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Chair: Mr. Skinner-Klée Arenales (Guatemala)
later: Mr. Braquetti (Vice-Chair) (Monaco)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 26: Agriculture development, food security and nutrition (A/73/69–E/2018/47, A/73/287 and A/73/293)

1. **Ms. Chatterjee** (Chief, Oceans and Climate Branch, Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the reports of the Secretary-General on agriculture development, food security and nutrition (A/73/293) and on activities during the International Year of Pulses, 2016 (A/73/287), said that the reports emphasized the centrality of food security and balanced nutrition to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 2 and many other Goals, and examined how national governments, global institutions and stakeholders were reorganizing their strategic thinking around achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

2. World hunger appeared to be on the rise again after a prolonged decline; approximately one in nine people had been undernourished in 2017. It was not yet clear whether that situation reflected an acute but temporary aberration. The number of people in crisis food insecurity in north-eastern Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen had risen by 5 million in 2018 despite the massive humanitarian response, which was critical to averting famine and saving lives but insufficient alone to address the root causes.

3. Chronic malnutrition took various forms, such as stunting, which was declining but still affected one in five children under 5 years of age and had grave, lasting impacts. Largely driven by unhealthy diets, overweight and obesity were increasing, with around 1.3 billion people classified as overweight and 600 million as obese. A number of factors suggested that a “dietary transition” was looming that required urgent reversal to ensure healthy lives and forestall various non-communicable diseases.

4. Unsustainable farming practices, depletion of biological diversity, slow action to conserve genetic diversity in plant life and livestock, constraints in smallholder farmers’ access to land and other resources and food safety issues played a role in food insecurity trends. It was clear that hard-won successes in improving food security and nutrition were under threat from multiple factors, and that any reversal in long-term progress made the prospect of ending hunger and malnutrition by 2030 more difficult.

5. The report in document A/73/293 stressed the importance of addressing the interlinkages of Goal 2, the achievement of which was tightly connected with other

key dimensions of sustainable development. However, not all interlinkages had mutually beneficial outcomes. It was critical to identify and resolve potential trade-offs across the Goal 2 targets and among different dimensions of sustainability that accommodated food security.

6. As populations and economies grew, sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries would play an increasingly vital role in meeting increasing demand. In many rural contexts, lack of recognition and protection of the land rights of smallholders, especially women and indigenous people, explained why some people were more vulnerable to hunger than others. That was a lost opportunity, as those actors were key agents of change, promoting food security, nutrition and inclusive employment-generating economic growth.

7. Agricultural biodiversity was critical to the resilience of agricultural production systems and their adaptation to climate change. Over 30 countries had developed public policies supporting integrated sectoral approaches at the national level and helping to scale up the adoption of agroecological practices, which were one means of transforming food systems while protecting the environment, human health and nutrition. On that point, Goal 2 must cut across goals relating to gender, inclusive economic growth, inequality reduction, land, ecosystems and partnerships.

8. Disaster affected all dimensions of food security. Climate change acted as a multiplier of existing threats to food security, hunger and nutrition. Disproportionally affecting the most vulnerable, it also made extreme weather events more frequent and intense, land and water scarcer and more difficult to access, and increased agricultural productivity even harder to achieve, all of which could potentially intensify conflicts over ever scarcer resources and lead to new humanitarian crises, migration and displacement. Urgent climate action was required. Some efforts were already being made. Under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, progress had been made on climate-smart agriculture and on mitigation of the effects of climate change.

9. Water stress hindered the sustainability of natural resources as well as economic and social development, disproportionately affecting the most disadvantaged. The Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture called for concerted action in response to climate change, as agriculture was the biggest user of water and there was a growing world population to be fed. Fisheries were also affected by water stress, as they were extremely vulnerable to environmental degradation, climate change and overfishing. Initiatives such as the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible

Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security and the Global Soil Partnership were examples of how to reverse declining productivity trends due to land degradation. Additional examples of global commitments and regional initiatives were highlighted in the report.

10. Since the declaration of the International Year of Pulses in 2016, awareness of pulses had been promoted around the world, increasing knowledge of how their nutritional content, economic accessibility, health benefits and climate change mitigation effects contributed extensively to the 2030 Agenda.

11. As identified in the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, investment was crucial in improving agricultural productivity, and must be targeted to those most in need. Unfortunately, agriculture was falling further behind other sectors in its share of government spending and contributions to total economic output. The lack of access to affordable credit was a particular problem for farmers who faced a time lag between expenditure on crop cultivation or raising livestock and the receipt of revenue from the sale of their products. The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems acknowledged that respect for human rights was the starting point for defining how responsible investment in agriculture and food systems could contribute to food security and nutrition. The Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) channelled finance to smallholder farmers for building adaptive capacities to withstand, absorb and recover from climate shocks.

12. Food security could be improved through an open, rules-based trading system, of which World Trade Organization (WTO) agreements were an integral part. The Agreement on Agriculture was an initiative of a multilateral reform process for trade in agriculture to establish a fair, market-oriented agricultural system. The report underlined the importance of South-South and triangular cooperation and partnership, the brokering of which was an effective means to advance country-led progress towards Goal 2 since it was critical to mobilize the expertise, technologies, innovations and financial resources that already existed in developing countries. Science, technology and innovation continued to be of key importance in that regard. Precision farming could improve farm practices through a combination of smart technologies, and greater availability of real-time data could help frame more responsive policy and government support.

13. Hunger would not be eradicated by 2030 if current trends continued; urgent action was needed to recover momentum and accelerate efforts to eradicate hunger, improve nutrition and build sustainable agriculture and food systems. A series of recommendations to Governments and relevant actors was set out in paragraph 73 of the report in document [A/73/293](#).

14. **Mr. El Ashmawy** (Egypt) asked for more information on the challenges faced by developing nations in using precision technology, and whether such challenges were related to access, cost, adaptation or capacity.

15. **Ms. Chatterjee** (Chief, Oceans and Climate Branch, Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs) said that those were critical challenges that were detailed in the CB Insights report on the future of food, which she would be happy to provide.

