

2011 THE "BORLAUG DIALOGUE"

October 14, 2011 - 9:00 a.m.

Laureate Keynote Speaker: Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva

LAUREATE KEYNOTE

Introduction by:

Ambassador Kenneth Quinn

President - World Food Prize Foundation

Good morning, good morning. Move on to this part of the program. A full house here for what I know in advance is going to be a memorable part of the World Food Prize history. I have now had the chance to hear President Lula speak three times, once to our students, once to our teachers, and last night at the Laureate Award Ceremony. And I told him he has a new title, that he's the rock start of fighting hunger in Des Moines and Iowa and the world.

So in preparing to introduce President Lula da Silva, I tried to think - he has all these titles and awards and special recognize, and he's a former president of Brazil. But I thought a very simple introduction and a very simple title would say it all.

Please join me in welcoming the 2011 World Food Prize Laureate, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

LAUREATE KEYNOTE

Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva

2011 World Food Prize Laureate and former President, Brazil

I would like to greet Ambassador Quinn. I also would like to greet Mr. and Mrs. Ruan. I also would like to greet my friend laureate, former president of Ghana, President Kufuor. I would like to greet my friends, former presidents of African countries that are here attending this conference, represented on behalf of President Obasanjo and President Chissano, that they could represent all these former heads of government.

I'd also like to greet prime ministers and former prime ministers that are here, ambassadors. I also would like to greet once again the former minister of agriculture, also laureate in 2006, Alysson Paolinelli.

I also would like to greet a great colleague that was the minister of agriculture during my government, my dear brother Roberto Rodriguez - stand up so everybody knows that you're a

part of the committee – that’s our former minister of agriculture during President Lula’s government.

I also would like to greet my dear colleague, future Secretary-General of FAO, Food and Agricultural Organization, José Graziano that helped me to build the Zero Hunger Program. He is here with us today, please, he’s here with us. I also would like to greet the ambassadors and also like to greet the Brazilian ambassador in the U.S., our colleague, Mauro, who is the Brazilian ambassador to the U.S.

My dear friends, today I would like to share with all of you a little bit of what we did in Brazil. When I was president of Brazil I created, I developed a culture of making speeches. I would make speeches, with the institutional speech, I would start with that, and then afterwards I enjoyed very much to add impromptu some things that were not part of my written speech. And I should say it, because if we write everything that we want to say, it would be an encyclopedia, and that wouldn’t be a speech but it would be an encyclopedia.

But I would like to say to all of you that I’m very much honored with the invitation to participate in this meeting. That comes with the participation of so many celebrities and people that are highly interested and have to do something with the human survival. How can we eradicate hunger and extreme poverty?

Yesterday when I received the World Food Prize, I said that the Brazilian people are the ones that really truly deserve this prize, because it followed and supported and understood the importance of transforming in state and government policies the proposal to guarantee all Brazilians the basic right to food.

Today I would like to talk a little bit about the Brazilian experience on this issue. In the beginning I would like to insist that to fight hunger is government’s responsibility, it’s a state responsibility; and for that it demands integrated welfare policies combined with the income distribution agenda and sustainable economic development. This was the reason of the success of Brazil.

The drama of that affected millions of Brazilians was not resolved because of the lack of political will of the rulers. Hunger was treated only as a social issue.

We had to go farther. For that we placed fighting food insecurity as the top priority of the government, and we developed a public policy to fight this war. I knew by my own personal life experience that hunger is the worst weapon of mass destruction in the world, because it doesn’t kill only soldiers, as I said yesterday, but it kills innocent children and aging people and people that are under a fragile situation.

My determination to fight hunger grew even more during my trips around Brazil in the nineties when I’d cross over the country many times and visit the periphery of the big cities of Brazil. I call them the citizenry caravans that we developed. After I lost the presidential race in 1989, I wanted to get to know in detail the reality of each region in Brazil, the economic vocation of each corner of my country, the costumes and traditions of its people.

And so in this caravan I understood that, since the colonial period of Brazil, going through the empire and then the republic, never before was given due attention to the hunger issue. A lot of people thought that the drama of food insecurity would be solved per se without the need of a decisive intervention on the part of the state or government.

