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Chair: Mr. Diallo (Senegal)
later: Ms. Brown (Vice-Chair) (Jamaica)

Contents

Agenda item 25: Agriculture development, food security and nutrition

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 25: Agriculture development, food security and nutrition (A/68/73–E/2013/59 and A/68/311; A/C.2/68/3)

1. **Mr. Seth** (Director of the Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs) outlined the salient points in the report of the Secretary-General on agriculture development, food security and nutrition (A/68/311).

2. The Millennium Development Goal target of halving the number of hungry people in the world did not capture the importance of addressing malnutrition in all its forms, beyond minimal dietary energy requirements. Not enough attention had been paid to rural and agricultural development as central to food security. A number of factors including rising incomes, increasing urbanization, changing diets, changing weather conditions and increasing use of maize as biofuel, were affecting food production, consumption and prices. The link between food security and climate change needed to be considered in depth. Many countries needed food assistance programmes and better social safety nets to protect the food security and productivity of the most vulnerable citizens.

3. A number of food security initiatives had been undertaken in recent years, including the Secretary-General's Zero Hunger Challenge, the "Scaling Up Nutrition" movement, and initiatives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme and the Committee on World Food Security. Such programmes enabled countries to address national food insecurity following a twin-track approach, focussed on short- and long-term security and sustainability. The task ahead was to conceptualize a goal for food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture within the sustainable development goals. Investment in small-scale farmers and food producers was vital, as they would underpin the success of the post-2015 development agenda.

4. **Mr. Tuiloma** (Fiji), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that malnutrition, coupled with the negative consequences of obesity, highlighted the need for a people-centred approach to food security and nutrition. Increasing agricultural production to sustainably meet the nutritional needs of a growing

world population was at the heart of poverty eradication efforts.

5. Access to the multilateral trading system, including for agricultural products, was a catalyst for development. Fiji therefore called for the Doha Round's timely conclusion, and for the outcome of the Ninth World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference to take developing countries' needs and priorities into account. Developed countries' agricultural subsidies and other trade-distorting measures had severely harmed developing countries' agricultural sectors and should be eliminated. Reducing food waste was vital. Sustainable agricultural practices, integrating the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, should be pursued at all levels. Commodity markets must be well regulated to avoid excessive price volatility and to serve the real needs of producers and consumers.

6. Most agricultural production in developing countries involved small land holdings, with people mainly producing for their own consumption. Support for smallholders was critical, especially for vulnerable producers including women and indigenous people. Closing the gender gap in access to productive resources must be prioritized nationally and internationally. In order to eliminate hunger, governments needed to invest in agriculture, rural development, decent work, social protection and equality of opportunity. Developed countries should support developing countries with financing and technology transfer for the development of infrastructure, communications systems and other prerequisites for sustainable agricultural development.

7. **Mr. Kassaye** (Ethiopia), speaking on behalf of the African Group, said that Africa would not be able to overcome poverty without agriculture development. Through the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, a part of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, the African Union was encouraging countries to develop investment plans and to allocate at least 10 per cent of their annual budgets to agriculture. More work was needed, however, particularly to support African smallholders. The international community should help by providing infrastructure, enabling market access, and ensuring that farmers were equipped with affordable improved seeds, extension services, and technology, as well as affordable financing. The African Union noted with satisfaction the Group of

Eight's recognition of the role played by smallholders, especially women, in achieving sustainable global food and nutrition security.

8. High energy prices, coupled with climate change, had led to food price increases and widespread drought, particularly in Africa. It was essential to address climate change and harness renewable energy sources. Although the increasingly market-driven nature of the agricultural sector provided investment opportunities for developing countries, a stable and distortion-free global trading system was necessary for them to capitalise on their competitive advantage. The Doha Round should be concluded to support agriculture, rural development and food security. International organizations' support was critical; in particular, the High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis should continue to discharge its responsibilities. Agriculture and food security must be prioritized in the post-2015 development agenda.

9. **Mr. Cabactulan** (Philippines), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that, according to the Asian Development Bank, the Asian region was home to 60 per cent of the world's poor and hungry, despite its spectacular economic growth. Agriculture development policies and recommendations must be implemented, with a focus on rural areas. Hunger was especially acute in areas suffering from protracted conflicts or calamities. Food security must be addressed in the context of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and in the formulation of sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda. Multi-dimensional actions were needed to ensure food security as well as improved water, natural resource and natural disaster management.