16. **Ms. Bolaji** (Nigeria) said that the references to Nigeria in the reports was a sign that the United Nations had taken note of what was happening in her country. She asked what factors might have exacerbated malnutrition in north-eastern Nigeria, and for suggestions of possible action at the national level in collaboration with the United Nations and friends of Nigeria to address malnutrition in that region.

17. **Ms. Chatterjee** (Chief, Oceans and Climate Branch, Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs) said that she would defer that question to the Rome-based agencies which worked in the field and would probably be better able to give a more solid answer.

18. **Mr. Martínez Sugastti** (Paraguay) requested more information on the main findings regarding interlinkages with other Goals that would have an impact on the possibility of achieving Goal 2.

19. **Ms. Chatterjee** (Chief, Oceans and Climate Branch, Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs) said that Goal 2 could be crucial in reducing malnutrition. The report referred to some interlinkages, such as water, health and sanitation; in addition, the Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform included a section on interlinkages where more details could be found.

20. **The Chair** invited the Committee to engage in a general discussion on the item.

21. **Mr. El Ashmawy** (Egypt), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that in view of the rise in the number of people suffering from hunger over the past three years, and the dramatic increase in crisis-level

food insecurity or worse in countries affected by, inter alia, conflict, environmental factors, and excessive food price volatility, the Group of 77 and China was deeply concerned that the current rate of progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 2 was unlikely to lead to achievement of its targets in many parts of the world. Ending poverty and hunger in all their dimensions was the top priority of the Goals. Around 80 per cent of the extreme poor lived in rural areas, and most depended on agriculture for their livelihoods, but their levels of productivity and income were often inadequate to reduce either poverty or hunger.

22. The Group of 77 and China concurred that ending poverty required raising rural incomes and increasing productivity sustainably, and that increased investment was needed to enhance capacity for agricultural productivity. Progress on mobilizing means of implementation for Goal 2 remained insufficient and needed to be urgently addressed. The Group underscored the challenge to all Member States, particularly developing countries, to comprehensively address the complex interlinkages of food security, nutrition, rural transformation and sustainable agriculture with other Goals, and the need to promote integrated national policies and programmes and foster knowledge-sharing and partnerships to achieve Goal 2.

23. Agriculture remained the dominant sector in terms of gross domestic product (GDP), exports and employment in many developing countries. An open, rules-based trading system was necessary to facilitate a more favourable global environment for food security and sustainable agriculture, making food more abundant and affordable.

24. **Ms. Khyne** (Myanmar), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), noted that the world was experiencing food stress and hunger was again on the rise; the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) estimated that world food production would need to increase by 70 per cent by 2050 to feed a global population of 9.1 billion people. With the current setbacks in global food security, existing momentum was not enough to achieve a world free of hunger and malnutrition by 2030. Urgent action and stronger partnerships were needed.

25. Investment in agriculture was vital to increase food production but was not a panacea. Sustainable food security required a more holistic approach, from addressing climate change, biodiversity loss and poverty to developing sustainable agriculture and food systems. ASEAN member States included major global producers of rice and other agricultural products, but they were facing food insecurity and persistent threats

of malnutrition due to environmental and climate challenges, declining natural resources and urbanization.

26. With its population expected to rise from 650 million to 800 million by 2035, ASEAN was forging ahead with its Economic Community Blueprint 2025 to meet increased demand through balanced food production, ensure affordability and quality of food, and address other related challenges. The adoption of the Strategic Plan for ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry (2016–2025) had brought progress in areas including food security, food safety, nutrition, harmonization of agricultural standards and trade facilitation. In 2017, ASEAN leaders had adopted a declaration on ending all forms of malnutrition.

27. The ASEAN Public-Private Partnership Regional Framework for Technology Development in the Food, Agriculture and Forestry (FAF) Sectors sought to increase collaborative investment in the development, adoption and dissemination of sustainable technology throughout the value chain. Forestry sector cooperation was gradually strengthening, and revised Indicators for Sustainable Management of Tropical Forests had been put in place. Substantial progress had also been achieved in the fisheries sector, particularly regarding the promotion of good aquaculture practices and sustainable use and management of fisheries resources.

28. Climate change could exacerbate threats to food security and nutrition. The ASEAN region was highly vulnerable to sea-level rise and climate extremes. A special ASEAN ministerial meeting on climate action had been convened in 2018 to galvanize regional action. The ASEAN strategic plan on the environment for 2016–2025 was being finalized, and other institutions and frameworks had been established in areas including crop and soil management, precision farming and disaster risk management.

29. **Mr. Ligoya** (Malawi), speaking on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries, said that it was cause for concern that global hunger had been rising over the past three years. Vulnerable populations in least developed countries were among the worst hit; 33 of the 51 countries facing food insecurity were least developed countries, with a combined population of around 82 million. Almost one quarter of the people in those countries faced severe food insecurity and were undernourished, with vulnerable populations in north-eastern Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen even facing a risk of famine. Stunting levels were still very high. Greater partnership and cooperation were therefore needed to achieve Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 2 and the 2030 Agenda.

30. Climate change remained one of the biggest causes of food and nutrition insecurity, and had had a devastating impact on the livelihood of least developed countries. Global warming could exacerbate malnutrition, reducing nutrient availability and food quality. The 2018 special report on global warming of 1.5 °C by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change emphasized that climate change influenced food and nutritional security through its effects on food availability, quality, access and distribution. With appropriate investment, awareness-raising among farmers of new technologies for maintaining yield, such as climate-smart food production and distribution systems, along with strong adaptation strategies and policies could help develop sustainable agricultural choices.

31. Most farmers in least developed countries were small-scale food producers, and many were women highly exposed and vulnerable to environmental and price shocks. In recent years, the food and nutritional insufficiency of persons displaced by climate change, natural hazards, conflicts and violence in least developed countries had been a challenge that least developed countries could not overcome alone given their limited institutional capacity and financial resources. Enhanced global partnerships, including South-South and triangular cooperation, were crucial for those countries. Partnerships with the private sector and other actors could play an important role in promoting technology transfer, the sharing of best practices, access to innovative rural financing and capacity-building.