And so for more than 500 years Brazil developed an extraordinary wealth of its plantations and mainly sugar plantations prospered with the gold deposits in the state of Minas Gerais. It exported coffee and rubber to the rest of the world and became an industrialized country, but it did not manage to solve the hunger issue and the extreme poverty that affected a great part of the Brazilian people.

My dear friends, in my inauguration address in January of 2003, I said the following: “We will develop the conditions where all people in our country could have a decent meal three times a day. Brazil cannot continue to live with so much inequality. We need to overcome hunger, extreme poverty and social exclusion. Our war is not to kill no one. It is to save lives.”

I knew that hunger is a product of the underdevelopment, and it’s a way to keep the victims far away from citizenry, exposed mainly to the manipulation of politicians and rulers. With a conviction of the need to eradicate such an issue, we launched, released in January of 2003 the Zero Hunger Program, a project that soon disseminated itself in Brazil with the adhesion of all different social segments.

We were not starting from zero, actually, because in 1992 in the citizenry institute, we developed a public proposal for food security that was delivered to the President of the Republic, Itamar Franco. In 1992 the proposal included the creation of a national council on food security, a council that would be directly linked to the President’s office. Today, the National Council on Food Security is an instrument of state or government policy, and it’s a forum at the same time where are being discussed the major issues about malnutrition and hunger in Brazil.

The objective of the Zero Hunger Program was to fight food insecurity and its structural causes. This goal demanded integrated action in the social field and a set of public policies involving the three levels of government – the federal government, the state government, and the municipal government, a local government.

The Zero Hunger also involved action that would guarantee access to food, income and transfer and generation of income to the most vulnerable part of the population, the strengthening of the family farm to increase food production. We also tackled the problem of lack of access to drinking water, especially in the regions that have more drought in the Northeast of Brazil.

The Zero Hunger Program is a set of 30 complimentary programs. It expresses the commitment of the Brazilian government to overcome the Millennium Development Goals ‘til the year 2015. Eradication of hunger and extreme poverty is one of these goals of the Millennium, which also includes income distribution and generation, education, healthcare, environment and gender equality.

We have enhanced our action against hunger and extreme poverty with the launching of October 2003 of the Family Stipend Program with the goal to integrate and enhance the outreach of many income transfer programs and social welfare programs for low-income families.

The Family Stipend is the largest income-transfer program of our history. The beneficiaries of this program receive a monthly income if they keep their children in school and the children should also take their vaccines, and at the same time women should make all their prenatal medical exams.

At the end of last year, this welfare program benefited 52 million people. In January of 2004 we created the Social Development Ministry, the MDS, to coordinate all the welfare programs that were under the umbrella of the Zero Hunger Program. This new ministry is the one that is responsible for having just one registration, one record for the Family Stipend, which is fundamental to have such records, to select the beneficiaries.

We networked, articulated the Family Stipend with the strengthening of food production. We increased the budget for the national program to support family farming. We also passed a bill establishing that 30 percent of the food that was being used in school meals in public schools, has to be bought, that food, the procurement, by the local small farmers with the objective to incentive local development.

My dear friends, I'd like to tell you a story about another Brazilian program that shows how social inclusion helps the wheel of the economy to turn more faster. Until shortly ago there was no electrical power in many remote locations in Brazil. To end this deficiency, in November of 2003 we created a program called "Electricity for All" that supplies electricity for millions of families. It was as if these people entered in a time machine and went from the 19th century and directly moved to the 21st century. So that way electricity reached the households of three million families.

The manufacturing industry and retail business thanked us very much because 80 percent of these families bought refrigerators, 73 percent bought TV sets, and 45 percent bought sound equipment and other electrical appliances. And the industry sold much more, increasing the job creation and improving the workers' income.

Creating jobs and income, our welfare programs allowed us that many families that before were victims of extreme poverty and lacked food could find by themselves the doors to access citizenry. And thanks to the entrepreneurship spirit of millions of Brazilians, that initial driving force given by the government transformed itself in a movement that has its own proper life.

The combination of a social inclusion agenda with a period of strong economic growth triggered by public and private investments contributed for the creation of 16.5 million jobs from January 2003 to June of this year. And the results make the Brazilians very happy.

We lifted 28 million Brazilians from extreme poverty, another 39 million Brazilians went up the social ladder and became middle class - A, B and C, as we say, in the largest social mobility process that Brazil has ever known.