10. ASEAN had its own regional food security programmes and contingency measures in place, aimed at long-term security, enhanced regional cooperation and improved livelihoods for farmers. Given that land tenure inequities tended to negate agricultural productivity and growth, it was crucial to support smallholders and family farms, in line with recommendations of the High-level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition. General Assembly resolution [66/222](#) declaring 2014 the International Year of Family Farming, co-sponsored by the Philippines, highlighted family agriculture's crucial role and gave impetus to food security initiatives.

11. ASEAN supported the Committee on World Food Security's Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security. They should lead to practical government policies on food insecurity, particularly with regard to land tenure of indigenous peoples and other communities with traditional tenure systems. All stakeholders should adopt and abide by the Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment. The Agenda for Action to address food insecurity in countries facing protracted crises should be adopted to complement the Committee on World Food Security's Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition. Lastly, ASEAN welcomed the proposals by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) that 5 December be designated World Soil Day, and 2015 International Year of Soils.

12. The right to development was meaningless for those suffering from hunger; food security must be ensured to enable development.

13. **Mr. Talbot** (Guyana), speaking on behalf of the States members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that its sub-regional development programme prioritized agriculture, food security and nutrition. They were linked to poverty eradication, job creation, sustainable livelihoods, entrepreneurial opportunities and reversing the incidence of non-communicable diseases. Agriculture connected the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, and reduced rural-urban disparities, inter alia by creating opportunities for women, youth and indigenous people to play a meaningful role in development. The twelfth Caribbean Week of Agriculture had reinforced agriculture's vital role in development, while highlighting the need for it to be modernized and for its role in Caribbean societies and economies to be reassessed.

14. The financial crisis had severely impacted Caribbean agriculture. A host of other factors restricted agriculture's potential as an agent for development, including limited financing and inadequate levels of new investment, deficient risk-management measures, low levels of research and development, weak land and water distribution and management systems, poor transportation systems, weak and non-integrated market information and intelligence systems, and a lack of skilled, qualified human resources. CARICOM had adopted a Community Agricultural Policy and created a regional health and food safety agency, to

strengthen agriculture and enhance trade. The Caribbean region was deepening its collaboration with FAO through its food and nutrition security policy, which aimed to ensure reliable access to safe, adequate, nutritious and affordable food.

15. The current global situation necessitated coordinated agriculture, food security and development policies at national, regional and international levels. The international community should increase support for developing countries' efforts to transform agriculture and build resilience. In particular it should assist with initiatives that would immediately affect smallholders, such as improving facilities and techniques to reduce food losses.

16. Sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition should be integral to the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals. CARICOM sought to sustain economic development through a transformed, competitive agricultural sector, and welcomed international partnerships to help it achieve its goals.

17. **Mr. Vrailas** (Observer for the European Union), speaking also on behalf of the candidate countries Montenegro, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, Armenia, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that the European Union was determined to translate its commitment to tackle global hunger and under-nutrition into action. Its development policy "Agenda for Change" and policies on food security and nutrition addressed root causes of vulnerability and food and nutrition insecurity. The European Union had contributed to the launch of initiatives to strengthen resilience in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa. It continued to support measures to reduce price volatility.

18. It was necessary to assist developing countries to boost and diversify their agricultural production, and to invest in demand-led agricultural research. Environmentally, socially and economically sustainable agricultural development and land management had important mitigation potential. Food losses and waste needed to be tackled. The European Union's external assistance programmes specifically helped smallholders, particularly women, to become more resilient, adopt ecologically efficient agriculture practices, diversify to more nutritious crops, increase

their incomes, improve their nutrition and that of their families and communities, and improve their quality of life. Adopting a value chain approach was the most effective way to support smallholders. The European Union policy on humanitarian food assistance had enhanced coherence between emergency aid and longer-term support. Nutrition objectives focussing on pregnant women and children under two should be incorporated into programmes in a range of areas such as food security, agriculture, health, water, sanitation and education. The European Union's nutrition policy supported countries in reducing the number of stunted children under five by at least 7 million by 2025. The "Scaling Up Nutrition" movement was a positive step.