32. **Mr. Ten-Pow** (Guyana), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that the destructive impacts of climate change, such as increasingly frequent and severe tropical storms, droughts and floods, posed an ongoing threat to the region's agricultural infrastructure as well as its food and nutritional security. Building resilience to such shocks, including through climate-sensitive agriculture, water management schemes, drought- and flood-resistant seeds, and sustainable livestock management, was now a major developmental target under Goal 2.

33. Agriculture accounted for a declining share of the GDP of most CARICOM countries, despite remaining the major economic land-use activity and providing significant employment opportunities in a region with high unemployment. The common agricultural policy of CARICOM laid the basis for transforming the agricultural sector and improving food and nutrition security and sought to increase agricultural exports, satisfy domestic demand for food, establish links with other sectors, particularly tourism, and increase

employment. Efforts by CARICOM to make the Caribbean the first climate change-resilient region were being supported by international partners including the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture.

34. With limited exceptions, notably Guyana, which had an abundance of fresh water and arable land, the precarious nature of agriculture in most CARICOM member States meant that food availability was increasingly dependent on imports, which discouraged domestic suppliers, undermined agricultural development and resulted in increased processed food consumption, contributing to high levels of obesity and non-communicable diseases. Nearly all CARICOM countries imported more than 60 per cent of the food they consumed, and total imports were projected to increase if current efforts to address the imbalance were unsuccessful. One promising development was the use of locally grown cassava as a substitute for imported wheat and corn products; a regional cassava working group, in partnership with FAO and other entities, was advocating for greater investment in cassava production.

35. CARICOM recognized that sustainable agricultural production and food security, safety and nutrition were key elements to eradicating poverty. Food access was linked to poverty, which had been increasing in several countries of the region. In half of the member States of CARICOM, over 30 per cent of the population lived below the poverty line. With assistance from FAO and other partners, regional Governments were encouraging youth involvement in agriculture through initiatives such as social media training and financial investment, as a key factor in ensuring food security.

36. The challenges facing the agricultural sector could not be met without a rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system to promote agriculture and rural development in developing countries. CARICOM joined the call for urgent strategies at all levels to promote the inclusive participation of farmers, including women, in community, national, regional and international markets. The cooperation of partners was also needed to end illegal fishing in the exclusive economic zone of CARICOM, which was rapidly depleting fish stock diversity and volume. The challenges faced by CARICOM were dire in terms of climate change impacts, vulnerabilities to external shocks, including the de-risking and blacklisting of regional banks, and high debt burdens. However, there was also hope because CARICOM knew what needed to be done, with the help of international partners, to lay the foundations for sustainable solutions to the challenges of agricultural development, food security and nutrition.

37. **Ms. Zahir** (Maldives), speaking on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), said that food security and nutrition in the small island developing States were under severe threat from climate change, environmental degradation and global economic crises. The nexus between food security, climate action and sustainable oceans was enhanced for small island developing States by their vulnerability to external shocks and limited resources. Rapidly changing temperatures and increasing levels of flooding or drought could contribute to reduced agricultural yields and further limit local food production capacity.

38. Rising sea levels resulted in salt water intrusion, threatening coastal farmland and fresh water supplies. Small island developing States with coastal farmland also faced threats from increasingly intense and frequent natural disasters, which destroyed crops and damaged production and transport infrastructure. Declining ocean health reduced opportunities for those States to access safe, nutritious food. Marine pollution, increasing ocean acidification and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing all threatened marine resources. AOSIS reiterated its call for the sustainable use and management of oceans and seas.

39. Many small island developing States were net food importing countries highly vulnerable to volatility in commodity prices and global supply as well as high import costs. Imported foods contributed to rising levels of poor nutrition and non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, heart disease and obesity, whose prevalence in those States was among the highest in the world. Without increased resilience, reduced disaster risk, improved ocean health and climate change reversal, food and nutrition challenges would continue to be a major concern for small island developing States. They were working on initiatives to address those challenges, including through the FAO Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States, but lack of financing remained a significant obstacle to progress.

40. Continued mainstreaming of the different agendas was needed for greater appreciation of their interlinkages. Agriculture could not be addressed in a silo without considering health systems, water security, climate change, declining ocean health, high imported food and crop costs, commodity market volatility and remoteness. AOSIS was working with its Governments to improve understanding of those relationships, and asked its development partners to do the same.

41. **Mr. Hilale** (Morocco), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that the international community needed to take concerted steps to achieve the

Sustainable Development Goals. The African Group was concerned at the finding that the current rate of implementation was insufficient to achieve Goal 2 in many parts of the world, and that most people in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia would remain malnourished beyond 2030 unless a different approach was adopted.

42. Food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture remained a major concern in Africa. The African Union had taken a number of steps to achieve the continent's agricultural vision, including under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme and the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods, with the aim of ending hunger by 2025. Africa had enormous agricultural potential, with the largest share of the world's uncultivated fertile land, abundant water resources and proximity to transportation links and regional markets. The continent's youth bulge was also a golden opportunity to be exploited.

43. Unfortunately, insufficient investment in agriculture and social protection continued to limit food availability in Africa. Trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets also impeded the access of African and other developing countries. It was equally important to address cross-cutting issues including the role of science, technology and innovation, gaps in infrastructure and energy, human resource and institutional capacities, and the integration of African produce into global value chains. African Governments had committed to enhancing investment through the mobilization of resources from all sources, both public and private or combined. There was also a need to attract foreign investment that was socially responsible, environmentally sustainable and beneficial to local smallholder farmers.

44. Programmes adopted by African leaders demonstrated the continent's determination to drive its own development. Agro-industrial development had been identified as a key part of the African Union's Agenda 2063. The agricultural sector offered the greatest potential for poverty reduction and job creation, particularly among vulnerable rural populations. The recurrent food security crises in Africa provided stark evidence of the need to build African resilience to climate-related challenges, through the adoption of climate-smart practices. The African Group called for concerted action to restore ecosystems as the key to ensuring the well-being of vulnerable segments of the population and restoring the status of Africa as the world's net exporter of agricultural products.

