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later: Ms. Fisher-Tsin (Vice-Chair) (Israel)

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The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Agenda item 24: Agriculture development, food security and nutrition (A/74/79-E/2019/58 and A/74/237)

1. **Mr. Trepelkov** (Division for Sustainable Development Goals, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on agriculture development, food security and nutrition (A/74/237), which had been prepared in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and drew on inputs from across the United Nations system, said that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development placed the eradication of poverty and hunger among its core priorities and identified sustainable agriculture and food systems as key drivers of sustainable development. In the light of the interconnected nature of the 2030 Agenda, a sustainable food systems approach played a critical role in eradicating poverty, hunger and all forms of malnutrition; promoting sustainable production and consumption; meeting the challenges of urbanization; absorbing the youth labour force; and reducing the impact of food systems on biodiversity, natural resources and the climate. Promoting the development of food systems that were inclusive, nutrition-driven, sustainable, eco-friendly, climate-friendly and resilient required action across the 2030 Agenda as a whole.

2. World hunger was on the rise for the third consecutive year. More than 820 million people were undernourished in 2018. Africa remained the continent with the highest prevalence of undernourishment, affecting one fifth of its population. It was estimated that over 2 billion people did not have access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food. Conversely, estimates suggested that one third of the global population would be overweight or obese by 2030.

3. Meeting Sustainable Development Goal 2 on zero hunger was a complex balancing act with several competing objectives. A comprehensive perspective was required to see how the Goal's different targets fitted together and to identify opportunities for synergies and assess trade-offs among objectives. To that end, the report introduced a definition of food systems that went beyond value chains to the food environments that shaped the actions of all actors. A sustainable food systems perspective was used to identify key issues in promoting improved nutrition and healthy diets, making food systems more inclusive, improving sustainability and strengthening climate resilience.

4. The report provided information on partnership initiatives to improve food systems. United Nations

agencies were facilitating public-private dialogue to create an investment-friendly enabling environment. Innovation and the use of new technologies in food, agriculture and forestry could be harnessed in the pursuit of the Goals. Achieving a food system that was fully sustainable in all dimensions would require political commitment, technological innovation and new partnerships to mobilize all stakeholders for success.

5. **Mr. Shawesh** (Observer for the State of Palestine), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the evidence continued to signal a rise in world hunger. While the number of people facing crisis-level food insecurity or worse had fallen from 124 million in 2017 to 113 million in 2018 in countries affected by conflict, environmental factors and excessive food price volatility, that decrease was attributable largely to changes in climate shocks.

6. The current pace and scope of implementation of the 2030 Agenda was unlikely to result in the transformational change needed to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2 in many parts of the world. There was a need to leverage global, regional and national partnerships and initiatives in order to optimize the mobilization and coordination of resources, enable collective action and mobilize means of implementation. Progress on mobilizing means of implementation for Goal 2, especially investment in sustainable and inclusive agriculture, remained insufficient and needed to be addressed urgently.

7. Agriculture remained the dominant sector in terms of its share in gross domestic product (GDP), exports and employment in many developing countries. In that regard, an open, rules-based trading system was necessary to facilitate a more favourable global environment for food security and sustainable agriculture. Agricultural trade could contribute to achieving the Goals in many ways. The Group reaffirmed its commitment to the full implementation of the Paris Agreement and called for global action to ensure that nature-based solutions were utilized to protect water resources and improve the quality of land in order to enhance the productive yields for food security and nutrition.

8. Increased investment was needed to enhance agricultural productivity. Consistent with the need to accelerate the pace of implementation, all Member States, particularly developing countries, faced the challenge of addressing food security, nutrition, rural transformation and sustainable agriculture and their complex interlinkages with other Goals. Member States must take advantage of the momentum generated by the

high-level political forum on sustainable development and the other relevant thematic events held during the high-level week of the General Assembly.

9. **Mr. Ligoya** (Malawi), speaking on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries, said that of the 53 countries facing acute food insecurity or worse, 29 were least developed countries, with a combined population of around 80 million people. The crisis was fuelled primarily by conflict, high food prices and abnormal weather patterns, including prolonged drought and flood conditions.

10. The challenges relating to agriculture and food security in the least developed countries were further aggravated by rapid population growth. Fluctuations in commodity prices, exacerbated by extreme weather events and speculation on international commodity markets, had made it more difficult for farmers to anticipate and take advantage of market conditions. There had been declines in public investment and official development assistance. Despite rapid urbanization, 75 per cent of the population of the least developed countries still lived in rural areas, and extreme poverty remained a disproportionately rural phenomenon, which called for an intensification of efforts for the inclusive economic transformation of rural areas.

11. Agriculture played a crucial role both in promoting food security and as the major economic activity for much of the population. It was important to provide smallholder farmers, many of whom were women, with secure access to land, financing and other resources and to invest in the markets in which they were engaged. Plans must be made to produce enough food to meet the needs of a population that was expected to double by 2050 in the least developed countries.

12. Agricultural systems would need to be transformed to become more resilient to climate change, while increasing production and reducing emissions. In recent years, innovation and new technologies were changing the way in which people produced, traded and consumed food and other agricultural, forestry and fishery products. Those emerging technologies drove more efficient, productive, transparent and sustainable food systems, demonstrating real promise in addressing many of the obstacles to global food security. However, such technologies were not always accessible to smallholder farmers in the least developed countries.

13. Globalized markets and the implementation of trade agreements, especially duty-free and quota-free market access, should also be harnessed to bring benefits for exporters from the least developed countries. Recognizing that the number of

undernourished people in the least developed countries was increasing, there was an urgent need, as reflected in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 to ensure access to safe food and emergency food assistance in all of the least developed countries by developing a system of food stockholding to deal with humanitarian food emergencies and as a means to limit price volatility.

14. **Ms. Lindo** (Belize), speaking on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, said that for small island and low-lying coastal developing States, food security and nutrition continued to be issues of concern. Environmental and economic factors affected the ability of those countries to achieve the priorities set out in the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway) and the Sustainable Development Goals. Climate change made small island developing States more vulnerable to food supply disruptions and damage caused by more frequent extreme weather events. The Alliance welcomed the adaptation, resilience-building and disaster risk reduction measures identified in the report ([A/74/237](#)), including the shift towards more sustainable and climate-friendly food production and consumption practices.

15. Climate change also had a significant impact on fisheries, which provided a major source of dietary protein and were an important contributor to the economies of a number of small island developing States. In its *Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate*, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change indicated that ocean warming had contributed to an overall global decrease in maximum catch potential, compounding the impacts from overfishing. Owing to their large ocean territories, small island developing States were particularly vulnerable to – but had limited capacity to combat – illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. The evolution of satellite technologies presented an opportunity for further collaboration to address that global issue.

16. Environmental factors were compounded by socioeconomic challenges, as emphasized during the preparations for the high-level midterm review of the Samoa Pathway. Small island developing States continued to have the highest obesity rates in the world, owing to the consumption of highly processed imported foods, which were often cheaper than locally produced alternatives due to supply volatilities and the scale of production. The Alliance welcomed the efforts by FAO to implement the Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States and reiterated the call to provide small island

developing States with support to enhance their institutional and technical capacity to promote sustainable and resilient domestic food production. At the same time, a complementary shift in consumption practices must be brought about through awareness-raising initiatives.