With investments in welfare programs, the inequality amongst Brazilians became the smallest one in the last 50 years. The per capita income of the 50 percent poorest parts of the population had an actual gain of 68 percent in the last ten years, while the income of the 10 percent richest segment of the population increased only 10 percent.

Consumption has enhanced itself in all social classes, but it was in the low income classes that it grew seven times fold in eight years, according to the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics.

That is to say, the poor now are being treated like citizens, and we govern for all Brazilians and not anymore for just one-third of the population. We proved that way that, yes, it was possible to distribute income and at the same time that the country was growing, without bringing back inflation or compromising the fiscal and macroeconomic balance.

And this benefited all society, because the masses of new consumers that were reclaimed from poverty contributed for the strengthening of our domestic market and helped us to heat up our economy. The domestic market grew a lot, and this allowed that Brazil could face the international global financial crisis in 2008 in a better way than many other countries, even of the developed countries, I should say.

This process resulted in a change of enthusiasm in our people. The self-esteem is now more and more stronger. People are proud to live in a country that managed to solve economic growth with social fairness, a country that experiences today a virtuous circle of prosperity and social mobility, a country that people believe that, yes, it is possible for us to create a better future for all, from social inclusion and accessing education of good quality.

My dear friends, the success of the Brazilian experience in fighting hunger was only possible because it counted with the collaboration of the organized segments society and the support of the private sector, which is a fundamental part in any process that will create jobs and income.

We accepted many ideas that came from many forums, and amongst them we had the national conferences that we organized with the objective to discuss solutions for food insecurity.

We also learned a lot with programs from other countries. The strategies and the tools that Brazil has been using to fight hunger and extreme poverty can serve as an example for other developing countries if, if they are adapted to the reality of each one of these countries.

Brazil wants to transfer this knowledge to our brother countries and sister countries and to cooperate through solidarity without asking for any countervailing measures, as it should be as a country that defends multilateralism.

We don't want to teach other countries with a ready-made formula, but I believe in the possibility of sharing our experience, multiplying our efforts in the struggle against hunger. We want to disseminate our knowledge, because we know that it is possible to overcome hunger and extreme poverty and inequality.

We cannot waste any more time, because who is in hunger cannot afford to wait.

The figures do not lie. Two billion people suffer of some kind of lack of nutrients, and another one billion people are in hunger every day, according to the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations.

My dear friends, I would like once again to take this opportunity to thank you, to be able to talk about the Brazilian experience in fighting hunger and extreme poverty and to describe to you the successful trajectory that we took. It's necessary to have a lot of determination and to persevere to overcome the fight against hunger and equality, not only for social fairness but also because of the issue of dignity and respect to the human being.

We did a lot, but there is still a lot to be done to deepen these achievements of the Brazilian people. The government of our new president, Dilma Rousseff, will advance in the process of social inclusion. She has launched in the beginning of this year Brazil without extreme poverty to integrate full citizenry to the consumer markets, Brazilians, men and women who still have not yet managed to overcome extreme poverty. I don't have the slightest doubt that the government of President Dilma will strengthen even more social inclusion and will make of Brazil a country that will have more fairness, more dignity, and a country without extreme poverty.

My dear friends, I would like to conclude, Roberto, look at the difference when your speech, when you're a president and when you're a former president. There's a difference. I had to open my own water bottle - no one came here to open my water bottle. That's what happens with former presidents.

There's a lot of former presidents in this conference room, so I say that when we leave the presidency we go back and discover in life that the doors have knobs and you have to turn these knobs.

Very well, my dear friends, ladies and gentlemen, I believe that it would be important for us to have a reflection - How could two countries so different, like Brazil and Ghana, manage to have success in their struggle in fighting hunger? And certainly other countries around the world are also having this kind of success.

It's very important that we should have in mind that the people that are in hunger are not organized in political parties. The people that are now in hunger are not organized in NGOs. The people that are in hunger are not organized in trade unions. And many times the people that are in hunger don't even have the strength or motivation to even attend a mass service at church.

So it is necessary that we should have a lot of sensitivity on the part of the rulers to try to locate in each country - where are these poor people located? And many times they're not in the marginalized areas of the cities or in the slums. Sometimes they're even far away; they're not close to the city.