19. A regular global report to monitor progress on nutrition improvement and resource spending would be essential. Secure, equitable access to land was crucial. The European Union had launched partnerships with a number of countries to help them implement the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, which all countries should adopt. It also supported the Committee on Food Security's Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment.

20. Global cooperation, including open and rules-based trade, was vital for achieving global food and nutritional security. The European Union supported the Zero Hunger Challenge, and believed that agriculture development, food and nutrition security should feature in the post-2015 development agenda.

21. **Mr. Elkarakasy** (Egypt) said that an integrated approach that incorporated the economic, social and political dimensions of sustainable development was required to address global challenges. For instance, food security was linked to poverty and hunger, health, energy, economic development, water, climate change, desertification, trade and technology transfer. The international community was faced with a dilemma: increased agricultural production was necessary, but would put additional pressure on scarce water resources and add to greenhouse gas emissions. Developing countries lacked environmentally sound technologies to address the complex situation. The technological gap between developing and developed countries should be closed. Developing countries also needed increased investment in agriculture, but protectionist measures imposed by developed countries reduced the likelihood of that happening by limiting

the competitiveness of developing economies' agricultural sectors.

22. Egypt stressed the need for international coordination, especially in the context of setting sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda. Climate change particularly impacted on agriculture in Africa. Consequently, African countries were unlikely to halve the number of people suffering from hunger by 2015. Food shortages had led many African countries to depend on food aid, creating a vicious cycle of food insecurity and poverty. The situation was likely to worsen without concerted efforts to address climate change.

23. **Ms. Brown** (Jamaica), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

24. **Mr. Becher** (Israel) said that, despite its arid conditions, agricultural production in Israel continued to grow dramatically, with barely any increase in water usage. Forty per cent of vegetables and field crops were grown in the desert, thanks to collaboration between the Government, academia and the private sector. Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation (MASHAV) shared its expertise with countries around the world. An air-tight, water-tight bag to protect grains and pulses from pests and mould; drip irrigation; and a seed treatment that protected vegetable seeds from infestation, fungus, bacteria and drought were among the inventions that Israeli scientists had developed to improve agricultural efficiency.

25. Investing in women was the best way to break cycles of poverty. Female farmers were 30 per cent less productive than male farmers, owing to lack of access to resources, training and land. If women had access to the same resources as men, agricultural output could increase by 30 to 40 per cent, enough to feed an additional 150 million people every year.

26. Responsible development must focus on self-sustainability and long-term solutions to poverty.

27. **Mr. Rahman** (Bangladesh) said that climate change disproportionately affected developing countries, particularly least developed countries and the most vulnerable populations there, who relied on subsistence agriculture. Climate-sensitive agriculture could have a positive impact on food security. His Government hoped that the nineteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations

Framework Convention on Climate Change would properly address those issues.

28. The international community must provide adequate resources for long-term investment in agriculture and rural development in the least developed countries. Stock-holding systems were also necessary to deal with humanitarian food emergencies and to limit price volatility, as outlined in the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020.

29. Food security meant availability, accessibility and affordability. It was critical to improve agricultural infrastructure and access to modern technology, address water shortages and ensure regional cooperation in transboundary water management. The United Nations could support such processes.

30. The Doha Round should be concluded to create an equitable, rules-based multilateral trading system for agricultural products. The outcome of the Ninth WTO Ministerial Conference should prioritize developing countries. Unjustifiable trade-distorting subsidies must be discontinued and food prices managed. International support in the form of technology transfer and capacity building was vital. Smallholders, and women in particular, should receive more support. Lastly, food waste, especially in the developed world, needed to be substantially reduced or eliminated if the world was to feed its growing population without additional deforestation and land degradation. Bangladesh supported the adoption of food security, nutrition and agriculture development as a separate sustainable development goal.

31. **Mr. Pisarevich** (Belarus) said that the scope of global hunger had been dramatically reduced, largely due to the activities of the Rome-based agencies. However, the progress was unsustainable, due to ongoing regional conflicts, as well as factors such as global income growth, many countries' food distribution structures, growing urbanization, use of biofuels and unsustainable and damaging agricultural practices. Climate change was a grave threat to world food security. The need to feed a growing global population in the face of continuing soil degradation and deforestation presented a dilemma. An integrated approach was needed, focussing on climate change, water resources, energy, trade policy, population growth, and research. Research was key to finding sustainable methods of food production. The post-2015

development agenda must reflect such a multi-dimensional vision and prioritize sustainable development with a focus on food security. Belarus had a developed agricultural sector and was prepared to share its knowledge.