17. **Ms. El Hilali** (Morocco), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that the eradication of poverty and hunger was among the core priorities of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 of the African Union. With only 10 years remaining until 2030, the world was not on track in its efforts to meet Sustainable Development Goal 2 and other targets related to agriculture, food security and nutrition. The Group noted with deep concern that world hunger had risen for the third consecutive year and that Africa remained the region with the highest prevalence of undernourishment, affecting one fifth of its population. That alarming situation called for urgent action at the national, regional and international levels.

18. In Africa, the combination of such factors of food insecurity as climate change, desertification, floods and land degradation could be devastating. In some parts of the continent, food insecurity was further exacerbated by conflict and violence, rural-urban migration and the impact of the economic downturn on investment in the agricultural sector. Nevertheless, it was important to emphasize the enormous potential of agriculture in Africa. The continent boasted the largest share of the world's uncultivated fertile land, abundant water resources and proximity to transportation links and regional markets. The continent had a young population that could be engaged in sustainable agriculture.

19. The Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area should stimulate the exchange of food products between African countries at a lower cost, improve the income of farmers and promote agribusiness. In that connection, the Group stressed the role of increased investment in the agricultural sector from public, private and combined sources. As highlighted in the outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, a major role could be played by South-South and triangular cooperation in fighting food insecurity.

20. **Ms. Khyne** (Myanmar), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that countries should redouble their efforts to realize the commitments contained in the recently adopted political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly in order to improve people's

quality of life, protect the environment and reduce inequalities.

21. Agriculture was key to economic development, poverty eradication and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in ASEAN member States. However, growth in the region's agricultural sector had slowed and it faced many challenges, in particular the effects of climate change, rapid urbanization and industrialization, market disadvantages and a development gap with other world regions. Regional initiatives to address those challenges included the Strategic Plan for ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry (2016–2025), on which ASEAN was working closely with a number of international organizations.

22. Significant achievements had been made with respect to trade facilitation, food security, food safety, better nutrition and more equitable distribution. The private sector played a role in harnessing technology and accessing markets to improve productivity and competitiveness in the agricultural sector, as well as to ensure sustainability and inclusiveness. The ASEAN Public-Private Partnership Regional Framework for Technology Development in the Food, Agriculture and Forestry Sectors sought to increase collaborative investment in the development of sustainable technology. ASEAN had also adopted guidelines on promoting responsible investment in food, agriculture and forestry.

23. Although ASEAN was considered as a food surplus region, rapid population growth, accelerated urbanization and climate change had undermined food security. In order to enhance cooperation in that regard, the ASEAN member countries had adopted an integrated food security framework and strategic plan of action on food security for 2015–2020, which would help to ensure long-term food security and nutrition and to improve the livelihoods of farmers in the region.

24. At their fortieth meeting, the ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry had endorsed a multi-sectoral framework on climate change, which sought to minimize its impact on the agricultural and forestry sectors. As part of a broader partnership, ASEAN had established the ASEAN-Plus-Three Emergency Rice Reserve and was implementing an ASEAN-Plus-Three Cooperation Strategy on Food, Agriculture and Forestry for 2016–2025. Visible progress had been made in the areas of food security, sustainable forest management, climate change mitigation and adaptation, animal and plant health and disease control and human resource development.

25. **Mr. Ten-Pow** (Guyana), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that the decline in agriculture, a major economic sector, in some member States reflected the vulnerability of small economies to the effects of climate change and had driven up the region's annual food import bill. As much of the sector was dominated by small producers with limited access to finance, credit and insurance, closer partnerships were needed, both North-South and South-South, to provide more innovative, tailored financing mechanisms. United Nations agencies, funds and programmes should help to build institutional capacities for the long-term sustainability of the agricultural sector in CARICOM countries.

26. Levels of income inequality in CARICOM were among the highest in the world, which gave rise to inequality in consumption. There was also a high correlation between inequitable access to food and the incidence of non-communicable diseases. CARICOM policies in the area of food security were aimed at ensuring ready access to food supplies, with an emphasis on food produced in the region, the identification of vulnerable groups, the removal of non-tariff barriers to intraregional trade, the development of strategies to improve regional transportation and distribution networks, and the promotion of healthy diets to reduce the incidence of non-communicable diseases, obesity and malnutrition. Other policy measures included the adoption of animal and plant health legislation, the establishment of an agribusiness platform to provide business and trade-related information to producers and the promotion of regional value chains for priority products.

27. In order to promote greater involvement of women and young people in the agricultural sector, a project had been launched in Saint Lucia aimed at linking the agricultural sector with tourism by targeting hotels as a market for agricultural produce. With the assistance of FAO, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, the Caribbean Development Bank and the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation, Belize was implementing a number of projects to increase the involvement of youth in agriculture and to encourage innovation and the use of new technologies in the sector.

28. Fisheries were an important component of the region's agricultural sector, providing a significant source of employment and nutrition. Following a decline in the catch of certain fish species, as a result of factors including illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing, some Member States were taking conservation measures, including the declaration of marine protected areas.

29. The impacts of climate change on the region's agricultural sector, including the devastation wrought by hurricanes, had to be addressed. Unusually high tides in Guyana were depositing salt water on farmlands close to the coastline, thus rendering them unfit for agriculture in the short term. Continued cooperation with development partners was needed to increase investment in sustainable agriculture and food systems and reshape the patterns of access to and consumption of food, including with regard to advanced technologies for climate-smart agricultural practices and building infrastructure to strengthen resilience.

30. **Mr. Chumakov** (Russian Federation) said that more than 820 million people around the world were undernourished and progress in combating extreme poverty had slowed, particularly in rural areas dependent on the agricultural sector. As there was now a risk that a number of Sustainable Development Goal targets might not be met by 2030, the comprehensive proposals contained in the report ([A/74/237](#)) were justified. They provided a solid basis for improved food security, more job creation and the socioeconomic development of rural areas.

31. The approach outlined in the report would also provide a balance between agricultural sector needs and environmental protection measures that took climate change into account. Indeed, many of the measures proposed corresponded to Russian Federation priorities, such as initiatives to improve soil productivity through sustainable soil management. In 2018, his country had contributed \$2 million to a FAO trust fund for that purpose.

32. The increasing use of digital technologies in the agricultural sphere had been discussed at the FAO Regional Conference for Europe, held in May 2018 in the Russian city of Voronezh. The important issue of risk analysis in food safety would also be addressed at an FAO conference to be held in Moscow on 17 and 18 December 2019, to which all interested countries were invited.

33. His delegation welcomed the work carried out within the framework of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025) to promote healthy diets and prevent non-communicable diseases, including the development of guidelines on food systems and nutrition by the Committee on World Food Security. However, in order to devise high-quality guidelines, the Committee should confine its work to addressing the specific issues directly before it. His delegation also welcomed General Assembly resolution [72/239](#) on the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019–2028).

34. **Mr. Koba** (Indonesia) said that achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2 posed an immense challenge to the global community given the current scenario of increasing global hunger, food insecurity, childhood stunting and low birthweight. Furthermore, climate change was causing disruptions in agricultural patterns and had a major impact on small-scale producers in particular.