And if the ruler that governs the city, the state and a nation, if they don't chase where are these people and try to find out where they are, many times we will not manage to find where these people are living.

And I should say, because not all the countries in the world have adequate national census where you can measure every ten years the growth of poverty or the diminishing of poverty. We still have countries around the world that have millions of people who do not even have a civil registration, an ID.

And so you can perceive that it's not only an issue of the government; it's not a government problem or one government or one or another administration. This is a problem that is all our problem – governments, governors, senators, of small businesses, medium-size businesses, big business – this is an issue of those that effectively value the human being and want a society that will have more fairness and would be living in much more harmony.

When we think in developing the Zero Hunger Program and then the Family Stipend Program, the most serious thing, Ambassador Quinn, the most important thing that we decided to do was to have a national record that would allow the money to actually reach the hands of those that were in want.

Because there are many countries, Ambassador, that have a lot of good public policies; but, since they don't have a national record, registration that is very seriously organized, this money will not reach the hands of the people that need it. There's a study that was just released in London that shows that all the money that's sent into solidarity money around the world, almost 70 percent of that money does not reach its final destination because it's spent in the intermediation of those that are receiving that money.

And the Family Stipend Program tried to make the money reach the hands of those that were in want. And so we developed one sole record, and each holder of the Family Stipend magnetic card, he holds a magnetic card. Each beneficiary of the republic doesn't know who are the beneficiaries. The governor doesn't know who are the beneficiaries. The mayor doesn't know who's getting the grant, and the city council doesn't know who gets it. This person, without asking favor to anyone, to any politician, they go to a bank agency of the Federal Savings Bank, with their magnetic cards, and they withdraw their stipend without having to be accountable to anyone.

And every year we make an assessment of that record, of those records to know who needs to be withdrawn from that record – the person that improved its life, got a job, so that person is withdrawn from the record, and we include a new person that is more in need.

So that's why I value very much the idea of the registration, of the seriousness of having, keeping their records. If you don't have a reliable registration record, you better throw the money away – it's better, because the money will never reach the hands of those that are in need.

Now, Ambassador, what was our miracle? The miracle of Brazil was that, when you started to give out a little bit of money in the hands of the poor, they became consumers. When they received that small amount, the next day they would go and buy and shop food.

And I remember that the Brazilian media was charging me and accusing me and criticizing me because people were buying some consumer goods that were not food. And they went to interview a woman that was a beneficiary of this program, and this woman, she picked up a pencil, and she said the following to the press: “Before the Family Stipend Program, I had two grandsons, and I used to buy one pencil, split it in half, so they could share half of the pencil, each one. Now with the Family Stipend I can buy a box of pencils for each one of my grandsons.”

And part of the political elites in Brazil that was criticizing my Zero Hunger Program said that the people were buying superfluous goods, consumer goods, if the women was buying deodorant. So people lost the dimension of what it means, what is the value that each of us individually we give to things that we have more in need.

The fact of the matter is that when the global financial crisis came in 2008, the consumption has fallen in the U.S., the consumption has fallen in Germany and plummeted the consumption in other countries, I was highly criticized because I said that in Brazil the global financial crisis would be a small wave in the ocean and that it would reach us at last – we would be the last country to be affected by the crisis and we would be the first ones to get out of the crisis. And this really happened.

And what was the miracle for us not being so much affected by the financial crisis? Because the poor, what we call the Classes D and E, the low-income brackets of the people, the poorest regions of the country, during the global financial crisis, they bought more, they shopped more than the A, B upper classes of the richest region in Brazil.

Because I went to a national broadcast on TV to say that everybody should continue to shop, because I heard from the U.S. The American people stopped shopping, the European stopped shopping – that’s the news I was getting in Brazil. And the Brazilian media said that people will not buy anymore, because if the people start buying and continue shopping, they will be indebted and they will not be able to pay back their debt because they’re going to lose their jobs because of the crisis.

So I went to the national broadcasting TV and said, “It’s true that you can lose your job. Now, it’s also true that you can lose your job even in a much more easier way if you stop shopping, if you stop buying, because if you don’t buy, retail will not sell. If retail doesn’t sell, the manufacturing industry will not manufacture. If the manufacturing industry is not producing, then you’re really going to lose your job. So start buying, start shopping so you won’t lose your job. Buy and buy with responsibility.” That’s what I told on television.

