



Collaborative Intergovernmental Scientific Research Institute

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

Statement of the Secretary General of the CISRI-ISP
Institution for the Use of Microalga Spirulina against malnutrition
Dr. Alessandro MANINI
in occasion of the UNIDO General Conference, 7-11 Dec 2009

Mr. Chairman,
Mr. Director-General of UNIDO, Dr Kandeh Yumkella
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Mr. Chairman,

It is with great honour that I have the occasion to warmly thank UNIDO's Director General, Dr. Kandeh Yumkella for having invited our Intergovernmental Organization to this very important session of the UNIDO General Conference, this time focused on the very topic "greening the industry". On this respect our Intergovernmental Organization CISRI-ISP wants to submit a concrete proposal called industrial-humanitarian concept, a vision which comprises new agro-industrial techniques providing large humanitarian outcomes and excellent market and sustainable capabilities and based on the production of edible food micro-algae Spirulina. We think that this idea would undoubtedly benefit many UNIDO Member States and enrich the UNIDO vision to strive for a better development, facing the triple F crisis and prevent global additional crises. For this reason we also thank our technical staff, here represented by Mr. Mauro Bozzola and our sponsors, here represented by Mr. Bobby Wahi for having sustained research and development thereon.

Mr. Chairman,

Our Organization CISRI-ISP, Collaborative Intergovernmental Scientific Research Institute has been set up 20 November of year 2000 by a Multilateral Agreement (Treaty), registered at number 37542 in the United Nations Treaty Series (UNTS) and it is a subject of international law, mandated: to promote scientific research, initiatives and education in favour of international co-operation. CISRI-ISP is composed, according to Article II of its Establishment Agreement by three main bodies: the General Council, as governing body, the Secretariat as executive body and the "Spirulina Program" a subsidiary technical body focused on the production of edible micro-alga Spirulina Platensis, as a protein source to feed the growing population in an ecologically compatible and sustainable way.

Mr Chairman,

Why is the "Spirulina Programme" so interesting? Because food microalgae Spirulina is a primitive algae, spontaneously growing in alkaline lakes of tropical countries and having a productivity of 50 tons per

hectare per year of proteins means, 300 times more productivity than beef proteins and consuming 50 times less water than the water needed to produce animal proteins.

Proteins of Spirulina are of excellent quality and joint with essential micronutrients as polyunsaturated fatty acids rich in $\Omega:3$ and $\Omega:6$, 15 vitamins, and 11 mineral salts.

Spirulina alga can be produced in industrial production ponds, whose surfaces are capable of photosynthesis, so confiscating large quantities of CO₂ (carbon dioxide), reducing sierra effect (global warming) and delivering large quantities of oxygen, so needed four our planet

This production is so environmentally friendly and a bright example how to "greening the industry"

Mr. Chairman,

Environmental sustainability, the nutritious capacity together with high productivity and water saving capability has brought to declare micro-alga Spirulina as the "Better food for tomorrow" and the way to reduce malnutrition, child mortality and reach food security and development at global level.

In a world of increasingly growing population, the possibility of disposing of a sustainable protein source is essential and our organization is ready and committed to share this technology with UNIDO Member States.

A special mention on Spirulina nutritional capabilities must be remembered as far as child nutrition is concerned: 10 grams of dried Spirulina a day can save the life of a malnourished child, rehabilitating its body and health in a period from 3 weeks to 2 months and saving its vital functions, sight, cerebral capacities and development.

Spirulina production for humanitarian purposes is an ethical imperative for Member States, while Spirulina commercial production can be a source high of revenues for their development

The Spirulina Project consist into a industrial-humanitarian concept to produce food micro-algae for: humanitarian use, alimentary use, pharmaceutical and industrial use and capable to attain, together with its primary humanitarian goals, a relevant source of income, thanks to the cost/effectiveness and self-sustainability. To make an example of the "industrial-humanitarian" concept, a production pond of 500 Hectares producing 10 grams of Spirulina per square meter per day, may deliver 5 millions of doses a day, capable to save the lives of a great part of the 40.000 daily starving children censed by UNICEF, so eradicating child starvation and malnutrition from the planet.

At the same time a commercial part of the Project (for example 150 hectares) will ensure high income, labour employment, local development and effective sustainability.

Mr. Chairman,

The ethical agro-industrial and commercial advantages of this Project constitute the actualization of the Objectives of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), of the FAO World Food Summit of and of the UN General Assembly resolution on the "Right To Food"

Therefore we invite all UNIDO Member States, as well as Non Governmental Organizations and the Private Sector to join hands in this very project, to consistently achieve the United Nations Millennium Development Goals and to ensure global nutrition and food sustainability at global level

Mr. Chairman, I Thank you.