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**Economic and Social Council Special Event:
The Avian Flu
3 November 2005**

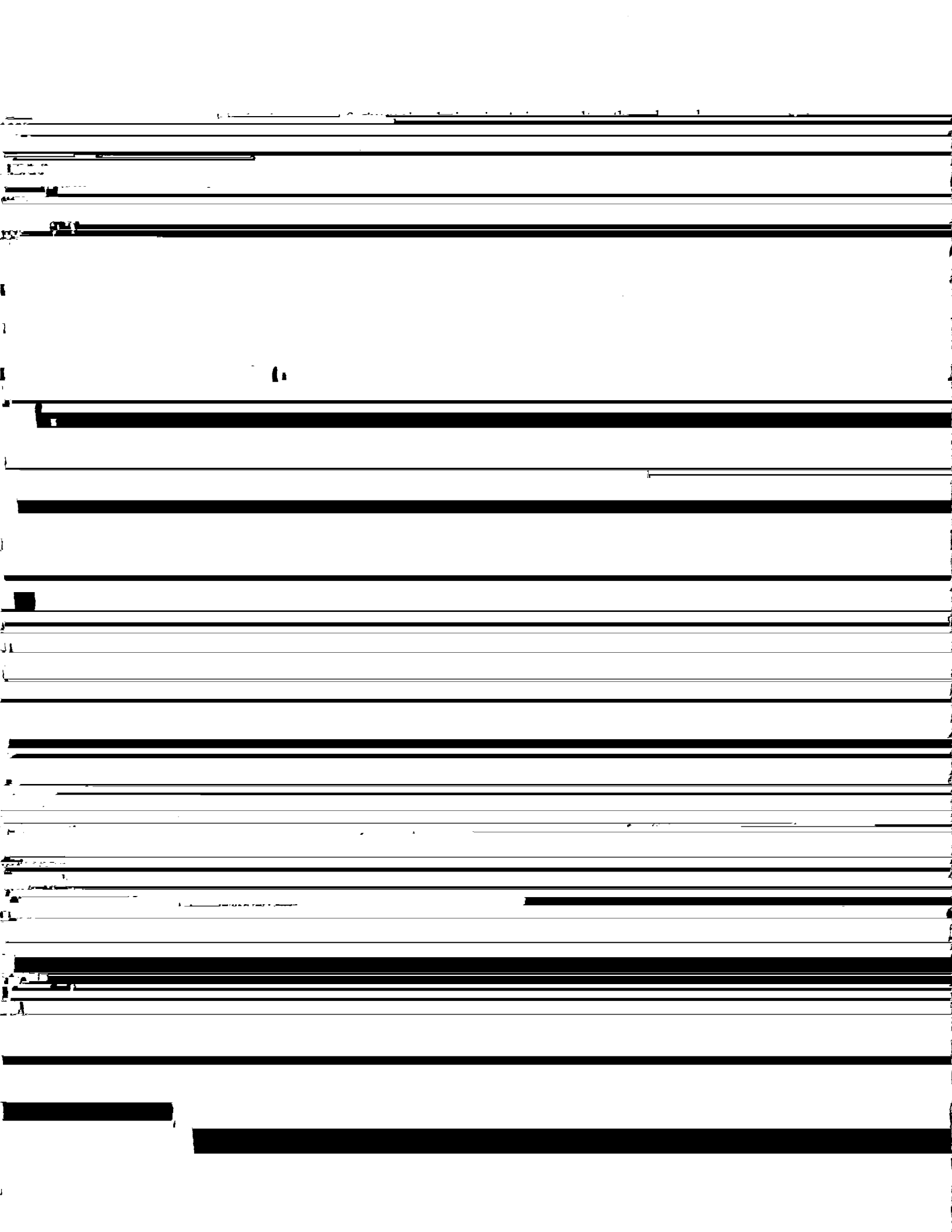
**Statement of Ms. Louise Fresco
Assistant-Director-General
Agriculture Department
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**

Mr. President, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Thank you very much for the opportunity to address you.

My message to you today is: FAO believes that eliminating Avian Influenza among poultry can delay or prevent the transformation of the H5N1 virus into a form that

would create a human pandemic.



We work with regional networks for improving surveillance and diagnosis and for exchanging information on the occurrence of the disease and on lessons learned. FAO and OIE have jointly appealed to governments to improve the exchange of viral strains and this seems to be improving.

Finally, we work to provide correct technical information globally and to advocate for an international campaign against the disease and assist the public in understanding and reacting adequately - risk communication essential. In very close