

Final Statement by Local Authorities Major Group 27 February 2009

Madam Chair

[It is good to see that many of the points raised regarding the pivotal role of local communities and local authorities are taken up in the text in front of us. As it has been mentioned here by governments and Major Groups] we would like to suggest strengthening of **urban-rural linkages** to improve market access and local food security. Urban infrastructure for local agriculture and rural development is also missing.

Suggested language:

On agriculture:

5. (d)(bis) Strengthen urban-rural linkages through support of urban and peri-urban agriculture, revitalizing wholesale markets and urban food processing for nearby rural areas, and initiating home grown school feeding programs.

And in the Africa and the Interlinkages sections we will provide language to highlight the crucial role of local governments in partnership with business and science to build sustainable and livable communities.

Thank you.