45. **Mr. Escalante Hasbún** (El Salvador), speaking on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), said that CELAC remained committed to the continued implementation of the CELAC Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger Eradication 2025 (CELAC Plan), which contained recommendations and strategies, including on school feeding programmes, and was a means of ensuring compliance with the 2030 Agenda. CELAC called on FAO to continue its cooperation with countries of the region.

46. Application of the Voluntary Guidelines for Agro-Environmental Policies in Latin America and the Caribbean, developed by FAO, could help to protect the resources that were the basis for food security in the region. CELAC had accepted the FAO offer to use the platform on biodiversity, agriculture and food as a tool to promote the integration of conservation and biodiversity in agriculture, livestock rearing, forestry, fisheries and tourism.

47. Noting that increased investment in agriculture, including family farming, would have a positive impact on food security and nutrition in countries of the region, he said that CELAC reaffirmed its commitment to the implementation of public policies aimed at promoting the development of family farming. Initiatives to encourage cooperation in food security and nutrition at the regional level would foster the implementation of the CELAC Plan and help to create the institutional framework necessary to build resilience in family farming. South-South and triangular cooperation also had a role to play as a complement to North-South cooperation and official development assistance (ODA) in fostering the exchange of good practices and experience, and in increasing national capacities for food security and nutrition.

48. CELAC would continue to support actions aimed at addressing all forms of malnutrition, particularly in early childhood, including training activities for public officials and community organizations. It would continue to promote a sustainable, inclusive and efficient food production system that provided for the participation of small-scale farmers and a reduction in food losses and waste. Recognizing the challenges that extreme meteorological events posed to agriculture, food security and nutrition, it underscored the importance of the international community's support.

49. CELAC renewed its request for financial and technical support from international partners to promote the achievement of the CELAC Plan and the Sustainable Development Goals. In the Special Declaration on Food Security and Nutrition adopted at the fourth CELAC

summit in 2016, members of CELAC had reiterated their commitment to promote inter-agency coordination in their respective countries for the implementation of the CELAC Plan, and to involve non-governmental stakeholders in their efforts.

50. **Mr. Nair** (India) said that, although enough food was produced to feed the global population, millions of poor people went hungry. Accelerated growth in agricultural and rural economies was essential to break the vicious cycle of extreme poverty, undernourishment and malnutrition, and was key to achieving many of the Sustainable Development Goals. Efforts to end hunger and malnutrition must be accelerated.

51. With a fivefold increase in food production, India had transitioned from food deficiency to self-sufficiency in a couple of decades to become a net food exporter. The growth of food-grain production had been largely due to institutional efforts in raising the levels of technology used in agriculture through research and extension, investments in rural infrastructure and human capabilities, credit support, procurement at minimum support prices and the strengthening of supportive institutions.

52. Many agricultural successes in India had arisen from its ability to develop and apply innovative, cost-effective solutions to farming challenges, such as low-cost tractors, seed systems and water management technologies. However, it was still necessary to further improve agricultural productivity to meet growing demand, introduce more sustainable farming practices, make available affordable agricultural inputs, connect farms to markets, increase farm incomes and improve food distribution systems.

53. His Government was taking steps to double farmers' income by 2022. To ensure that its schemes reached the intended recipients, *Aadhar*, a biometric-based individual identification system, had been introduced. An electronic trading platform, eNAM, had also been launched to improve the linkage between smallholder farmers and markets, and a scheme had recently been announced to bring value addition to agricultural produce. A new crop insurance scheme provided support to farmers and encouraged them to adopt innovative agricultural practices. Cooperatives were being encouraged to venture into new business areas to boost the rural economy, soil health cards were being provided to all farmers, and significant investment was being made to improve irrigation coverage. In line with its support for South-South cooperation, India remained committed to sharing its technical expertise with other developing countries.

54. **Mr. Chumakov** (Russian Federation) said that the Russian Federation was concerned at the increasing number of people suffering from hunger and malnutrition. The Sustainable Development Goals would not be achievable by 2030 if current trends continued. Comprehensive and coordinated measures were needed under the aegis of FAO, IFAD, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization. It was not enough to combat hunger; food must be of high quality and varied diets were needed in order to reduce the prevalence of non-communicable diseases. A country could be affected by both undernourishment and obesity simultaneously as a result of poorly balanced diets.

55. The Russian Federation played a key role in ensuring food security at the global and regional levels as a major producer and exporter of food products. It was striving to ensure the sustainable growth of the agricultural sector, reduce the adverse impact of climate phenomena and use land and other resources more effectively.

56. His Government attached great importance to international cooperation on food security and nutrition and commended initiatives such as the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025), the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019–2028) and World Food Day. It provided assistance to other countries through WFP and, over the past five years, had assisted 30 States in various regions of the world for an amount of over US\$ 220 million. In addition to providing emergency food aid to countries in crisis it participated actively as a donor to development projects aimed at finding lasting solutions to problems of food security. Since 2010, in partnership with WFP, it had implemented projects to optimize school nutrition programmes, in countries that included Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, for an amount of over US\$ 77 million. Through FAO, it was also funding a programme with a budget of US\$ 6 million to assist those countries in ensuring food security and promoting sustainable agricultural development. A similar project for the development of smallholdings was being implemented in Tajikistan through a Russian contribution to IFAD of US\$ 1.5 million in 2017–2018.

57. Russia had hosted the thirty-first session of the FAO regional conference for Europe in May 2018, at which recommendations had been adopted to promote stable agrifood systems in Europe and Central Asia, develop agroecology approaches, apply digital technology in agriculture, and strengthen the work of FAO in forestry and fisheries.

58. **Mr. Alberto Carazo** (Costa Rica), welcoming the approval of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019–2028), underlined the importance of food safety in connection with the Sustainable Development Goals related to the elimination of hunger, health, international trade and the promotion of sustainable patterns of production and consumption. It was estimated that every year around 1 in 10 of the world's inhabitants fell ill from ingesting contaminated foods and that 420,000 died as a result. Foods containing bacteria, viruses, parasites or harmful chemicals caused over 200 diseases, including cancer.