32. **Mr. Favero** (Brazil) said that there was a strong link between sustainability and food security. Developed countries' protectionism hindered developing countries' agricultural production by exposing them to unfair competition and denying access to external markets, threatening developing world food security. Domestic production and investments in developing countries had also been discouraged by food aid and its adverse impact on agriculture prices. WTO members must conclude the Doha Round, with emphasis on development.

33. There were systemic problems not adequately addressed by the international trading system. Standards set by international corporations, especially in the food distribution sector, meant that domestic rural production was hostage to developed countries' consumer market specifications. Local production and consumption needs were often disregarded, endangering national food security. The situation also posed a threat to biodiversity. Genetically-modified crops and proprietary seeds had kept the food security of entire nations dependent on private lease contracts. Land-grabbing had taken a heavy toll on vulnerable populations.

34. Increasing smallholder productivity was crucial to developing countries' food security. Family farming was responsible for almost one third of the gross value of Brazilian agricultural production. Brazil supported small-scale farmers through national programmes which helped the poorest farmers increase yields; settled landless families on Government-owned or unproductive land; and provided access to credit and crop insurance, price guarantee instruments, technical assistance and rural extension to small farmers who had achieved commercial levels of production.

35. South-South cooperation was fundamental for developing countries. The Brazilian Cooperation Agency had successfully completed more than 100 projects in Africa. Brazil contributed to international efforts to develop scientific research and technological innovation. It had been sharing its experience in producing biofuels without compromising food security and biodiversity. Regional cooperation was also

important in combating food insecurity. Poverty eradication and income distribution were the surest ways to guarantee the human right to food. Profound structural adjustments were needed to increase world food production.

36. **Ms. Peterson** (Canada) said that her country had decades of experience in agricultural development, including its national food security strategy, which applied a comprehensive approach to meet the needs of vulnerable populations by focusing on sustainable agriculture, food assistance, nutrition, research and development. Globally, Canada played a leading role through platforms such as the "Scaling Up Nutrition" movement the Group of 8 New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition and the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP).

37. In order to reduce poverty and increase food security, her country sought to make agriculture an attractive business, especially for young entrepreneurs, and to have rural areas become centres of economic activity for young women and men. The issues of smallholder farmer participation and land governance must be addressed. Finally, agriculture's potential for alleviating poverty required a commitment to the basic tenets of private property protection and a regulatory environment that encouraged rather than stifled entrepreneurship.

38. **Mr. Fernández-Arias Minuesa** (Spain) said that food security was the cornerstone of sustainable development: a generation free from hunger was the guarantee of a future for individuals, their communities and whole nations. Spain had made considerable efforts to prioritize the fight against hunger both regionally and globally, participating in various organizations such as the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative, the GAFSP, the Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative, the Economic Community of West African States and the Special Programme for Food Security (PESA) in Central America. It had also recently signed an agreement with the World Food Programme to establish a logistical base in the port of Las Palmas, Canary Islands, thus ensuring the permanent distribution of humanitarian aid to more than seven million people in West Africa.

39. The new development agenda must include strategies to tackle the complex underlying causes of food insecurity and nutrition, based on the right to food and recognition of the multidisciplinary nature of the

challenges. No country should be left behind in the post-2015 agenda.

40. Mr. Saleh Abal-Khalil (Saudi Arabia) said that the global food crisis had led to higher prices for basic food commodities and negatively impacted the standard of living in many countries, especially developing countries importing goods and agricultural products. Factors that had caused the crisis included a decline in world grain production, the growing production of biofuels and the restriction of exports from major food-producing countries.

41. His country had participated in many efforts to address the global food crisis, including launching an initiative for Saudi foreign investments in agriculture which aimed to boost infrastructure, develop external investment, expand agricultural markets in developing countries and encourage the sustainable use of soil and water. For their part, recipient countries must provide a suitable environment for investment by elaborating stable, comprehensive policies and investment laws, facilitating and simplifying investment procedures and providing the necessary security and protection for investments.

