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Chairperson: Mr. Lundberg (Vice-Chairperson) (Finland)

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In the absence of Ms. Ochir (Mongolia), Mr. Lundberg (Finland), Vice-Chairperson, took the Chair.

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

Agenda item 19: Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2008 Review Conference (*continued*) (A/C.2/65/L.7)

Draft resolution on the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development (A/C.2/65/L.7)

1. **Mr. Daris** (Yemen) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.7 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Agenda item 22: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*) (A/C.2/65/L.9)

Draft resolution on culture and development (A/C.2/65/L.9)

2. **Mr. Daris** (Yemen) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.9 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Agenda item 23: Groups of countries in special situations (*continued*)

(a) Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (*continued*) (A/C.2/65/L.5)

Draft resolution on the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (A/C.2/65/L.5)

3. **Mr. Daris** (Yemen) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.5 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

(b) Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation (*continued*) (A/C.2/65/L.8)

Draft resolution on groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation (A/C.2/65/L.8)

4. **Mr. Daris** (Yemen) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.8 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Agenda item 24: Eradication of poverty and other development issues (*continued*) (A/C.2/65/L.10)

Draft resolution on the promotion of ecotourism for poverty eradication and environment protection (A/C.2/65/L.10)

5. **Mr. Iziraren** (Morocco) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.10.

(b) Industrial development cooperation (*continued*) (A/C.2/65/L.11)

Draft resolution on industrial development cooperation (A/C.2/65/L.11)

6. **Mr. Daris** (Yemen) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.11 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Agenda item 26: Agriculture development and food security (*continued*) (A/65/73-E/2010/51, A/65/253 and A/65/486)

7. **Mr. Al-Azri** (Oman) said that numerous factors contributed to food insecurity, including drought, desertification, natural disasters, climate change, population growth and rising energy costs. His country's long-term strategy included increasing domestic food production, maintaining strategic food reserves, encouraging food processing and promoting a culture of rational consumption.

8. Having welcomed the outcome of the thirty-sixth session of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Committee on World Food Security, held earlier that month in Rome, he also commended the "Global Dry Land Alliance" initiative for food security in arid countries, which had been launched by Qatar during the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals.

9. **Mr. Mayala** (Congo) said that the susceptibility of food markets to shocks arising from the recent crises highlighted the need to re-examine land use, agricultural investment and rural infrastructure policies. In that regard, he welcomed the efforts of the Secretary-General's High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis and the FAO Committee on World Food Security. On his continent, international partnerships such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme had brought about notable advances, but greater international coordination was needed to ensure that all persons could enjoy their right to food.

10. Food security was a high priority for his country, which was committed to freeing itself from dependence on massive food imports that cost almost 120 billion CFA francs per year. The Congo had engaged in the FAO Special Programme for Food Security and was in the process of implementing its own national food security programme for the period from 2008 to 2012, which included launching a "new villages" project to create model farming communities. It had also established a fund to support agriculture, seed distribution and livestock replenishment programmes, in conjunction with international organizations, and was allowing foreign companies to explore the potential of its vast northern forests for biofuel production.

11. His Government intended to invest the equivalent of \$80 million in the agricultural sector over the coming four years. It welcomed bilateral and multilateral assistance from international partners in developing the Congo's agricultural potential.

12. **Ms. Jayasuriya** (Sri Lanka) said that improving agricultural production and food security was crucial for achieving Goal 1 of the MDGs, namely halving the population living in poverty and hunger. Business as usual would aggravate the plight of millions of people already deprived of their right to food and safe drinking water.

13. South Asian countries realized that improving current practices of harnessing global environmental resources, including land and water, was paramount. The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was therefore pursuing the "SAARC Agriculture Vision 2020", aimed at developing a science-based strategy for collective responses to threats, challenges, opportunities and global shocks.

While the region's largely rural population depended on small-scale agriculture, fluctuating commodity prices hampered their farming choices, especially in selecting crop varieties and deciding the extent of economically viable farming. The failure to promote a self-supporting agricultural industry had pushed farmers into a vicious circle of poverty and food insecurity.

14. Developing countries urgently needed policy space to support their domestic agrarian sectors. Affordable financing, long-term contracts, market access arrangements, quality seeds, fertilizer and infrastructure, technologies to enhance production, post-harvest loss minimization methods and facilities to produce value-added products could all make a significant difference. Regional cooperation could be enhanced through the exchange of best practices and by building food reserves, such as the SAARC Food Bank.