59. Globalization of the food supply and rising complexity in the food chain had increased public concern about food safety, particularly in relation to internationally traded foodstuffs. Costa Rica therefore advocated building greater public awareness of the repercussions of contaminated foods on human health and the economic well-being of the agrifood industry. It was essential to support comprehensive measures and to establish effective and efficient systems to monitor safety throughout the food chain. At the current session, Costa Rica was introducing a draft resolution to declare 7 June "World Food Safety Day", which would be an opportunity to highlight the work done in the Codex Alimentarius Commission to promote the adoption of good practices and raise public awareness of food safety.

60. **Mr. Mohamed** (Sudan) said that the world did not appear to be progressing in eradicating hunger and achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2, as hunger was increasing after years of decline; urgent measures were required to ensure a sustainable food supply. The number of people facing food scarcity had increased owing to factors including armed conflict, slow economic growth and climate change, which were major challenges for the international community that required accelerated efforts.

61. To eradicate poverty and hunger, income in rural areas needed to be increased; 80 per cent of vulnerable people lived in those areas, and most relied on agriculture and fisheries. Comprehensive sustainable agriculture could play a major role in improving their livelihoods. The agricultural sector was a main engine for socioeconomic development in the Sudan as it had vast areas of arable land as well as water availability, allowing it to diversify its agriculture and play a role at the regional and international levels.

62. His Government had adopted a national agricultural strategy for the period 2017–2020, the goals of which included upgrading the agricultural sector and increasing its productivity. At the regional level, the Arab food security initiative had been launched by the

League of Arab States in 2015 to strengthen food security by ensuring a reserve of strategic food commodities. To implement that initiative, a resolution had been adopted at the Arab summit in 2017 to establish a mechanism for investing in the agricultural and livestock sectors. He called on the United Nations and its specialized agencies to assist the Sudan in achieving food security through the transfer of agricultural technology and support for capacity-building and agricultural research institutes.

63. **Mr. Bessedik** (Algeria) said that although many countries had increased their efforts to eliminate poverty, empower smallholder farmers and rural women, improve access to food and enhance agricultural productivity, thereby adapting agriculture to climate change and its effects, a major challenge to those efforts was ensuring sustainable food security in the wake of multidimensional external crises. The increase in the number of hungry people in the world had direct implications for security, political stability, growth, and economic and social development of developing countries, and threatened some of the development goals achieved.

64. In Algeria, awareness of the vulnerability of developing countries to external shocks and of the inadequacy of production to meet the basic food needs of the population had risen following the global food crisis of 2007–2008. Food security was deemed a matter of sovereignty, rendering it a strategic goal for the country. A national rural and agricultural renewal policy with a holistic and multisectoral approach was being implemented to combat the root causes of hunger and malnutrition by stimulating private sector investment.

65. A strategy for economic and social development had been defined using a new growth model that permitted the reframing and harmonization of national development objectives and macroeconomic and sectoral policies based on food, energy and water security. The main objectives of that strategy, which covered the period up to 2035, were to guarantee sustainable management of natural habitats, contribute to diversification of production and exports, reduce trade imbalances in agricultural commodities and create a sustainable policy to reinforce food security.

66. The international community must promote comprehensive solutions aimed at ensuring the availability of sufficient and affordable food for the poor through a long-term commitment to integrate food security and nutrition into public policies and programmes. It was also necessary to combat speculation on the global commodities market and address emergency situations resulting from climate

change. It was not possible to achieve a world without poverty, hunger and malnutrition without moving towards resilient, diverse and productive agriculture and food systems, the sustainable management of natural resources and the reduction of food loss and waste.

67. **Mr. Rasuli** (Afghanistan) said that urgent action was needed to recover momentum and accelerate efforts to ensure poverty eradication and sustainable agriculture and food systems, revitalize the agricultural sector, promote rural development and empower traditionally excluded groups, particularly smallholder farmers and small-scale producers. It was important to address key challenges, accelerate progress and identify key means of implementation to end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. Strengthening the resilience of rural communities and promoting the preservation and restoration of resources and ecosystems were crucial for ensuring the well-being of vulnerable segments of the population, particularly in rural areas and in countries in conflict or emergency situations

68. Embroiled in a conflict imposed from outside the country for decades, Afghanistan had struggled with ever-increasing poverty and food insecurity; it was estimated that about 45 per cent of the population was food insecure. Climate change was also having a profound impact on food security and was manifesting in more severe and frequent natural hazards. A lack of rain and snowfall had intensified concerns over increased droughts and other climate change effects and reduced the level of the water table, and was threatening grasslands and the agriculture sector, in which some 85 per cent of Afghans were involved, either directly or indirectly. To enhance food security and nutrition in Afghanistan, his Government had launched the National Food Security and Nutrition Agenda in 2017, joined the global Scaling Up Nutrition movement and begun collaboration with the South Asia Food and Nutrition Security Initiative.

69. **Mr. Hermida Castillo** (Nicaragua) said that the international community should focus its efforts on agriculture development, food security and nutrition in developing countries. Food security and nutrition had become an urgent global challenge. In that context, he reaffirmed the need for a global commitment to improving food security and access.

70. Severe food insecurity tended to have a disproportionate effect in rural areas, and particularly on rural women. He underlined the negative impact of climate change on agriculture and the consequences of droughts and floods, which seriously affected vulnerable populations. Given the complexity of those

issues, the international community needed to adopt multidimensional measures and promote a holistic food system concept. Food security required equitable economic growth, employment creation, income generation and technological progress, particularly in agriculture.

71. Nicaragua had devised a national strategy for food and nutritional sovereignty and security to ensure that Nicaraguan families had access to sufficient, nutritious and healthy food. Other actions included support for smallholders, such as credit and technical assistance, and the provision of food packages for victims of climate change. Comprehensive support for rural and urban families and poverty reduction policies had reduced chronic malnutrition.

