

**SPEAKING NOTES
THE HONOURABLE NOËL A. KINSELLA
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE OF CANADA**

**G20 SPEAKERS' CONSULTATION 2013 (MEXICO CITY)
SESSION ON FOOD SECURITY AND COMMODITY PRICE
STABILIZATION**

**MEXICO CITY
APRIL 5, 2013**

Your Excellencies,
Colleagues,
Honoured guests,
Ladies and gentlemen:

It is a pleasure to welcome all of you to the third Session of the Speakers' Consultation Forum. Our hosts here in Mexico City have assembled an excellent program covering a number of important issues which affect all of our nations. These meetings provide an opportunity for all of us to share with other participants our views of global issues that affect all of us, to consider alternatives and to return to our countries with a better understanding of best practices.

The title and subject matter for our discussion today is Legislative Action and Public Policies for Food Security and Stabilizing Prices of Raw Material. It should be noted that food security was one of the principal topics of our first Speakers' Consultation in Canada and I am looking forward to continuing that discussion today.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations – the FAO –, food security “exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.”

The challenges of global food security are considerable, particularly since global food production will have to increase by 70% between now and 2050 in order to feed what will then be a population of more than 9 billion.

In addition, smallholders in developing countries must deal with commodity price instability. In recent years, we have seen strong fluctuations in the prices of commodities. Volatile prices are severely compromising the food security of the most vulnerable segment of the planet's population.

Previous G20 consultations have resulted in several recommendations for improving food security and reducing commodity price instability. Among other things, these recommendations refer to sustainable enhancement of agricultural production and productivity, particularly through sustainable water and soil management. Agricultural production is vital to food security, because most of the world's poor are smallholders who derive their income from agriculture.

Since food security contributes to economic growth and global stability, I will note that the Government of Canada made it one of the priority themes of our international aid program, making substantial contributions to the enhancement of food security.

Greater international collaboration and coordination are needed with respect to energy, water and agricultural policies if we are to resolve food security problems and stabilize commodity prices. This conference constitutes a significant step in strengthening a constructive dialogue with other parliaments and legislatures as we pursue our common efforts to reduce price volatility and improve food security throughout the world.

Thank you all for joining this session. I look forward to your active participation and invite you to welcome our first speaker.