15. Aid to agriculture had declined from 18 per cent of total assistance in 1979 to 4.3 per cent in 2008. Given its second-tier priority on the international development agenda, agriculture should be brought to the forefront. Sri Lanka supported the call for additional investment and better policies for smallholder agriculture and endorsed the Secretary-General's effort to strengthen harmonization among stakeholders, including through the work of his High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis.

16. Food insecurity and nutritional deficiencies could stem from many factors, particularly environmental degradation and climate change. Hence the urgency of building response capacity in vulnerable countries through transfer of cost-effective food production technologies that were less dependent on rain water. Furthermore, natural disasters and complex emergencies such as conflicts could cause food shortages due to the destruction and abandoning of crop production over a period of time.

17. The Secretary-General's report (A/65/253) referred to recent food security improvements in Sri Lanka and other countries identified as being in crisis. Sri Lanka wished to share the policies that it had implemented to overcome food security challenges while confronting brutal terrorism. During the 28-year internal conflict, amidst enormous land transport difficulties and barriers imposed by the terrorists, the Sri Lankan Government had continued to facilitate the

provision of humanitarian food supplies to civilians in conflict zones. No deaths due to hunger had ever been reported by United Nations agencies. Following the conflict, the special nutritional needs of vulnerable groups such as children, expectant mothers and the sick had been given priority attention, preventing disease outbreaks or epidemics related to food and water. About 284,000 internally displaced persons had been provided with cooked food for a period of months. In the medium term, dry rations had been distributed among the displaced and to those returning home. Of the original 284,000 persons, there remained less than 20,000 to be returned home. Resettlement activity had been coupled with food production drives supported by the United Nations and other international partners. The area under cultivation was expected to increase by 100,000 hectares.

18. As a lower-middle income country, agriculture accounted for 12 per cent of Sri Lanka's gross domestic product (GDP) and 78 per cent of its population was rural, depending directly or indirectly on agriculture. Diversifying agricultural activities, integrating livestock production and promoting high-value crops and products were priority areas to improve rural living standards. At the same time, sustainable methods of ancient irrigation and agricultural practices intrinsic to Sri Lanka's society were being fostered.

19. **Mr. Muñoz** (Peru) said that continued global efforts were needed to ensure food security in the world, especially in the poorest countries, through investment, the development of financing mechanisms and the expansion of North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation for development. Peru supported the Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security adopted at the 2009 World Summit on Food Security, as they provided a clear reference point for eliminating the main threats to food security in developing countries.

20. Agriculture, which was a large part of Peru's economy and the main source of livelihood for its rural population, was very vulnerable to climate change, particularly as more than 60 per cent of agriculture was exclusively rain-fed. Climate change was accelerating the frequency and magnitude of climactic phenomena such as floods and droughts, and indirectly reducing the availability of natural resources. Peru's glaciers were fast-shrinking, which had both short- and long-term implications for agricultural productivity while

exacerbating poverty and the vulnerability of rural populations. To reduce the impact of climate change and variability on food security, countries needed to incorporate natural disaster and climate change risk management into their development planning and sectoral policies and foster investment. Efforts to help populations adapt to and mitigate the adverse effects of those phenomena on agriculture, economic growth and food security should be supported.

21. Women farmers, who constituted the majority of smallholder farmers in developing countries, were especially vulnerable. In addition, women and children tended to be exposed to smoke from woodstoves, which were extensively used in rural areas and caused serious bronchopulmonary and other health problems, while also contributing to deforestation and pollution and affecting food security. It was therefore crucial to promote improved cooking stoves for people living in poverty and extreme poverty. In that context, the Government of Peru planned to reduce by fivefold the number of woodstoves nationwide and to replace them with improved cooking stoves. He encouraged the international community and the United Nations system to continue to work towards ensuring long-term food security.

22. **Mr. Souissi** (Morocco) said that efforts to enhance agricultural production and improve nutrition must go hand-in-hand. Malnutrition posed great health risks for some developing countries, which often needed to adopt inappropriate food systems simply to feed their citizens. Despite States' commitments, there had not been sufficient political will or financial resources to reduce suffering for many of the world's hungry; global food security remained elusive.

23. Efforts to provide food security and to combat climate change, desertification and the loss of biodiversity were interlinked. To eliminate hunger and achieve food security, the international community must look beyond increasing agricultural production and adopt a multidimensional approach, which included ensuring the sustainable management of resources and the resilience of ecosystems.