42. **Mr. Sarki** (Nigeria), commenting on the first Africa Human Development Report published by the United Nations Development Programme and entitled "Towards a Food Secure Future," said that agriculture and food security had been adversely affected by the global economic crisis, the unpredictable effects of climate change and detrimental subsidies paid to farmers in developed countries. The current food crisis provided an opportunity to prioritize agriculture, particularly in Africa, enhance crop yields and nutritional value and promote sustainable agricultural practices in the region.

43. His delegation urged the international community to mainstream efforts towards a Green Revolution in Africa into the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme. Food security and nutrition were both global challenges and national priorities. Measures to improve food security and eradicate poverty must be nationally articulated and designed. Nigeria had several medium- and long-term strategies including provision of adequate intervention funds as low-interest loans, strengthening extension services, creation of adequate rural and value chain infrastructure and construction of an adequate farmer database.

44. Agriculture and food security remained fundamental for the achievement of the MDGs. Consequently, his delegation called for more funding and investment in agricultural research, development and production.

45. **Ms. Feng** (China) said that food security was important not only for national economic development, but also for global development and international security. The colossal task of meeting the MDGs on time had been complicated by the global financial crisis, which had caused food supply instabilities and grain price volatility. Consequently, countries should invest in agricultural science and technology, continuing to make agricultural production and development a priority, and creating infrastructure for risk reduction.

46. The measures to be taken should improve yields and storage and distribution processes, while reducing waste at all stages. Communication and sharing should be enhanced at the policy level, while trade protectionism should be shunned. Increased South-South cooperation was crucial but developed countries must also fulfil their commitments to sustainable agricultural development and security.

47. **Mr. McLay** (New Zealand) said that, as a major agricultural producer, New Zealand was keenly aware of both the opportunities and challenges associated with the sustainable use of natural resources for agricultural development. Meeting increasing global food demand would require increased productivity, but also the efficient use of resources. The agricultural sector, and smallholder farmers in developing countries in particular, were especially vulnerable to climate change. By using innovation and technology alongside local knowledge, the international community could increase productivity and build the resilience of agricultural food production systems.

48. An open and transparent trading environment free of distorting trade measures, restrictive market barriers and high subsidies was also vital for food security and the participation of farmers in developing countries in global agricultural trade, and consequently in poverty eradication. The tremendous loss and wastage of food worldwide was a disgrace that must be addressed. The liberalization of agricultural trade under the Doha Round remained a top priority for New Zealand.

49. **Mr. Prasad Gautam** (Nepal) said that sufficient and nutritious food was critical for the full

development of physical and mental capacities, and was especially problematic for women, children, the elderly, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities. As agriculture was the lifeline of the people and economy of Nepal, the country was continuing to increase agricultural productivity, enhance entrepreneurship, develop and diversify environmentally-friendly agricultural technologies and protect, promote and utilize biodiversity. Nevertheless, the country faced challenges including subsistence-level farming, a lack of infrastructure and advanced technologies, rising food prices, low food supply levels, scarcity of labour due to labour flight, and adverse and disproportionate impacts of climate change and internal/external shocks.

50. The right to food could be guaranteed only if food sovereignty was properly addressed. Current food insecurity was largely due to low investment levels, a lack of structural transformation in the agricultural sector, insufficient use of appropriate technologies and decreasing levels of official development assistance. The international community should work to enhance the production and distribution of food across all regions, nations and vulnerable communities.

51. **Ms. Battungalag** (Mongolia) remarked that agriculture had been transformed from a policy-driven sector into an increasingly market-driven sector. While the shift offered developing countries important investment opportunities and certain economic benefits global food security was still threatened by production shortfalls, price volatility and trade disruption. Her Government had taken measures to achieve three main objectives: promoting food production to reduce to the country's dependence on imports; raising public awareness about food quality; and ensuring safe food production and processing nationally.

52. There was an urgent need to reduce pre- and post-harvest losses and food waste. Empowering rural women was crucial for enhancing agricultural and rural development, food security and nutrition. The Mongolian delegation had sponsored draft resolutions in the Third Committee on improving the situation of women in rural areas and promoting agricultural cooperatives, through easy access to affordable finance, adoption of sustainable production methods, investment in rural infrastructure and support for women's participation in economic activities.