Another important thing that happened in Brazil was a perfect combination between the so-called agribusiness and family farming with small farmers. When I took office there was a war going on in the agriculture in Brazil. There were people from business agriculture, from agribusiness saying that family farming was useless. And there were people from family

farming saying that the agribusiness was the devil and that we had to end with agribusiness. And then I said that Brazil needed both kinds of agriculture and the better we had agribusiness and family farmer the better would be for Brazil.

And that's exactly what happened in our country. Agribusiness became organized in Brazil. We would have credit supplies we never had before in the history. I have here two former ministers of agriculture in Brazil that know very well that during my term the money that we made available for credit for the agricultural sector was much more than any other period of the Brazilian history.

And also for family farming, too, we enhanced the credit, mainly with the need to give incentives to local production, local food, the development of small cities. Because it's very interesting, Ambassador, in the moment that the small retail starts to work in a small city in the interior, the economy starts growing in the country. I don't know if you know, but the first thing that we see grow in a city that starts to blossom is the beauty, the hairdressers and the beauty salons.

In Guaipa City, the poor in Guaipa, which was the first city where we had the first experience of the Zero Hunger Program, the first shop that was open in that poor city was a beauty parlor. And that was normal, because people start to eat, and when a person starts getting their food, they want to get prettier, and then they want to go to the beauty parlor to become more beautiful, wants to get well and wants to do the nails and the hairdressing. And this is something that we started to learn as time went by.

So to do income distribution, this is something important for the business sector. The more the poor can afford and have access to credit and money, the rich will become even richer, will give even more money. The more the poor eat, the more the U.S. agriculture will grow, the more Brazilian agriculture will grow; because it's useless for you to produce a lot and then kill thousands of chickens because you have overproduction.

And it's useless for you to have corn and you don't know what to do with the overproduction of corn. What do you do with the overproduction of soybeans? We have to incentive more Africans to eat more, more Latinos to eat more, Chinese eating more. And the more people eating, the more we'll have to produce, and we'll have to grow, and then we will make the dynamic of the economy of the world.

This global financial crisis that we are facing now, Ambassador Quinn, this economic crisis, who of us would, ever could imagine that some bankers that knew everything when the crisis was in Brazil, how to solve the crisis in Brazil, they have the recipe... I never saw people that carried so much wisdom - when there was a Bolivian crisis and Brazilian crisis, they knew how to solve the crisis.

The IMF, the International Monetary Fund said cut the budget, do this, cut government spending. They asked us to cut our funds, but they told us to cut everything, cut the education, cut the budget, cut the railroads, cut the roads, lay off workers, cut the retirement, the pension - when the crisis was in Mexico, the same thing.

But when the crisis reaches the rich countries like the U.S., the IMF, the International Monetary Fund is silent, deep silence – we don't hear a word from the IMF. The World Bank that had all the recipe, Roberto, it doesn't say a word – it's silent too; it doesn't know nothing about this crisis and how to solve this crisis, the World Bank.

I was president, and I received delegations in Brazil. Yes, I hosted many meetings with them. And they would come to us and say, "Well, you have to have a..." It was an imposition. They wanted to impose...

Probably the greatest joy that I had in my life was that two years after I took office in the presidency, I called the managing director of the IMF, Ratul in those days, and I said to him the following: "My dear colleague, Ratul, managing director of IMF, I want to give back the money that we borrowed from the IMF."

"No, no, no. Don't do that, no. President Lula, don't give us back the money – no, please, no. We want to have good relations with Brazil. We don't need the money. We don't need back the money. We want Brazil as a partner of the IMF."

I said, "No, no, no." I said, "No." (He's Spanish.) "No, I don't want you as a partner." I gave him back the money – \$16 billion dollars that we gave back to the IMF. And then I lent \$14 billion to the IMF to solve the problem in the 2008 crisis. So today Brazil, we are creditors of the IMF, not debtors of the IMF anymore.

So what's going on? What's going on in the world today? I was looking at a study of the African Development Bank that was showing that in Africa we already have 310 million Africans that are living a middle-class standard of living. This was publicized in Brazil with great highlight in the Brazilian press as an information that came from the African Development Bank.