72. His Government had been steadily promoting measures to combat hunger since 2007, including the school lunch programme of the Ministry of Education, and was being supported by FAO. The solutions for transforming food systems existed, but their implementation required greater political will on the part of the international community, particularly with regard to financing and technology transfer to developing countries. The means of implementation were of fundamental importance to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

73. **Ms. Barker-Murphy** (Jamaica) said that the contribution of agriculture to GDP in Jamaica had increased in 2016 as a result of the intensification of her Government's farmer support programmes and an increase in private investment. However, there remained a critical need for further development efforts to address the underlying causes of food insecurity and malnutrition, build resilient and sustainable livelihoods, and support sustainable food systems through inclusive policy processes and effective partnerships.

74. In Jamaica, various factors continued to impact national agriculture development, food security and nutrition, including extreme weather events, the small size of landholdings, limited availability of technology and of agricultural land, and the high cost of capital. Measures were needed to address hunger and poverty simultaneously and increase interventions in rural areas, where agriculture was the main source of income. For many small island developing States, natural disasters severely disrupted trade and access to markets. An effective response required an understanding of the dynamic interactions of natural disasters and climate change on commodity production, particularly in the agricultural sector. As a net food importing developing country, Jamaica was particularly vulnerable to external economic shocks and climate change, and was mindful

of the need to enhance the resilience of local food systems.

75. New food consumption patterns had increased the prevalence of obesity and non-communicable diseases, such as diabetes, hypertension, stroke, heart disease and cancer. While agriculture played a direct role in eradicating hunger and extreme poverty, it was also essential for the achievement of many other Sustainable Development Goals and targets, especially those concerning health, water, biodiversity and sustainable cities. It was therefore necessary to ensure greater coherence between national agriculture, nutrition and non-communicable disease strategies and policies.

76. Her Government was taking steps to ensure that its population had access to a constant and nutritious supply of food, including by encouraging the production of food in Jamaica and investment in local agricultural production and agro-industries, and promoting the sustainable use of agricultural land and fisheries. All those actions would require increased investment, a well-functioning multilateral trade environment and effective domestic food commodity markets.

77. **Mr. Bin Momen** (Bangladesh) said that it was shocking that in a highly interlinked global economy with unprecedented technological advancement offering remarkable potential for prosperity, millions of people were still going hungry. Since 1971, despite a decline in arable land due to population growth, industrial expansion and severe impacts of climate change, Bangladesh had tripled its crop production and now ranked third in inland fish production worldwide thanks to policies aimed at transforming the agricultural sector, promoting rural development, empowering marginalized people and protecting smallholder farmers and small-scale producers.

78. Development partner cooperation through increased trade and investment in the agricultural sector was vital for agriculture development, food security and nutrition in countries like Bangladesh. Agriculture employed the majority of people in Bangladesh. His Government was supplying farmers with agricultural inputs with a view to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2 and was endeavouring to ensure profitable agriculture, good nutrition, food security and crop productivity through investment, technology, mechanization, specialization, marketing and women's empowerment. It had taken steps to boost production and incomes and to promote crop diversification, natural resource use and microsavings. Efforts had also been made to ensure the developmental integration of farmers in remote and difficult terrains.

79. Bangladesh had invested significantly in making its agriculture sector climate-resilient. Agricultural scientists worked to ensure food and nutrition security by developing crops that were resistant to climate change and salinity. Modern food storage facilities were also being built to prevent food damage and preserve quality.

80. Having attained food self-sufficiency, Bangladesh was now concentrating on ensuring adequate nutrition for its people. The second national plan of action for nutrition for 2016–2025 focused on children, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers to improve nutrition and eradicate malnutrition. Robust legal provisions had also been implemented to prevent food adulteration, and steps had also been taken to develop the fisheries sector. Cooperation from development partners for more trade and investment in the agriculture sector was vital for agriculture development, food security and nutrition for countries such as Bangladesh.

81. **Mr. Muhammad-Bande** (Nigeria) said that his Government recognized the linkage between eradicating hunger and malnutrition and empowering rural people through transformation of agricultural and food systems, and also understood the importance of local and domestic food markets for smallholders. As Nigeria was projected to be the third most populous country in the world by 2050, it had focused on agricultural modernization in order to promote agro-allied industries and provide jobs and income.

82. His Government had implemented measures to scale up efforts to end hunger and malnutrition; it was also enhancing nutrition-sensitive value chains and diversifying household food production and consumption while intensifying advocacy for behavioural change regarding youth and agriculture. Its newly adopted Agriculture Promotion Policy addressed agricultural education, research and innovation, ensuring quality control and access to improved seedlings, and standardizing agricultural practices. Agriculture 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.

83. Nigeria was enriching its agricultural intervention programmes by concentrating efforts on expanding downstream value-addition operations and supply chains, and was increasing nationwide extension service coverage and boosting business start-up initiatives, particularly for young people and women. His Government's initiatives were intended to promote risk management, finance the value chain, build long-term capacity and institutionalize incentives for agricultural

development, and would hopefully increase investor interest in the Nigerian agricultural sector.

84. **Mr. Bilan** (Ukraine) said that his country, which would shortly mark the 85th anniversary of the Holodomor famine inflicted on it by the Soviet regime, was acutely aware of the high price of hunger. The number of hungry people in the world remained unacceptably high; his Government was ready to help the world in addressing global hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition.

85. Ukraine was currently going through one of the most difficult stages in its modern history and was grateful to the international community and organizations, in particular FAO and WFP, for their support and assistance to his Government in responding to the current humanitarian challenges. Despite difficult conditions, Ukraine remained among the strongest players in the international food market; it was one of the top 10 global exporters of grain, with over half of its grain harvest for 2018 intended for export. Having signed an Association Agreement with the European Union, Ukraine was working on harmonizing its national legislation, especially in the sphere of technical regulation and food quality and safety standards. Its agrarian policy was aimed at reforming core branches of agriculture, which would create favourable conditions for implementing financial instruments and attracting investment.

86. Ukraine welcomed the United Nations initiatives aimed at halving global hunger and encouraged intensified coordination between all United Nations agencies and the international financial institutions. It fully supported the reform of global governance as the basis for global multi-stakeholder partnership. Cooperation with United Nations specialized agencies remained an important element of the national food strategy.