35. Action was needed in a number of areas. First, efforts should be made to revitalize the agricultural sector and promote rural development through steps to support more sustainable agriculture, increase food sufficiency and address logistical and infrastructure-related issues in rural and urban areas in order to improve food distribution.

36. Second, sustainable food production systems should be supported through research into improving the production of nutritious foods and developing new varieties of micronutrient-rich crops. Support should be provided to small-scale and family farmers, as well as fishers, to build their capacity and give them greater access to technology, information, markets and business financing. Partnerships should be promoted between small-scale producers and large-scale agricultural enterprises.

37. Third, nutrition must be improved, particularly for children. As a result of systematic action in Indonesia, the prevalence of stunting had fallen from 37.2 per cent in 2013 to 30.8 per cent in 2018. Welfare and food security issues must be addressed at the household level to overcome malnutrition. Enhanced cooperation was needed to disseminate information on nutrition, improve nutrition for mothers during pregnancy, ensure sufficient nutritional intake for children and establish a clean environment, including water and sanitation, for children to grow up in.

38. **Mr. Ghorbanpour Najafabadi** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the Government had reformed existing policies to improve the overall sustainability of food systems and ensure food security and nutrition, especially in areas affected by drought and water shortages. However, the success of those policies had been hindered by the illegal unilateral coercive measures, including economic sanctions, imposed against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

39. In addition to conflict and climate change, of which the Committee on World Food Security had taken note in its main decisions and policy recommendations (A/74/79-E/2019/58), unilateral coercive measures, including economic sanctions, were among the most significant threats to the food security and nutrition of civilians in developing countries. Those illegal

measures could have as negative an impact on food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture as conflict situations owing to the interconnectivity of the international financial and trade systems. Unilateral sanctions, which disregarded the right to adequate food as a human right, worked against effective partnerships, cooperation and capacity-building as an important means of addressing the challenges related to food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture.

40. In the reports under consideration under the agenda item, stakeholders were called upon to take action to reverse the rising number of food insecure people around the world. In that connection, the countries using unilateral coercive measures as a foreign policy tool should be urged to refrain from doing so in order to bring an end to insecurity and unsustainability in other countries. His delegation requested the Secretary-General to examine, in his future reports, the effects on food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture of the application of unilateral coercive measures and the misuse of the international monetary and fiscal systems by some major economic powers, with a view to ensuring that no one was left behind and no country was left behind in the implementation of food-related policies.

41. **Mr. Amin** (Afghanistan) said that economic slowdowns and climate change had a number of direct and indirect impacts on food security, nutrition and agriculture and were correlated with increases in poverty and inequality. A greater understanding was needed of the drivers of and the linkages between food insecurity and malnutrition in order to accelerate efforts towards ending hunger, achieving food security and improving overall levels of nutrition.

42. Levels of poverty and food insecurity in Afghanistan were high and rising rapidly. According to a survey of living conditions in 2016–2017, food insecurity affected about 45 per cent of the population. While conflict was a significant driver of that deteriorating situation, it was increasingly recognized that climate change was also having a profound effect owing to more severe and frequent natural hazards, such as the drought that had affected Afghanistan in recent years. The level of the country's underground water table had dropped considerably as farmers had been forced to rely on groundwater for irrigation. The reduction in water supply had affected overall production, highlighting the link between scarcity of water resources and food security problems.

43. Despite the magnitude of the various challenges, the Government remained committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and had therefore

launched a national food security and nutrition agenda and had established the High-Level Food Security and Nutrition Steering Committee, which included representatives of all line ministries, the Central Statistics Office, non-governmental organizations, United Nations agencies and the private sector. A holistic approach that focused on humanitarian implications, development concerns and the importance of peace as a resilience-builder was needed to effectively address the challenges posed by food insecurity and climate change. That approach would ensure that humanitarian, development and peace efforts were mutually reinforcing, helping Afghanistan not only to eradicate hunger and build climate resilience, but also to achieve its broader aspirations of sustainable development, lasting peace and a reduction in migration. Urgent action was needed to accelerate efforts for poverty eradication, improved nutrition and sustainable agriculture and food systems in order to meet the 2030 deadline.

44. *Ms. Fisher-Tsin (Israel), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

45. **Mr. Sukhee** (Mongolia) said that ending hunger, achieving food security, improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture were at the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals. As was the case for many other developing countries, agriculture and food security were central to his country's development priorities. The Mongolian agricultural sector accounted for about 10 per cent of GDP and generated 26 per cent of jobs. Traditional pastoral livestock farming accounted for over 80 per cent of total production in the agricultural sector. According to *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019*, the prevalence of undernourishment in the total population in Mongolia had fallen from 31 per cent in 2004–2006 to 13 per cent in 2016–2018. His country had taken proactive measures aimed at improving agricultural productivity, producing ecologically clean and safe food products, connecting farms to markets and improving food distribution systems. Agricultural and food industry policies were included in the Mongolia Sustainable Development Vision 2030 and the action plan of the Government, which were consistent with the call of the Secretary-General to promote the development of food systems that were inclusive, nutrition-driven, sustainable, eco- and climate-friendly and resilient.

46. Climate change posed the most daunting challenge, which no country could tackle alone. Multilateral efforts therefore needed to be strengthened without delay to relieve the unprecedented and unrelenting pressure on ecosystems, which were vital to sustainable development. Sustainable rangeland and pastoralism played a critical role in addressing

environmental challenges, maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem services and contributing to food security and socioeconomic development, particularly among herders and local communities. Rangelands and drylands predominated the landscape of Mongolia, but over 50 per cent of national rangelands were degraded, 13 per cent of which beyond the threshold of recovery. In that regard, his delegation attached the utmost importance to sustainable rangeland management and supported a call for an international year of rangelands and pastoralism, which had been reflected in the resolution entitled "Innovations in sustainable rangelands and pastoralism" adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fourth session, and urged Member States to afford greater attention to the important issue of rangelands in their ecosystem preservation efforts.

47. **Mr. Castañeda Solares** (Guatemala) said that a comprehensive approach to food security must be taken if the Sustainable Development Goals were to be met. Economic development played a role in addressing issues relating to food security and nutrition, but was not the only factor. Ensuring the right to food also required action in areas such as health care, water, sanitation and social protection. Undernutrition was linked to the vulnerability of the agricultural system to the effects of climate change. Increased variability in rainfall and temperature had an impact on the livelihoods of farmers, who often ended up in a cycle of poverty because market structures penalized smallholders.

48. In Guatemala, the double burden of malnutrition was evident, with cases of childhood stunting and adult obesity in the same household. In response, the Government had launched comprehensive initiatives to provide support for pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers, school meals and family farming incentives. One of the priorities established in the country's national development plan was to guarantee food security, with an emphasis on vulnerable groups, including children, indigenous peoples and those living in rural areas.

49. His delegation recognized the value of partnerships for development involving the private sector, local governments, civil society and academia, which could help to establish inclusive food systems and build the capacities of small producers, expanding their access to markets, making them more competitive and giving them broader access to technology. Efforts should also be made to reduce food losses and promote climate resilience.

50. His delegation commended FAO, the World Food Programme, the International Fund for Agricultural

Development, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Health Organization on the projects that they had carried out, which had had a direct impact on the population. The principle of leaving no one behind was even more important in relation to food security because the most vulnerable groups could be affected for decades to come.