And so I started to imagine the success of the income transfer policy in Brazil. And then I started to imagine if, during this global financial crisis, if the rulers decided to make a decision, since in Europe there's not much consumption going on, so to try to make that part of the money would be transferred for us to help to develop the poorest countries with equipment, machinery, so that we can make the poorest become producing countries, of food even to sell to the richest countries.

So what is going on now? What is going on is that this generation of rulers that we're seeing today is a generation of rulers that are a little bit... to the market-driven forces of society. Because in the last fifty years since we didn't have such a crisis in the richest region in the world, the rulers thought that the markets by themselves could solve all problems in our lives.

And the market went into crisis. It wasn't the borrower, the mortgage borrower in the U.S. that went broke. It was the Lehman Brothers that bankrupt; it was Citibank that almost bankrupt – because they decided to lend money that didn't exist.

So for an economy to be strong, it has to be based in financing of a good, concrete, actual good – corn, for example. That's an actual good, a tangible good. A mango tree is a good, a car is a tangible good, a tie is a tangible good, a pencil is a tangible good. But we had in the economy,

instead of that, based on just exchanging papers, paper notes – you swapped paper notes, derivatives, pay high bonuses everywhere without creating the necessary jobs.

And then what happened? When the system breaks down, the financial system breaks down and you need the politicians to make a decision, the leaders to make a decision, people were not well prepared to make such decisions. And so this global financial crisis will only be solved through political decisions and not through economic decisions.

What we need is to regulate the financial international system. No bank – this is a very serious matter – no bank can lend money that it doesn't have.

For example, in Brazil a bank is allowed to leverage only 10 percent of its net worth. But in other countries there was leverage of 35 times more than their net worth. And the central banks that had to regulate, they didn't regulate anymore the financial system.

And this crisis is a crisis that will only be solved when we give incentives to the people to go back and shop and go back to consume with responsibility and not to become more indebted than they can pay for their debts. And this we don't learn in university, Ambassador – we learn that at home. Our mothers say to us, "Never buy something that you can't pay for." You can only be indebted for what your salary can pay for.

So now is the time for the rulers of the world to gather. There's going to be a G20 meeting coming soon, and to say it loud and clear that they're going to make a political decision; because I can't imagine how possible that the Greek crisis could break down France or Germany. I can't imagine how possible that people don't perceive, understand how much it cost to build the European Union, how much it cost to make France and Germany work together around the same table. And this is an asset for humanity – the European Union – and it cannot be destroyed now because of an economic crisis in such a small country like Greece.

So that's why, my dear friends, ladies and gentlemen, I am convinced that what happened in Brazil – and it was not only in Brazil – could serve as a paradigm for many other countries.

So if I could say to all of you – the legacy that I left in Brazil, if I could mention that legacy – I'm going to repeat what I said last night. There is nothing more easier, there's nothing more cheaper in the world than to take care of the poor. What is really tough is to take care of the rich – that's difficult. That is very difficult, to take care of the rich.

A poor family with a hundred dollars in a pocket, you can solve your problem for the month, but for a rich man or woman, if you give them a loan of one million dollars and they just put the money in the bank... So this is the rationale – If you distribute part of the surplus so that the poorest and excluded could become consumers, these new consumers will make the wheel of the economy turn, move. And then who is rich will continue to earn its money, who is middle class will continue middle class, and then we will perceive that the world economy will become developed again.

I would like to invite some of you to come to visit Brazil. Please, when you go to Brazil, don't go to Sao Paulo or Brasilia, the capital, but go to the Northeast of Brazil – that's the poorest region

in the country. Go to the state of Pernambuco, stop over in the rain forest in the Amazon so that you can perceive the evolution that is going on in a country with people ascending the social ladder, the poorest people going up the social ladder.

And we have to change the concept. When I took office, Chissano, everything that we spoke of about education was considered government spending. Everything that we talked about the poor was considered government spending. To increase the minimum salary was government spending, to make income transfer was considered government spending. Everything that we loaned to the companies – that was considered investment. No. I'm going to change the concept. I'm going to change.