53. **Mr. Haniff** (Malaysia) said that population growth would increase the demand for food in coming years, while climate change and ecosystem degradation would slow production. Malaysia had taken a number of steps to increase agricultural production, such as setting up agricultural cooperatives, streamlining regulation, promoting technological solutions, providing adequate infrastructure and facilities and investing in collaborative research and development. Under Malaysia's Economic Transformation Programme, agriculture had been identified as one of the 12 National Key Result Areas; one priority was ensuring that local rice production could meet 70 per cent of the nation's needs.

54. Freer trade was essential for ensuring food security. Developed countries must refrain from establishing protectionist, market-distorting measures and export restrictions. While governments could provide the necessary infrastructure for agricultural sector growth, private investment was also required to invigorate the sector.

55. **Mr. Dhanapala** (Sri Lanka) described his country's many efforts to promote sustainable agriculture and ensure food security, including agricultural research, provision of food supplements to vulnerable populations, maternal and child health programmes, intersectoral coordination policies, poverty alleviation programmes, rural and urban home gardens, model farms, promotion of organic fertilizer, fuel support for fishermen and rescheduling of loans to rice farmers whose crops had been affected by bad weather.

56. Sri Lanka called for the successful conclusion of the Doha Round and the elimination of all forms of export subsidies.

57. **Ms. Al-Mousawi** (Iraq) described her country's programmes for sustainable agriculture, including increased production of strategic crops, expansion of fish farms and provision of credit to farmers. The role of the private sector was encouraged, as it was the main driver of agricultural development. In order to reduce the poverty gap, particular efforts were being made to provide quality jobs for graduates of veterinary and agricultural programmes.

58. **Mr. Pibulnakarintr** (Thailand) said that some aspects of food insecurity could be targeted domestically, while many more must be addressed internationally. Both food availability and food

accessibility must be considered. Substantial gains in food productivity could be achieved through increased investment and technological improvements to reduce costs, make more efficient use of land and reduce oversupply. In terms of accessibility, Thailand remained committed to non-interventionist policies to ensure free, fair and open international food markets. The conclusion of the Doha Round should produce a mechanism to redress market distortions, including domestic support and export subsidies.

59. The sharing of reliable and updated information on food production, consumption and reserves, for example through the Agricultural Market Information System, could cushion the impact of food price volatility. Thailand was also concerned with current soil degradation levels and consequently supported the proclamation of 2015 as the International Year of Soils and 5 December as World Soil Day.

60. **Mr. Dingha** (Congo) lamented that the 2008-2009 food crisis was still a matter of ongoing concern. His country had launched a number of initiatives to develop agriculture and achieve food security, such as combating rural exodus, launching farm cooperatives, opening new operational facilities, reintroducing cocoa and coffee growing as well as introducing palm oil production, promoting aquaculture and building maritime surveillance capacities. International solidarity was required to achieve the development goals relative to agriculture, food security and nutrition.

61. **Mr. Bamba** (Côte d'Ivoire) noted that, although almost 40 per cent of the world's active population worked in agriculture, more than 868 million individuals still suffered from chronic undernourishment. Albeit after a decade of neglect, his country's National Agricultural Investment Programme currently focussed on: reviving agricultural growth by 9 per cent by 2015; reducing food insecurity; significantly reducing poverty, especially in rural areas; processing at least 50 per cent of local agricultural products; and creating jobs, in particular for young people.

62. His country also sought to create an environment that encouraged private investment in agricultural production, processing and marketing, security of rural land tenure so as to give access to smallholder and women farmers, and nutritional security. In the hope of making Côte d'Ivoire an emerging country by 2020, his Government sought to ensure sustainable food security

nationally, as well as contribute actively to global and subregional food security.

63. **Mr. Al-Thani** (Qatar) said that a global partnership was needed for sustainable agriculture development. Measures must be adopted to ensure food security and stability. The High-level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda had underscored the importance of food security to guarantee healthy food for all and increase agricultural productivity, while maintaining focus on smallholder farmers. Access to new technologies and the sharing of best practices would help women, indigenous peoples, local communities and smallholder farmers.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.