51. **Mr. Makwe** (Nigeria) said that while the prevalence of undernourishment had remained nearly unchanged at the global level, it was increasing in almost all regions of Africa. In sub-Saharan Africa, approximately 25 per cent of children were undernourished. It was evident that bold steps would be needed to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2 and other targets related to food security and nutrition.

52. As Nigeria was projected to become the third most populous country in the world by 2050, the Government had focused on agricultural development, which was central to economic activities in rural areas and would provide jobs in agro-allied industries for the growing youth population. The Government had strategies in place to scale up efforts to end hunger and malnutrition, including the Agriculture Promotion Policy (2016–2020), through which it was addressing such topics as agricultural education, research and innovation, quality control, access to improved seedlings and standardization of agricultural practices. It was also enhancing nutrition-sensitive value chains and diversifying household food production and consumption. Since livestock development was integral to improving food access, the Government had introduced a cattle breed improvement programme that was focused on integrated disease and pest control measures. In addition, available dams were being used for intensive fish production and collaborative fish breeding initiatives. Agricultural policies were already engendering food security, addressing the problem of extreme hunger and reversing malnutrition, particularly among children under 5 years of age and women.

53. Climate change presented a growing threat to food security and nutrition, in particular in the countries that relied heavily on agriculture. Climate variability and extremes were key drivers of the rise in food insecurity and malnutrition. The Lake Chad basin had suffered from the effects of climate change and, in that connection, Nigeria was collaborating with the other countries in the region and with the international community on adaptation measures. The Government was also procuring and distributing high-yielding drought-resistant seedlings to farmers as a measure to address extreme hunger.

54. **Ms. Ortez** (Honduras) said that the agricultural sector was a major source of income and jobs, particularly for poor rural households. Agriculture was the largest sector of the economy in Honduras, accounting for 72 per cent of exports, 14 per cent of GDP and 36 per cent of jobs. Its links to other sectors made it one of the main drivers of the Honduran economy.

55. Poor small-scale producers faced structural constraints that limited their productivity. There was therefore a need to promote the economic inclusion of those producers and of persons living in extreme poverty. Such inclusion policies should also be aimed at improving the competitiveness of those engaged in primary production, increasing opportunities to add value, facilitating market access, reducing excessive price volatility and ensuring that consumers had access to affordable healthy food.

56. Digital technologies enabled smarter agricultural value chains by collecting data on production, transportation and storage of agricultural products. However, costly technologies were not accessible to small-scale producers in the least developed countries. Technology transfer measures should therefore be adopted to ensure that farmers in developing countries had access to the know-how, technology and innovation that they needed.

57. Agriculture and food systems were particularly vulnerable to climate change. Honduras was promoting agricultural production systems that were adapted to climate change, implementing technology, setting up agricultural research and innovation centres and introducing protective structures such as greenhouses, intelligent watering systems and reservoirs.

58. Her delegation recognized the role of South-South and triangular cooperation, as complements to North-South cooperation, and of official development assistance in building national capacities, improving food security and nutrition and fostering the exchange of good practices in relation to climate change adaptation, food security and nutrition.

59. **Ms. Panabokke** (Sri Lanka) said that, despite the concerted efforts of Member States, global hunger levels had continued to rise, while one third of the global population would be obese or overweight by 2030. Global efforts to achieve sustainable agriculture and food security had been hampered by factors such as climate change, conflict, changing consumption patterns and urbanization. Addressing the complex problems of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition required a multifaceted, action-oriented and collective approach.

60. Sri Lanka was committed to enhancing sustainable production through its national food production programme and the Agriculture Sector Modernization Project. In view of the important role that smallholder farmers played in promoting food security and sustainable agriculture, her delegation welcomed General Assembly resolution [72/239](#) on the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019–2028). To address the vulnerability of smallholder farmers to climate change, the Government had introduced a crop insurance programme. Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture also played an important role in promoting food security, while providing nutritious food and livelihoods. However, global fish stocks were being harvested at unsustainable levels, posing a risk to ecosystems, food security and coastal livelihoods. In order to eradicate unsustainable fisheries practices, the Government had introduced the Sri Lanka National Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.

61. Adequate nutrition was needed to eradicate hunger and support a healthy population. In that regard, Sri Lanka welcomed the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025) and had partnered with the United Nations Children’s Fund to improve child and maternal nutrition.

62. It was essential to strengthen the resilience of food systems and agricultural production in order to adapt to the threat posed by climate change. Since 2013, the United Nations Development Programme had run a project with the Ministry of Environment and the Green Climate Fund to improve irrigation systems in the dry zone of Sri Lanka. In a separate partnership with the Government and local stakeholders, FAO had also taken steps to improve irrigation for some 150,000 Sri Lankan farmers.

63. **Mr. Bin Momen** (Bangladesh) said that sustainable agriculture and food systems were fundamental to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2. His delegation welcomed the definition of food systems, introduced by the Secretary-General in his report ([A/74/237](#)), that went beyond value chains to the food environments that shaped the actions of all actors and agreed that revitalized efforts were needed to create inclusive, eco- and climate friendly, nutrition-driven, sustainable and resilient agriculture and food systems to reverse the global hunger trend.

64. Bangladesh had achieved remarkable successes through bold policies aimed at transforming the agricultural sector, promoting rural development, empowering marginalized people and protecting smallholder farmers and small-scale producers. As a

result, Bangladesh was currently the third largest producer of vegetables, the fourth largest producer of rice and the fifth largest producer of inland fisheries. Bangladesh had gone from being a net-food-importing country to a net exporter. Current efforts were focused on producing and popularizing environmentally friendly agricultural products and improving food safety.

65. Bangladesh was a major producer of natural fibres from a wide range of plants and animals. In 2018, 32 million tons of natural fibres such as jute, cotton and sisal were produced. By contrast with artificial fibres, which contributed to environmental degradation, natural fibres were eco- and climate-friendly and could play a significant role in actions to combat climate change. For example, biodegradable jute bags could be an effective substitute for polybags, which many countries were now in the process of banning. With the use of improved technology, natural fibres could be used to make other products that were important for the economy. Unfortunately, over the past half century, natural fibres had been displaced by lower-cost synthetic fibres, but the rampant use of plastic products had caused environmental damage and affected millions of people who depended on natural fibre production and processing for their livelihoods. Against that backdrop, Bangladesh had introduced a draft resolution entitled “Use of natural fibres such as jute and sisal” for consideration by the Committee. Cooperation with development partners to increase trade, investment and technology transfer in the agricultural sector was vital for agriculture development, food security and nutrition in countries such as Bangladesh.

66. **Ms. Tesfamariam** (Eritrea) said that the agricultural sector was critical to achieving food security, improving nutrition and promoting sustainable development in developing countries. Her Government’s vision was to achieve rapid, balanced, home-grown and sustainable economic growth with social equity and justice, anchored on the principle of self-reliance. In Eritrea, about 67 per cent of the population lived in rural areas, making agriculture one of the most important sectors of the economy. The rural population derived its livelihood mainly from rain-fed crop production, cattle-rearing and fisheries, based largely on traditional production systems. The national food security strategy, adopted more than a decade ago, was aimed at ensuring that all Eritreans had sufficient, affordable and nutritious food all year round throughout the country.

