION GLOBAL DEL
GAFSP
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I would like to start by thanking Secretary Geithner for his kind invitation to take part in this event and all the participants for their support to this initiative

Scientists tell us that during the next 40 years the increase of world population could be marginally higher than 30%. Simultaneously, economic progress should lengthen life expectancy in the planet. Our goal should then be to improve the existing productive capacity and the operation of local markets.

We can congratulate ourselves for the response we are giving to the calls made by the G-8 at L'Aquila and the G-20 at Pittsburgh in 2009 for a multilateral trust fund to scale up agricultural assistance to low income countries.

By contributing to this new World Bank's program we search new opportunities in agriculture that will reveal their full impact in the medium and long term. These opportunities will also require from donors technical assistance both on sustainable agricultural practices and rural development.

We understand that predictability of financial support is crucial for low-income countries involved in designing their agricultural strategies. Consequently I am pleased to announce that Spain has already disbursed 95 million dollars to the Bank's program that we are launching today.

Spain attaches particular importance to ownership of recipient countries. We look forward their involvement. Additionally, we also see value added in establishing partnerships with regional security schemes, as was referred by the L'Aquila Joint Statement on Global Food Security last July.

We have to maintain our degree commitment with the poor. We can not forget the 75 of the world's poor live in rural areas. Sustaining food security requires a comprehensive approach that encompasses increasing agriculture productivity, fostering rural development and guaranteeing access to markets, especially for small farmers. Vulnerable populations would benefit from surpluses thus generated, through food safety nets.

For all this reasons, my government supports this initiative and will make additional contributions in the future.