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## Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations

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**Check Against Delivery**

### ITEM 5

< Theme: Strengthening of the coordination of the United Nations humanitarian assistance, including capacity as well as organizational aspects. <

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**Statement by Ambassador Remigio Martín Maradona,  
Head of Delegation and Representative to ECOSOC of the  
Convention/Intergovernmental Institution for the Use of Food  
Microalgae Spirulina Against Malnutrition.**

ECOSOC HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS SEGMENT 2005 13 July, 2005

**Mr. President,**

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,  
Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my honour and pleasure to address this distinguished High-Level Segment of ECOSOC. Our Delegation fully supports the goals of the Millennium Declaration and the Development Consensus of Monterrey and Johannesburg. The **Convention Intergovernmental Institution for the Use of Food Microalgae Spirulina Against Malnutrition**, CISRI-ISP, Headquartered in Rome, (Italy) is composed of some of the Member States of the United Nations, spearheaded by **Italy** as the Depository Treaty Country, which includes but not limited to: **Benin, Burundi, Congo Democratic Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea, Madagascar, Sao Tome Principe, Gambia, Cameroon and Somalia** through a Multilateral Treaty\Agreement registered with the United Nations Secretariat.

**Mr. President:**

Our organization is working relentlessly towards the promotion and implementation of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDG), adopted by world leaders at the UN Millennium Assembly in September 2000

and established by the United Nations. Yet, we are concentrating specially on the elimination of hunger in humanitarian relief emergency efforts and non emergency situations. As you are aware, we are the only intergovernmental organization in the UN system with the sole focus on the use of microalgae foods to alleviate extreme hunger.

The use of spirulina platensis represent a viable high protein productivity (50 tons per hectare per year), which means 250 times more than beef proteins, saving 50 times the water needed to produce them. Microalga Spirulina is an aquatic algae, with 71% of proteins of excellent quality, 15 vitamins, minerals, and oligo-elements. Whereas hunger and starvation pose a great survival problem, microalgae can add value to conventional and unconventional rehabilitative counter-measures, as CSB, Cereals, and Oral Salts, etc. It is important to say that Spirulina is not competitive with other rehabilitative means, but it works always in synergy with them, so adding vitamins and precious nutritional elements, otherwise difficult to find in a local diet.

**Mr. President:**

There are plans being drawn to build these spirulina crops, with the cooperation of Italy, France, China and India, in nations that best remedy speedy conditions vital to production--yielding extensive quantities. That could help save the lives of some **40, 000 Children**, who die daily needlessly, adding to the countless heaps of peoples that perish owing to malnutrition annually. It will be a huge breakthrough towards the implementation of the Millennium Goals Objectives in the eradication of **hunger and reduction of child mortality.**

**Mr. President,**

Food Microalgae can represent a precious supplement to fortify emergency rehabilitative doses to save victims of humanitarian emergencies and provide excellent nutrients to both infants and mothers. ***A Declared National Strategic Food by the Chinese Technology and Science Commission*** and an object of the yearly ***"All India Spirulina Coordinated Programme"***. In addition to their great rehabilitative use in **Viet Nam, North Korea, Congo, DRC**, and many other parts of the world, food microalgae spirulina platensis can surely help the UN emergency response capability to provide starving and highly malnourished mass with a better nutrition and food rehabilitation. It is important to have the support of the international community in the context of logistical and political awareness to combat global malnutrition through the spirulina programme.

**Mr. President:**

Spirulina has been around for thousands of years, in fact it was the food Microalgae that provided the fuel in the daily diet for the ancient Egyptians to build their great pyramids. It is therefore necessary that in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Spirulina can be used again only this time to end the life long plight of malnutrition and hunger. It is also imperative for the member states to score the goal that will encourage and lead to formulating concrete steps towards achieving this aim by signing the Convention Treaty on the Use of Microalgae Foods Against Malnutrition. CISRI-ISP is a catalyst intergovernmental institution

in the fight against malnutrition/extreme hunger. It is ready to play the role in the process and, in a concerted effort against malnutrition to do so; it implores also multilateral institutions, bilateral institutions, civil society and NGOs to join hands in order to create a synergy to maximize its efforts in this noble undertaking.

**I thank you, Mr. President.**