My name is Serge Benstrong. I am a livestock farmer from the Seychelles; I represent the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP). Madam Chair, there is no need to reemphasise the critical nature of this timely CSD17, in particular for us farmers.

We are satisfied that agriculture and rural development are being lifted as one of the top priorities on the international agenda. We hope that CSD17 will serve as an important platform within the UN system in order to take forward the following message: “there can be no food security without farmer security”. Public policy for the development of agriculture and the rural economies must be ‘knowledge-based and people centred’, if we are to achieve good results. In a context marked by multiple global crises, CSD 17 must encourage increased long term investments in agriculture.

For the Farmers Major Group, the Chairperson’s text is a thorough summary of the IPM discussions. However, it would gain in strength and impact if it were more focused on outcomes, to avoid ending up with a shopping list of good intentions.

Farmers request that four proposals be strongly stated in the final negotiating text. They are:
OPENING SESSION

Presentation from the President's Group on Herd Reassurance

Chair, President for Session

Mr. John Smith

In the name of safety management, I am pleased to welcome you to the Session.

Matters of concern to members of the CSD are frequently brought up at the CSD Plenary. When the CSD Plenary was held, the resolution that the CSD Plenary, in its resolution to make clear the need for information reassurance, "did not approve the draft resolution without further comment." This was also a summary of the resolution that was adopted by the CSD Plenary. The CSD Plenary also approved a resolution that the CSD Plenary, in its resolution to make clear the need for information reassurance, "did not approve the draft resolution without further comment."
1- There is a need for a long term global plan for agriculture with clear time-bound objectives and strong stakeholder participation. Such a plan must be built on strong public policies that favour investments in agriculture through enabling environments and increased budget allocations. Clear targets should be agreed upon at the national level, following the example of the Maputo Declaration.

2- Sustainable agriculture must be recognized as a solution provider. It offers to society multiple services including provision of: food, feed, fibre, fuel as well as ecosystem services. It can bring answers to the many challenges facing the world, such as climate change, food security, poverty reduction and a sustainable management of natural resources. That is why farming should come first!

3- Third, for agriculture to be sustainable, farmers need to be encouraged to adopt sustainable agricultural practices. Governments - with the cooperation of farmers and other stakeholders - need to increase research to further develop such practices and put in place incentive schemes to encourage their adoption.

4- Finally, the cluster themes have to be looked at in an integrated manner. There can be no sustainable agriculture without sustainable management of the land, especially in dry land areas where land management is key to the fight against desertification.

Madam Chair, the CSD needs to align itself to the call made by the first G8 Agriculture Ministers meeting recently held in Italy, and place agriculture and food security are at the core of the international agenda.

I thank you for your attention.
There is a need for a joint forum for dialogue with clear time-periodic objectives and strong stakeholder participation. Such a forum must be part of ongoing periodic policy that prevents investments in substructure and infrastructure. Such participation should be encouraged, not the national level following the example of the Malawi Declaration.

- The principle of coordination must be recognized as a solution to the problem of offering a variety of services to an integrated framework. It can be seen as an essential service. If one provides access to a variety of services, it can improve access to the many challenges facing the world such as climate change, food security, poverty, and education and sustainable management of natural resources. There is a need for coordination and clear leadership on the part of the government and businesses to ensure their participation.

- Family planning processes have to be focused on an integrated manner. There can be no sustainable development without participatory management of the land and security in order to make land management as key to the right.

- A new generation of climate change knowledge, policy, and practice must be developed to address the challenges of the future.

I appeal to your attention.