67. As part of the Sahel region, Eritrea had been affected by cyclical droughts, land degradation and desertification and was also vulnerable to the effects of climate change and climatic variability. Seeking to

modernize the existing farming methods that depended on insufficient and erratic rains, the Government had adopted climate-smart agriculture policies. Grass-roots communities, students and the army had been mobilized to work on soil conservation, water harvesting and afforestation activities. Dam construction and the introduction of necessary agricultural inputs were part of the efforts to transition from subsistence agricultural production to irrigated farming. As a result, there had been steady growth in crop production, which now met nearly 75 per cent of domestic food requirements.

68. In 2013, the Government had introduced the Minimum Integrated Household Agricultural Package to support small-scale farmers in the production of basic necessities, such as cereal, milk, meat, honey, eggs and firewood. The Package had been presented as a model of climate-smart agriculture at the third Regional Forum for the Horn of Africa of the African Initiative for Combating Desertification to Strengthen Resilience to Climate Change in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa, held in Kenya in May 2019.

69. Having recognized agricultural transformation as crucial to achieving many of the Sustainable Development Goals, Eritrea had launched a strategy to support small and medium-sized commercial farms, which sought to engage farmers in highly productive, profitable agriculture value chains linked to domestic and international markets by 2023. To ensure the success of the strategy, more work would be needed to create an enabling environment and to provide the necessary technological support.

70. **Mr. Getisu** (Ethiopia) said that promoting sustainable agricultural development was critical to achieving food security and ending hunger. Climate change and the deterioration of ecosystems had a negative impact on food production, especially in the least developed countries, and price volatility affected food security, requiring coordinated action in various sectors.

71. Agriculture remained a key sector for Ethiopia, accounting for more than 70 per cent of jobs, nearly 40 per cent of GDP and 85 per cent of export revenues. The Government, as part of its focus on eradicating hunger and ensuring food security, had allocated a significant portion of its budget to modernizing the agricultural sector and was committed to strengthening the implementation of rural development programmes by scaling up successful practices and introducing new policy tools.

72. Seeking to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2, his Government had been implementing a comprehensive development strategy, focused on

agricultural production and productivity through enhanced agricultural extension services and broader community participation, placing smallholder farmers at the centre. As a result, there had been exponential growth in the agricultural sector. Through its national nutrition strategy, the Government had continued to implement global and regional commitments to address malnutrition. It had taken bold action, in line with its Seqota Declaration, to bring together the ministries responsible for addressing nutrition-related problems, such as stunting in children. As part of national efforts to address food insecurity, programmes had been implemented in close collaboration with development partners. With a view to mitigating the adverse impacts of climate change, the Government had initiated an afforestation programme that sought to promote a sustainable and productive forestry sector. The Productive Safety Net Programme had been successful in assuring food security for the most vulnerable communities in both rural and urban areas, building resilience and enhancing preparedness for disaster prevention and management.

73. In order to ensure that no one was left behind, coordinated and urgent action at all levels was needed to accelerate efforts to eradicate hunger, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. In that regard, as reflected in both the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the realization of Goal 2 called for increased investment in the agricultural sector and comprehensive international support to finance technology and capacity-building.

74. **Ms. Oropeza Acosta** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that States should guarantee their population's right to food by means of food sovereignty, fostering: (a) the role of peasant, indigenous and small farmers in food production; (b) access to land, water, seeds, credit and other essentials for family and community producers; (c) the development of social and public enterprises for producing, distributing and marketing food that averted hoarding and helped to stabilize domestic and international market food prices while checking speculative practices and the displacement of local production; (d) the citizens' right to choose what they ate and how and where their food was produced; (e) adequate food, giving priority to locally sourced food; (f) practices that helped to restore harmony with nature by preventing further desertification, deforestation and destruction of biodiversity; and (g) promotion of the use of indigenous seeds and traditional knowledge. Food production and marketing should be socially regulated instead of being left to free market forces.

75. Her country had promoted the adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas, which had been the ideal start to the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019–2028). People working in rural areas had the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies to exercise their right to development. They were survivors, particularly of climate change. In many countries, those who depended on family work or who were employed in the informal sector were subject to discrimination and did not receive a decent wage or receive social security payments.

76. The majority of smallholder farmers were women and they played a key role in agricultural and sustainable development, but few held the titles to their land, which was often of poor quality. Efforts to narrow the gender gap in land titling in the Plurinational State of Bolivia had been successful, and the number of women holding the titles to their land had increased significantly.

77. Extreme weather events posed significant challenges to agriculture, food security and nutrition, including in several Latin American and Caribbean countries, and required the support of the international community. The shared future of humanity depended on sustainable agriculture.

78. **Ms. Sutthisripok** (Thailand) said that the rise in world hunger was attributable to factors including population growth, social and technological divides and climate change. Accelerated actions and transformative solutions were needed to end hunger and promote a healthy population around the world.

79. Agricultural development, food security and nutrition had always been high on her country's development agenda. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand, the FAO Special Goodwill Ambassador for Zero Hunger and World Food Programme Special Ambassador for School Feeding, had led several projects aimed at ending hunger and improving nutrition for people in the Asia-Pacific region, with a focus on schoolchildren.

80. A holistic approach was needed to sustainable agricultural development. In Thailand, the sufficiency economy philosophy was a home-grown approach to implementing the 2030 Agenda, seeking a balance between economic growth, social inclusion, environmental protection and the preservation of local ways of life. Thailand, having shared the philosophy with 26 partner countries through South-South and triangular cooperation, stood ready to further its cooperation efforts.

81. The sustainable use of natural resources was imperative to achieving sustainable agricultural development and food security. The importance of soil, despite being a major source of food and fresh drinking water, had not been duly recognized. Thailand, in collaboration with FAO, partners under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa and other stakeholders, had been organizing the World Soil Day event at United Nations Headquarters every year on 5 December. Participants at the event called for intensified efforts on the sustainable use, management, conservation and preservation of soil.

82. Oceans and seas were a vital source of nutritious food and protein. However, the unsustainable use of marine resources, particularly illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, affected current and future food stability. In Thailand, an extensive reform of the fisheries sector had been undertaken to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. In its capacity as Chair of ASEAN in 2019, Thailand had convened the Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Marine Debris in March 2019 to pursue concrete actions to address the problem of marine plastic waste.

83. **Mr. Xaiyavong** (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that ending poverty and hunger were shared aspirations, in particular for the groups of countries in special situations. Recent evidence indicated that the world was not on track to eradicate hunger by 2030 owing to prolonged conflict and weak policy responses, among other factors. Climate change and natural disasters also contributed to the reversal of hard-earned development gains.

84. His Government attached great importance to agricultural development and had been implementing the Agriculture Development Strategy to 2025 and Vision to the Year 2030, which was aimed at ensuring food security, producing competitive agricultural commodities and shifting to a modern, resilient and productive agricultural economy. The Government had also pursued a policy on clean agricultural production, applying good agricultural practices and organic agriculture production approaches. Despite impressive rates of economic growth over the past decade, his country had one of the highest rates of chronic malnutrition in South-East Asia. The Government had therefore adopted the National Nutrition Strategy to 2025 and its Plan of Action 2016–2020, which was aimed at achieving international and national development goals.