So lending to the rich is investment, but giving out money to the poor is also investment. And why Family Stipend, it cannot be considered investment? Why investing in education is not considered investment? Why government spending in education and buying food and food stamps is not investment? So we change the concept in government spending. So everything that we do today is government investment, not government spending, outside of what is earmarked in the national budget for the public... So that's how things are working.

I would like to end now, saying to my dear colleagues from Africa that you will see me traveling a lot in the African Continent, talking with presidents, former presidents, with friends in Africa, because I believe that the 21st century has to be the century to other countries that did not have their chance in the 20th century, and the 21st century will be the century where the Latin American Continent and the African Continent cannot miss the opportunity of the 21st century.

We cannot continue to do the same things that we did in the 20th century. We have to change. And to change means for us to give priority for who we want to govern. Because I don't know if you know – and I end here – that when we are in a political campaign, there is no candidate around the world that speaks badly about the poor. No one speaks badly about the poor when they're campaigning. Candidates speak badly about the bankers when he's in the campaign. The candidate speaks badly about big business. They speak badly of great landowners. They speak badly on the multinational companies.

And the poor – well, if poor, if the poor could have stocks in the stock exchange during the campaign, the political campaign, it would be the most fattest stock in the planet in all the stock exchanges. Because all politicians hug the poor, kisses the poor during the campaign. The problem is that then when he wins the election or she wins the election, the first thing they do is to put him in a shielded car, an armored car, where they can't even wave anymore to the people, because his car is shielded.

And then who attends the president's office is not the poor; the poor don't attend the president's office. It's interesting to find out that when you win the elections, it's like as if you put a blanket, a curtain, and then who attends the palaces are the ones that you spoke badly during the campaign, because you have those shades. And those that you spoke well about, they're out of the palace, they can't go in.

So the revolution that we did in Brazil was having a lot of people that now had started to go to the president's office, to the palace. And bankers continue to go to the president's palace, the business men and women, kings and queens attend, prime ministers and presidents attend the palace. But in the president's palace in Brazil we also had homeless people in the palace. We had scavengers in the street coming to our palace, black people, indigenous people, all these people, household organizations, all the organized civil societies, gender organizations - everybody had the opportunity to go to visit us in the president's office. And everybody just helped us to develop our public policies.

There was no business sector. There was not one... There was no social segment that we did not receive in the palace that was invited to come in the palace to talk with us to help the government to make the right decisions about our public policies. So that's why the success of my government was not my success. It was the Brazilian people's success that gave me as a gift and gave as a gift to the Brazilian people itself the election of the first woman in history elected in the history of Brazil.

So this was the gift that the Brazilian people gave to me, to elect my successor, a woman. This was the result, this was the true proof of the right public policies that we put in practice.

And I can say with great humility to all of you - we're just starting. There's a long and winding road ahead of us, a long and winding road. And we're working to transform ourselves in the fifth largest economy in the world in 2016. But we do not want to be the fifth largest economy in the world with social inequality to administer.

It is necessary to make the poor go up the social ladder. The more the poor go up the social ladder, the more the society will gain.

So that's why, my dear Ambassador Quinn, my dear friends here, thank you very much for your warmth, and I hope that I managed to have done the best, and I hope that I really honor and earn this prize that you've given to me last night.

Thank you very much.

Ambassador Kenneth Quinn

Wow! I told you, right? I told you it was going to be one of those really memorable moments from the World Food Prize history.

Mr. President, nobody's going to forget this one. You have touched everyone here with your passion. You have shown everyone here what drove you, the power that you brought to your office that allowed you to have your company achieve the Millennium Development Goal 1 before 2015. Now we all understand how it happened. And you are truly, truly worthy to be the World Food Prize Laureate.

Join me in thanking again President Lulu da Silva.

Mr. President, as an ambassador, I know I try to be so attentive to protocol. You know, we have President Obasanjo, President Chissano, President Kufuor. I wanted everything to be according to protocol. And I got to this morning, and I thought, oh, gosh, you know, we made it, we did it - until the water bottle! You know, I've learned my lesson from you.

Mr. President, at the laureate address it is our tradition to present the laureate diploma. So your wall must be full of many honors and diplomas, but we hope there could be a special place on the wall for the laureate diploma. And to present it to you, we have our chairman, Mr. John Ruan III. And if I could ask you to come here to the center of the stage, and, John, to join him, and we will have the presentation.