87. *Mr. Braquetti (Monaco), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

88. **Ms. Sok** (Cambodia) said that agriculture had contributed significantly to average economic growth of over 7 per cent in Cambodia over recent decades, generating sustainable employment and increased incomes for millions of Cambodians in rural areas. Agriculture development, food security and nutrition had been integrated into a number of measures, including the National Strategic Development Plan 2014–2018 and a national strategy for food security and nutrition for the period 2014–2018.

89. To further develop the agricultural sector, her Government focused on investing in rural infrastructure and irrigation, enhancing the use of better plant

varieties, improving technologies and extension services, and promoting high value-added agro-industrial crops and affordable credit. It appreciated the technical and financial support provided by United Nations agencies and other partners in that regard. Her Government accorded priority to the intensification of farming and to the expansion and improvement of support services, including research, new technology dissemination, agricultural input distribution and rural loans, with a view to increasing agricultural productivity and meeting demand in compliance in terms of quantity, quality, safety and international requirements.

90. The implementation of the National Action Plan for the Zero Hunger Challenge 2016–2025 had enabled Cambodia to end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. Her country had received a United Nations award for halving hunger before the 2015 deadline. Nutrition had been mainstreamed into agricultural extension through capacity-building efforts from the national to the community level. Cambodia had also made important progress in making the social protection system more interconnected and consolidating it into an integrated, consistent and efficient system.

91. **Mr. Tang** Tianxi (China) said that regional conflicts, reduction in arable land and climate change meant that food security was still a concern despite the rapid development of agriculture, science and technology, steadily increasing food production, stable consumer demand and an easing of international food supply and demand. Eradicating hunger required fair, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and a fair, equitable and sustainable agricultural trading system.

92. The international community should increase agricultural support through technology transfer and financial resources for developing countries, especially least developed countries, to help increase their agricultural production and safeguard food security. Countries should strengthen their agricultural infrastructure and promote agricultural science and technology to enhance food security. Going forward, China would enhance exchanges through South-South cooperation, the Belt and Road Initiative and project cooperation training to help other countries boost their agriculture capacity and improve food security.

93. In 2018, China had decided to implement a strategy to invigorate rural areas and agricultural development and had scaled up implementation of policies benefiting farmers, which had led to steady growth in its agricultural production capacity. His Government had also implemented a new development

concept that gave greater prominence to agricultural science and technology and promoted the modernization of agriculture. At its nineteenth Congress, the Chinese Communist Party had stressed the importance of food security and the need for the people to take ownership of the issue. In 2017, China had formulated a national nutrition plan for the period 2017–2030 to enhance nutrition by improving policies, standards, regulations and nutritional capacity-building.

94. **Mr. Al Amiri** (United Arab Emirates) said that factors such as geographical location, continued population growth and lack of arable land put considerable pressure on the agricultural sector and food security of the United Arab Emirates and neighbouring States. Despite the harsh climate, his Government had undertaken several unique initiatives to promote sustainable agriculture, as well as measures to maximize local crop production based on modern technology and efficient natural resource management, including closed-loop agriculture and hydroponics projects, and to attract foreign investment.

95. His country was hosting the FAO office in Abu Dhabi to help strengthen its position as a regional and global hub and to support sustainable development at the regional and international levels. It had launched a number of food security initiatives, including schemes to distribute food to needy families, eliminate food waste, provide agricultural workers with training and marketing services, and promote the adoption of modern agricultural technology based on sustainability throughout the supply chain. It had also diversified food security sources by securing food supplies through food and development investment projects around the world.

96. A global challenge such as food security required solutions based on cooperation among countries in areas including agriculture, trade, non-traditional productive sectors and scientific research. Such efforts would promote an integrated production system based on the cooperation of Governments, developmental and research agencies, and the private sector, linking the various areas related to food security.

97. **Mr. Va'inga Tōnē** (Tonga) said that agricultural development was the top economic priority for his Government given its linkage to food security and nutrition and to supporting livelihoods, in both urban and rural communities. Tonga sought to achieve sustainable development of the agricultural sector through activities aimed at reducing the risk of food insecurity and poverty and increasing the overall contribution of agriculture to Tongan GDP.

98. As part of his Government's efforts to improve linkages between related sectors, the Ministries of

Agriculture, Tourism and Fisheries had launched an initiative which included promotion of sustainable use of local food and resources, with a view to taking an integrated approach to addressing multi-sector challenges related to agriculture. The adverse impacts of climate change were among the main direct and indirect threats to agricultural production and food security in Tonga, which continued to seek new adaptive climate-resilient agricultural production systems through a range of projects, including in the context of the FAO Integrated Land and Agro-ecosystem Management Systems.

99. Tonga was combating rising levels of non-communicable diseases related to food and nutrition through initiatives including the promotion of locally grown food and of livestock rearing to reduce reliance on costly and unhealthy imported food. His Government valued the ongoing technical and financial assistance of its development partners, which supported projects and initiatives for agriculture development and allowed Tonga to continue its efforts to revitalize the agriculture sector, enhance national food security and nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.

100. **Mr. Gumende** (Mozambique) said that his country defined agriculture as a priority area for development because over 70 per cent of its people relied upon that sector for their livelihoods. The use of rudimentary farming methods for the small-scale subsistence agriculture predominant in Mozambique meant that crop production had remained unchanged while the population had more than doubled since 1990. An estimated 43 per cent of children aged 0–5 years consequently suffered from severe stunting, while the rest of the population had yet to achieve adequate food security and nutrition levels. Mozambique had also been devastated by recurring natural disasters such as floods, drought, and cyclones, which affected efforts towards and capacity for agricultural development. His Government expended significant resources on food imports to forestall shortages.

101. With a view to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2, his Government had been undertaking reforms to transform agriculture from subsistence to a more productive and market-oriented system; smallholders were being encouraged to increase production in order to meet their own food needs while trading their surplus at markets, which would provide them with cash to purchase other goods and services, including education and health care. In addition to agricultural research, extension services and irrigation projects, Mozambique had embarked on an agrarian mechanization programme and was ensuring the use of new technologies to meet demand for climate-resistant

seeds capable of producing crops in shorter cycles. Those technologies were being disseminated among farmers and agricultural extension workers, and played a critical role in transforming farming methods to ensure increased food production. He appealed to the international community and various actors to meet their commitments on agricultural development and end hunger.

