



NEWS RELEASE

Senate of Canada

G20 Speakers' Consultation Concludes on a Positive Note

Ottawa, September 4, 2010 – The G20 Speakers' Consultation held in the Senate of Canada, has come to a close.

Speakers and parliamentarians of the Upper and Unicameral Houses of the G20 gathered together in Ottawa, to engage in a forward-looking dialogue on the dynamics of current global economics and collaborative strategies in support of world production, security and distribution of food. "Food security is a challenging issue, with an estimated one billion people worldwide who are undernourished," said the Honourable Noël A. Kinsella, Speaker of the Senate of Canada.

During the business sessions held over two days, particular focus was given to the following themes:

- Global collaborative strategies to meet the need for food production and distribution
- New paradigms for peace and food security
- Global financial and economic models for advancing global economic stability as it relates to food

Speaker Kinsella noted that participants will report on the consultations to their legislatures and that the dialogue started in Ottawa will continue. "Parliamentary dialogue will be undertaken with a view to implementing the actions needed to alleviate global food insecurity," added Speaker Kinsella. "When we saw the immediate impact of recent natural disasters in Haiti and Pakistan, we saw the ability of people to feed themselves virtually destroyed in an instant and Canadians were deeply moved by their plight." Lack of food security is an issue which has gained greater prominence in recent years.

"Speakers and parliamentarians of the Upper and Unicameral Houses of the G20 have come together to add parliamentary diplomacy to the efforts of the leaders of the G20," stated Speaker Kinsella. "There is reason to hope that the same collaborative principles that worked so well in the recent fiscal and economic crisis can be applied to the challenges surrounding food security for people throughout the world."

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