85. About one third of the territory of the Lao People's Democratic Republic was still contaminated by unexploded ordnance, representing a major obstacle to the expansion of agricultural production. In addition, more needed to be done in terms of disaster risk management. In 2019, unexpected heavy rainfall as a result of a tropical storm had caused widespread flooding and damage to infrastructure, agriculture and livelihoods. His delegation expressed sincere thanks to the development partners, United Nations agencies and other stakeholders for their continued support in responding to the needs of communities affected by such disasters.

86. **Mr. Rattray** (Jamaica) said that a robust enabling framework was needed to prepare the agricultural sector to confront systemic challenges at all levels. The sector was a key driver of economic growth and development, remained the backbone of the rural economy and contributed to environmental sustainability and food security. Nevertheless, it faced challenges in areas such as: long-term, profitable market access for farmers; financing for young entrepreneurs to establish micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises; and the affordability of inputs. Overreliance on imported agricultural products, especially those that could be grown locally, must be curbed to address the imbalance in agricultural trade and reduce the country's high food import bill.

87. The agricultural sector in Jamaica was vulnerable to external shocks, especially climate change, and had suffered direct losses in excess of J\$30 billion in the last 25 years from hurricane damage alone. In addition to the long-term impacts on economic and social development, disasters also increased external imbalances, as more debt was incurred to finance unplanned post-disaster expenditures. Accelerated efforts to build community-level and national-level responses to disasters were therefore needed. The Government had adopted climate-smart policies to secure the future of the food supply. The adoption of sustainable farming practices and the planting of crops that were able to withstand erratic weather conditions would enable the agricultural sector to make greater and more consistent contributions to the economy. Climate-resilient practices had been introduced into agriculture, fisheries, agroprocessing and agricultural extension services in targeted communities.

88. Forest cover contributed to healthy ecosystems, fostering good soil quality, increased rainfall and better air quality. As fruit trees provided a healthy food source as well as environmental benefits, the Government planned to plant 5 million fruit trees over a five-year period. It was committed to ensuring that the people of

Jamaica had access to a constant and nutritious supply of food and, to that end, it would: continue to encourage the production of local food through the "Eat what you grow" campaign; address the nutritional and health needs of schoolchildren through its School Feeding Programme; promote investments in agro-parks and agro-economic zones; maximize the use of technology to increase the quantity, quality and value of small-scale agricultural output; and expand the use of idle lands for increased economic activity. Through its national agriculture development strategy, the Government aimed to transform agriculture into a market-driven, technologically enabled sector with strong linkages with other sectors and the capacity to revitalize rural communities.

89. **Ms. Hussain** (Maldives) said that climate change had multiplied the existing threats to food production. King tides, floods, droughts and unpredictable weather patterns led to the destruction of crops, drinking water shortages and damage to fisheries. For small island and low-lying coastal countries that were particularly vulnerable to external shocks and had limited resources, such as Maldives, one of the main objectives under the 2030 Agenda had been to build resilience, including through the diversification of food production practices and the introduction of climate-smart and water-smart farming methods and precision agriculture.

90. The Government was working with international partners such as FAO and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), as well as the private sector, to introduce new and innovative techniques and technology that could make farming a commercially viable means of achieving sustainable rural development. Efforts were also under way to increase production, enhance agribusiness, strengthen infrastructure and improve data collection and technical capacity.

91. Maldives was a large ocean State, comprising a mere 1 per cent of dry land. The fisheries sector played a critical role in the country's food supply and economic development. Marine pollution, ocean acidification and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing threatened marine resources, thereby reducing access to safe and nutritious food. Her delegation reiterated its call for the sustainable use and management of oceans and seas.

92. While agriculture and fisheries were drivers of economic growth and poverty reduction, specific challenges that limited the productivity of women, who made up more than half of the labour force in agriculture and a third in fisheries, were causing the sectors to underperform. Recognizing the significance of the issue, the Government had prioritized the

mainstreaming of gender into sectoral policies. The inclusion of women was being increased through effective communication tools, positive discrimination and accessibility measures.

93. The complexity and magnitude of the challenges faced were far too great for any one organization or country to solve alone. Interlinkages must be sought between different agendas. Closer international cooperation and a more integrated approach were needed, so that all stakeholders could play their part in supporting countries such as Maldives in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

94. **Ms. Uaiene** (Mozambique) said that countries around the world, particularly in Africa, were facing food production challenges owing to a combination of factors, including climate change-related natural disasters. The Government's five-year plan for 2015–2019 was therefore aimed at increasing production and productivity in the agriculture and fisheries sectors in order to guarantee food security and nutrition, as well as to promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth. In that connection, the Government had been implementing a national mechanization programme, establishing service centres in almost all districts to provide technical assistance, equipment and inputs. It was also investing in infrastructure, including roads to link farmers with markets, agroprocessing plants and storage facilities.

95. Providing financing to smallholder farmers, especially women, who accounted for 80 per cent of all farmers, was a means to ensure the integration of the majority of the population in productive processes. Including young persons was critical to revitalizing the agricultural sector and promoting innovation in productive techniques.

96. Climate change had contributed to rain scarcity and the emergence of new pests and diseases, which had had a negative impact on crops and animal production, threatening the potential to end hunger and poverty by 2030. In 2019, the central and northern parts of Mozambique had been hit by two cyclones, which had claimed the lives of more than 700 people and destroyed crops and livestock. Meanwhile, in the south of the country, more than 60 per cent of crops had been lost owing to an erratic rainy season. The three disasters combined had left the country in a dire situation of food insecurity, requiring global and regional cooperation to build resilience and adapt to climate change. To that end, it was necessary to invest in: (a) research to find solutions to pests and diseases affecting plant and animal production; (b) dissemination of technologies to adopt the best agronomic practices and increase

productivity; (c) irrigation as rain scarcity required more efficient use of existing hydric resources; (d) the combined use of new technologies and modern mechanized equipment to improve global production. Member States needed to reinforce environmentally sound policies, preserve ecosystems and plant more trees.

97. **Mr. Chen** Wenhao (China) said that, in recent years, the rapid development in global agricultural science and technology had eased the imbalance between international food supply and demand. However, owing to regional conflicts, climate change and other factors, the outlook for world food security was not optimistic. Eliminating hunger and achieving food security depended on promoting equitable, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and establishing a fair, reasonable and sustainable trade order for agriculture.

98. The international community should strengthen its support for developing countries, especially the least developed countries, in the areas of agricultural technology and funding for development so as to boost their agricultural production and food security. Countries should focus on building agricultural infrastructure, making scientific and technological progress and enhancing food production capacity.

99. The Government had rolled out a series of policies and initiatives to accelerate environmentally friendly agricultural development. First, to improve the efficiency of agricultural supply, it had sought to optimize agricultural development and production patterns, promote the development of rural tourism and modernize agriculture and rural areas. Second, given the country's large population and scarce land and water resources, the Government had enhanced the protection of agricultural resources and had shifted agricultural production towards a more ecologically friendly model. Third, to prevent and control pollution from agricultural production, the environment of production areas had been improved. Fourth, the Government had stepped up reform and innovation efforts and had built a long-term mechanism for the development of green agriculture.

