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State Secretary Lindemann: The Right to Food is a Compass on the Way out of the Food Crisis

“The right to food can play an important role in tackling the food crisis,” said Gert Lindemann, State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection today, speaking at the close of the “Policies against Hunger VII” conference in Berlin.

Lindemann highlighted the Federal Government’s unwavering support for using the right to food as a basis for fighting hunger.

“The Food and Agriculture Organisation’s voluntary guidelines on the right to food are a recognised means of orientation which we should make use of in the international activities that are currently being carried out to deal with the food crisis.”

“The agricultural sector has a key role to play in tackling the global challenges of poverty and malnutrition. Climate change and population growth are exacerbating the situation,” emphasised Lindemann, and stated that:

“The agricultural sector’s potential for sustainably managing natural resources must be exploited to the full.”

“The current economic and financial crisis must not distract attention from the importance of fighting hunger,” reiterated the State Secretary. “In the long term, food security is of utmost importance for achieving social peace and stability in the world. The Federal Government therefore considers the fight against hunger and poverty to be of the highest priority,” emphasised Lindemann.

The Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection is organising a Summit of Agriculture Ministers on the subject of “Ensuring global food security – A global challenge for politics and industry”, which is due to be held during the forum of the International Green Week on 17 January 2009.

On the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Federal Ministry held its seventh “Policies against Hunger” conference, this time under the title of: “The Right to Food is a Human Right”. At the conference, over 250 international participants discussed different courses of action and recommendations for securing the right to food.

The Federal Ministry calls for the right to food to be politically implemented in the FAO’s work, with voluntary annual contributions of 8.3 million Euros to be made to carry out innovative projects aimed at ensuring a secure food supply.