102. **Mr. Alami** (Morocco) said that food security remained the sine qua non for development, sociopolitical stability and a free and dignified life. With almost 800 million people facing food insecurity, the entire international community was called upon to increase global agricultural production by over 70 per cent by 2050 in order to meet the needs of an estimated global population of over 9 billion. Conflict, climate change and prolonged crises were among the main causes of the recent rise in food insecurity, hunger and malnutrition, particularly in Africa, where the food crisis threatened millions despite rapid economic growth over the past decade. Agricultural budgets had been slashed over the past 20 years. The continent possessed over 50 per cent of the world's unexploited arable land yet spent over US\$ 35 billion importing foodstuffs.

103. Morocco had endorsed the FAO Special Programme for Food Security and made available to African countries nearly 100 experts in the areas of water management, sustainable crop system intensification, and diversification of production, livestock rearing and small-scale fishing. In conjunction with FAO, it had also taken steps to create a trust fund to which it had contributed over \$1 million that was used to assist African countries in sustainably increasing agricultural productivity, improving food security, strengthening resilience to threats and improving natural resource management.

104. His Government renewed its call for the establishment of an African common agricultural market with a view to reducing food dependence and providing a platform for supplying the continent. Morocco had initiated agricultural cooperation projects with fellow African countries wishing to benefit from feedback on the Green Morocco Plan, an environmental strategy based on modernization of agriculture and inclusive development of family farming. Its 2016 Adaptation of African Agriculture initiative to reduce vulnerability to climate change would be of fundamental importance in shaping the scientific approach with realistic policies that benefited African farmers.

105. Morocco had implemented a number of projects to further help improve food security and rural development in Africa, including provision of cheap

fertilizer to smallholders, and had established a South-South cooperation programme with FAO for 2014–2020 to aid other African countries.

106. **Ms. Boechat de Almeida** (Brazil) said that the conclusion reached at the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2017 that the targets of Sustainable Development Goal 2 were unlikely to be met at the current rate of implementation must be understood as an urgent call for action in the coming years. Her delegation welcomed the proclamation of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019–2028).

107. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda had outlined the necessary means for combating hunger and malnutrition. However, implementation would depend on the availability of adequate resources to finance commitments. Greater investment in agriculture and in rural areas, including through international cooperation, was crucial for building productive capacity in developing countries, especially in family farms. At the same time, the massive agricultural subsidies granted in rich countries, which distorted international food markets, must be curbed, as they directly jeopardized the development of robust agricultural sectors in the developing world.

108. Goals 1 and 2 were intrinsically linked. Experience in Brazil had shown that social protection measures, combined with broader agricultural and rural development and a particular focus on the specific needs of smallholders and women farmers, could contribute towards breaking the cycle of poverty. Brazil supported the proposal to designate 7 June as World Food Safety Day, as food safety particularly affected children and populations in extreme poverty and hunger.

109. **Mr. Gayito** (Ethiopia) said that conflict, drought and climate change were among the key factors contributing to a reversal in the progress made in combating global hunger. It was deeply troubling that hunger would not be eradicated by 2030 based on current trends. Increased agricultural investment and comprehensive international support in relation to finance, technology and capacity-building were needed to recover momentum and accelerate efforts on hunger eradication, nutrition and sustainable agriculture. Ethiopia called on its bilateral and multilateral development partners to support agricultural and rural development measures at the national level.

110. In Ethiopia, a comprehensive development strategy placed agricultural production and productivity at its centre. His Government had continued to implement a comprehensive rural development package by expanding agricultural extension services, ensuring broader community participation centred on smallholder

farmers, scaling up successful practices and introducing new policy tools. Modernizing the agricultural sector would be prioritized in the coming years. Ethiopia was continuing to implement global and regional commitments to address malnutrition, and had achieved a significant decline in the number of stunted children. Together with development partners, it had also been implementing food security measures to address food insecurity.

111. To mitigate and adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, his Government was promoting climate-resilient green agriculture and had mobilized local communities in natural resource conservation and management activities, such as forestry development and soil and water preservation. Its productive safety net programme had also registered significant success in creating assets for the most vulnerable communities. Ethiopia continued to take measures to build resilience, enhance disaster preparedness and ensure food security. Addressing emergency situations with the support of its development partners would remain a priority. He called on development partners to continue supporting Member States in implementing the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019–2028) in line with national development priorities.

112. **Mr. Musonda** (Zambia) said that it was clear that the world was not on track to eradicate hunger and malnutrition by 2030; instead, there had been an increase in the number of hungry and food-insecure people, especially in countries affected by conflict and crisis. Threats to food security in many places due to climate change and political instability were impeding progress on the Goals. The international community must focus on addressing the underlying causes of food insecurity and malnutrition by building resilient livelihoods and supporting sustainable food systems through inclusive agricultural policies. Short-term responses to humanitarian crises also needed to be linked with long-term development efforts.

113. To put an end to unacceptable unhealthy and intensive labour using outdated techniques or equipment, his Government had been implementing projects to enhance agricultural development and value chains through the economic empowerment of women, who made up 70 per cent of small-scale farmers and helped feed the growing population. The distribution of 71 tractors and 94 tillers to date had improved the production and incomes of the women concerned and their families. Such machinery and technologies needed to be promoted and supported to empower women and reduce the health complications of manual labour.

114. Undernourishment was endemic in many parts of Zambia and posed a serious threat to the cognitive development and well-being of many people. To ensure a productive workforce and healthy population, his Government had implemented measures to prevent micronutrient deficiency and enhance food security at the household and national levels. It had also prioritized legislative reform and research into food and nutrition to ensure that national standards were met, and was addressing structural constraints that limited access to water resources, inputs and finances, extension services and markets. Zambia would welcome revitalized partnerships to enhance those efforts.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.