100. China fed nearly 20 per cent of the global population with only 9 per cent of the world's arable land, thus making a significant contribution to global food security. To promote the health of its citizens, the Government had introduced the Healthy China initiative, through which it sought to raise awareness of the importance of a healthy diet; eliminate malnutrition; improve nutritional and health standards; and establish a multisectoral mechanism to increase the supply of nutritional and healthy products and services. China

attached great importance to poverty reduction in rural areas worldwide and had submitted to the General Assembly a draft resolution entitled “Eradicating rural poverty to implement the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development”. Within the framework of South-South cooperation and the Belt and Road Initiative, China stood ready to help developing countries to strengthen agricultural production capacity and enhance food security, so that the benefits of nutrition and health could reach a larger population.

101. **Mr. Malik** (India) said that agricultural development was one of the most important tools to end extreme poverty, undernourishment and malnutrition. Over the last seven decades, India had achieved self-sufficiency through its Green Revolution by increasing technology use in agriculture through research and extension, investing in rural infrastructure and human capabilities, providing credit support and strengthening relevant institutions.

102. India faced challenges, however, with regard to further increasing agricultural productivity to meet the growing demand, introducing more sustainable farming practices, making inputs affordable, connecting farmers to markets, increasing farmers’ incomes and improving food distribution systems. The Government was taking steps to meet its goal of doubling farmers’ income by 2022; for example, under one scheme, income support of 6,000 Indian rupees per year would be provided to eligible farmers to supplement the support already provided at the provincial level. To ensure that the benefits of such schemes reached the intended recipients, a biometrics-based unique individual identification system, called Aadhaar, had been introduced, which was linked with banking services and mobile phone technologies. A new crop insurance scheme provided financial support to farmers in the event of crop failure as a result of natural disasters, pests or diseases. It encouraged farmers to adopt innovative and modern agricultural practices and ensured a flow of credit to the sector.

103. Information and communications technology had been deployed to revolutionize the agricultural sector of India. For example, the Farmer’s Portal was an online platform with an associated toll-free helpline and mobile applications that were used to share information directly with farmers. Other initiatives had been strengthened to make research findings accessible to farmers. In order to increase employment opportunities in agriculture, support was being provided to more than 150 agricultural start-ups. Recognizing the importance of local and domestic food markets for smallholders, a pan-India electronic trading portal, the National

Agriculture Market, had been launched, creating a unified national market for agricultural commodities.

104. The Government was taking steps to make agriculture more sustainable, remunerative and climate-resilient by promoting practices such as organic farming. Sikkim had become the first state in India to achieve fully organic status, and 30 per cent of all organic producers worldwide were based in India. Soil Health Cards were being provided to all farmers so that they could better match soil quality to their crops. The Government was aiming to provide water to every field by investing in expanded irrigation coverage.

105. The Government had launched the world’s largest nutrition programme, the National Nutrition Mission, through which it aimed to tackle problems such as malnutrition, undernutrition, anaemia, low birthweight and stunting among children. Efforts to end hunger and malnutrition must be accelerated. In line with its commitment to South-South cooperation, India remained dedicated to providing technical assistance to fellow developing countries to end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

106. **Mr. Issetov** (Kazakhstan) said that achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2 would require more coordinated efforts at the national, regional and global levels. With regard to the rising hunger trend, increasing income inequality in many countries made it even more difficult for poor, vulnerable or marginalized persons to cope with economic slowdowns. Food insecurity led to general instability, the risk of conflicts and migration crises. Kazakhstan was committed to taking a multilateral approach to tackling international threats, including hunger. In that connection, Kazakhstan had been instrumental in the establishment of the Islamic Organization for Food Security, which aimed to help to address issues such as desertification, deforestation, erosion and salinity. All 57 States members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation were urged to join that important initiative.

107. The world had the resources to produce enough food for the entire global population. In some countries, hunger was a very serious issue, while in others modern food problems were associated with unsustainable harvesting methods, food waste and inadequate distribution. In Kazakhstan, over 80 per cent of the major food products were produced locally. In 2018, Kazakhstan had ranked 57th of 113 countries in the Global Food Security Index. With a view to making the agro-industrial sector more competitive, the Government was taking steps to digitize the sector, aiming to establish at least 20 digital and 2,000

advanced farms using precision farming technologies by 2021. Those efforts had led to a more than fourfold increase in agricultural labour productivity from 2010 to 2018.

108. The collective and inclusive actions necessary to boost global agricultural production and eradicate hunger would be possible only through close cooperation with the United Nations system, including FAO, IFAD and the World Food Programme, and actors from the scientific community, the private sector and civil society. Possible ways forward included increasing labour productivity in agriculture through the diversification of agricultural production, as well as the development of agricultural science, technology transfer and digitization of the agro-industrial sector.

109. **Ms. Lora-Santos** (Philippines) said that the challenges facing the agricultural sector, such as poverty, hunger, climate change and land degradation, left no room for complacency. New methods were needed to bridge the gap between the agricultural sector and the growing population. In the Philippines, the Department of Agriculture had launched a science-based, inclusive development strategy, referred to as “New thinking for agriculture”, built around eight paradigms.

110. First, agriculture must be modernized and diversified, which included efforts to attract young people into farming in order to tap their technological know-how, as well as address the problem of the ageing farming population. Second, agriculture must be treated as an industry and the value chains of all agricultural commodities must be industrialized. Third, a systematic and long-term strategy should be applied to export promotion. Fourth, farms should be consolidated to attain economies of scale, particularly for crops that required mechanization and the use of technology. Schemes to make farming more efficient would enable farmers and their partners to establish agribusiness ventures. Fifth, infrastructure development was needed, for example, to improve linkages between farmers and their markets and to develop national irrigation systems. Sixth, greater investment in Philippine agriculture was needed to realize the potential contribution of agriculture and agribusiness to the economy. Seventh, innovation-driven and market-oriented legislative support was needed, such as the Farmers and Fisherfolk Enterprise Development Programme. Eighth, a road map should be developed, incorporating the goals of increased productivity, profitability, competitiveness, sustainability and resilience, using a value chain approach and involving smallholder farmers and fisherfolk to ensure inclusive development. Increased private sector involvement was encouraged to increase

access to export markets and funding for research and development.

111. With its innovative and inclusive strategy, her Government was confident that the twin goals of achieving food security and increased income for farmers and fisherfolk could be realized.

112. **Mr. Bilan** (Ukraine) said that the global food security situation continued to represent a serious threat to humanity. Poor countries needed development, as well as economic and policy tools, to boost their agricultural production and productivity. Investment in agriculture must be increased drastically as a healthy agricultural sector was an essential prerequisite for overall economic growth. Ukraine had experienced food insecurity first-hand. In November, the country would mark the eighty-sixth anniversary of one of the deadliest crimes of the twentieth century, Holodomor, the mass starvation in Ukraine artificially organized by the Soviet regime, which had taken the lives of several million Ukrainians. That tragedy occurred in the territory of Ukraine, almost half of which was made up of the most fertile soils of the world. The complex, multidimensional causes of hunger required the participation of all stakeholders in seeking ways to eradicate it.

113. Ukraine remained among the strongest players in the international food market and would fulfil all of its agricultural export obligations in 2019. Despite the inability to harvest in the temporarily occupied territories, the estimated grain harvest for 2019 would be some 70 million tons, of which about 50 million tons would be available for export. Having signed the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union, the Government was actively working to harmonize national legislation with the requirements of the European Union, especially in the sphere of technical regulation and food product quality and safety standards. The other aim of the State agrarian policy was qualitative reform of core branches in agriculture with a view to attracting investment.

114. His delegation welcomed the United Nations initiatives targeting global hunger, which would contribute to the achievement of other development goals. Coordination between all United Nations agencies and the international financial institutions should be intensified. The United Nations agencies must continue to work together as a system, making use of their comparative advantages. Stable and predictable global food markets were the keystone of global food security.

115. **Ms. Paba Sale** (Cameroon) said that the agricultural sector should be accorded particular

attention in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, as emphasized in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Her delegation expressed gratitude to FAO and IFAD for working tirelessly towards the modernization of agriculture in developing countries. As part of the modernization process, the use of sustainable agricultural technologies would help to improve living conditions and mitigate the negative effects of climate change, desertification, drought and soil degradation. Member States, United Nations agencies and other actors were urged to foster the development of such technologies and their transfer to developing countries. In Africa, where almost two thirds of the population depended on the agricultural sector for their livelihood, such advances would have a significant positive impact on the development of the continent.

116. Against that backdrop, the Government had initiated a shift towards “second generation” agriculture, for which it would rely upon its partners for support. Action was being led by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, in coordination with agronomic research institutions, to rehabilitate seed farms, develop high-yielding, highly nutritious seed varieties, improve training for farmers and strengthen funding schemes.

117. The Government had also established an agricultural investment plan for the period 2014–2020, structured around four major areas: the development of production chains; the modernization of production infrastructure and the creation of financing mechanisms; the management and sustainable development of natural resources; and capacity-building. Training programmes for vulnerable groups, such as women and young people, had been established and a number of agricultural training institutes had been opened across the country. A bank was being set up to support the national agroprocessing industry. With demand for food projected to double by 2050, her delegation called for a greater mobilization of support for the economies of the South with a view to eradicating hunger, ensuring food security and improving nutrition.

118. **Ms. Muigai** (Kenya) said that food security and nutrition were essential for achieving human and economic development. In Kenya, the agricultural sector was a major contributor to GDP and a key driver of exports, jobs and development, as emphasized in the Kenya Vision 2030 long-term development blueprint and the “Big four” agenda. The projects being implemented under the latter included the cultivation of 700,000 new acres of maize, potato and rice under a private-public partnership scheme for large-scale production. The Government had begun to implement the 10-year Agricultural Sector Transformation and

Growth Strategy, which was aimed at: (a) increasing the incomes of small-scale farmers, pastoralists and fisherfolk; (b) increasing agricultural output and value addition; and (c) boosting household food resilience. To achieve those outcomes, nine flagship action areas had been identified following national-level and county-level consultations and taking into account global best practices and inputs from technical experts.

119. Climate change continued to ravage the agricultural sector in the Horn of Africa region, resulting in relentless droughts and famine. In order to strengthen community resilience and mitigate the adverse effects of climate change, Kenya was focusing on climate-smart production, risk diversification and a transition from rain-fed agriculture towards the use of irrigation systems.

120. Kenya had the necessary human capital and a market for the use of digital technologies, data and analytics in agriculture. Nearly 25 per cent of all African agricultural technology start-ups were from Kenya. Harnessing innovation in agribusiness and agricultural entrepreneurship was important to ensuring food security and nutrition. Science, technology and innovation had a key role in decision-making and policies on agriculture and food security.

121. Securing partnerships was essential to achieving the means to accomplish Sustainable Development Goal 2. Strategic partnerships should be leveraged to build capacity and capabilities in harnessing technology and innovation to better adapt to climate shifts. Those capabilities must include new data sources, such as artificial intelligence to detect poor plant nutrition. Continuous collaboration must also be fostered with academia and the public and private sectors to co-create solutions to everyday challenges. Her delegation called upon all stakeholders to continue to work together to curb the rise in hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition.

122. **Mr. Moussa** (Niger) said that progress towards the goal of eradicating hunger had stalled in part because of the effects of climate change, conflict and population growth. In the Niger, where 80 per cent of the population depended on agriculture and livestock for their livelihoods, less reliable rains, persistent drought, poor-quality soils and environmental degradation had driven down agricultural production, exacerbating food and nutritional insecurity.

123. Since 2011, the Government had been implementing the 3N Initiative to boost and diversify agropastoral production and to raise the incomes of rural households by developing agricultural value chains. As a result of the Initiative, annual agricultural production

had doubled. Efforts had focused on water mobilization for irrigation, including through the construction of dams and weirs, and providing agricultural inputs, such as seeds and fertilizers, to farmers to increase production. A number of government agencies had also undergone structural reforms to promote agricultural development, including the bodies responsible for disseminating agricultural inputs, managing water resources and conducting agronomic research. Those actions had allowed the Niger to break the cycle of drought and famine. Looking to the future, aims included obtaining half of the country's agricultural output from irrigated agriculture, thereby reducing its reliance on rain-fed farming, and expanding access to improved seeds and new technologies.

124. **Mr. Elmaghur** (Libya) said that the global population was projected to reach 9.7 billion by 2050, which would drive up the demand for food. Meeting that demand would call for increased investment in the agricultural sector, as well as efforts to combat desertification and regulate excessive fishing.

125. Climate change was one of the major factors contributing to food insecurity. Drought had had severe consequences, such as the dramatic shrinking of Lake Chad. The continuation of such phenomena would lead to mass displacement and migration that would destabilize the area. The challenges facing the world were interlinked: hunger could not be eradicated without food security; agricultural productivity could not be increased without preserving the environment; and stability and good governance could not be achieved without an end to armed conflict. Libya was mired in conflict. Armed attacks against the Government of National Accord had led to the destruction of farmland and houses, depriving many people of food and leading to a hike in prices, which added to the burden of low-income households. Attacks against electricity plants and water supply lines had also had an impact on agricultural production.

126. Libya had many resources, in addition to oil and gas, which could be used to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda when used to their full advantage. However, that was not possible as the international community had left Libya alone to face proxy wars and manipulation from countries from within the region and beyond. Member States must stress their commitment to the Charter of the United Nations and international law and stand by Libya to support it in surmounting the current crisis. The Libyan people must be able to live in a democratic country with justice, equality and peaceful transfer of authority.

127. **Mr. Folivi** (Togo) said that, with over 2 billion people worldwide lacking access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food, it was time to take urgent, concrete action to address hunger and food security. His Government was in favour of the food systems approach to tackling hunger and malnutrition, which encompassed the entire range of public and private actors and their interlinked activities in the production, aggregation, processing, distribution, regulation and consumption of food products.

128. Eradicating hunger and promoting food security had been incorporated into the national development plan, which had been launched on 4 March 2019. Through the plan, the Government sought to transform the agricultural sector, with a focus on productivity, in order to attain food security and reduce the trade deficit in agricultural goods. An emphasis would also be placed on strengthening agricultural growth poles, which helped to support the creation of value chains.

129. The Government had invested in other initiatives to promote food security. One such initiative was aimed at supporting women and young people in the processing of local products, while another encouraged young persons in villages to apply their talents in innovation to agriculture. Such initiatives, which had a direct impact on the population, required targeted financing from public and private sources. Togo remained open to entering into partnerships that would help it to advance towards its goals of achieving self-sufficiency and combating malnutrition.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.