24. South-South cooperation would be extremely useful in strengthening dialogue and solidarity. The worsening food situation in several countries in the Sahel region, particularly Niger, was alarming, and a strategic partnership should be established with FAO, focusing exclusively on sub-Saharan countries.

25. His Government called for the implementation of the outcome of the 2009 World Summit on Food Security held in Rome, particularly global governance reform, with a view to stepping up efforts to ensure food security. For its part, Morocco had undertaken major agricultural development efforts and had succeeded in reducing its dependence on the international market, including through a “green plan” aimed at promoting rural and agricultural development, attracting private investment and combating poverty.

26. Current circumstances made it vital to make the best use of FAO in addressing food security, nutrition and the management of natural resources. His Government stood ready to contribute towards the drafting of a bioenergy charter to address issues relating to food security, agriculture and sustainable development.

27. **Mr. Ozaki** (Japan) said that enhancing global food security was a foreign policy priority for Japan, which had steadily endeavoured to fulfil its pledge to provide at least \$3 billion in agricultural assistance, including for infrastructure, from 2010 to 2012.

28. To accommodate the rising demand for food, agricultural production should be boosted, both in terms of quantity and productivity, while bearing in mind the diverse conditions in each country. In that respect, his Government had launched an initiative to double rice production in sub-Saharan Africa in the period from 2008 to 2018, and had been supporting global capacity-building programmes. It had also hosted the first Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Ministerial Meeting on Food Security, which had adopted the Niigata Declaration on APEC Food Security and an action plan.

29. Since agriculture was the foundation of many developing countries’ economies, its development should be tackled from a perspective of poverty alleviation but should also aim to boost economic growth. In that regard, he stressed that it was critical to promote private investment, including foreign direct investment, in agriculture, noting that poorly conceived or executed investments could negatively affect political stability, human rights, sustainable food production and environmental protection. In close cooperation with the World Bank, FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Japan had therefore launched an

initiative for responsible agricultural investment with a view to setting out guidelines for harmonizing and maximizing the benefits of investment for recipient countries, local communities and investors.

30. **Ms. Al-Hadid** (Jordan) said that, despite technological advances which had modernized food production and distribution conditions, hunger and malnutrition still threatened millions of people because the global food supply was affected by such factors as climate disasters, population growth, civil unrest and restrictions on trade. Moreover, the dry areas of the developing world, which were vulnerable to drought and unreliable water supply, spanned 3 billion hectares and were home to one third of the global population.

31. The current lack of food security affecting countries around the world required comprehensive action and support for measures to develop and enhance food security for all. Investment in infrastructure and research pertaining to macroeconomic policies, production technology and trade facilitation were needed to improve global food security.

32. She noted that agriculture was one of the most important sectors of Jordan’s economy. Despite insufficient water and cultivable land, soil constraints and land degradation hazards, Jordan had enjoyed a tremendous boost over the last three decades owing to its implementation of a national strategic plan for agricultural development.

33. **Mr. Madani** (Afghanistan) welcomed the recent reforms made to the FAO Committee on World Food Security and the establishment of a High-level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition. However, the prospects for his country’s agricultural production were bleak, given the vast damage done to its physical infrastructure and its higher dependence on rain-fed agriculture. Millions of Afghans were either starving or threatened with starvation and depended on food aid for survival. It was therefore critical to rapidly revive the country’s agricultural sector through restructuring and investment, while also paying attention to long-term environmental sustainability.

34. Agriculture accounted for more than 50 per cent of his country’s national economy and was vital for its reconstruction. While international humanitarian aid during Afghanistan’s recovery was appreciated, the Government was now seeking partnerships to build

better and more accessible irrigation systems, technology and agricultural practices.

35. Some of the key challenges facing Afghanistan in tackling food security were fluctuations in crop productivity, increased water scarcity and rainfall variability, as well as the lack of irrigation infrastructure, low water security and high volatility in global food prices.

36. Smallholder farmers were pivotal for effective agricultural and rural development, and partnerships between the Government, communities and the private sector were also key for guiding investments to foster the development process and make rural agricultural communities more robust. For its part, Afghanistan had national development strategies in place not only to reduce poverty and secure livelihoods, but also to improve the quantity and quality of the agricultural sector while reducing stress on natural systems through improved water and national resource development. Gaps in the current agricultural system were being identified to ensure comprehensive production and market development, and to expand road and communications networks that would empower the poor. Emphasis was being placed on strengthening local institutions by creating community development councils and expanding the civil service.

37. Stronger partnerships would be needed with United Nations agencies to facilitate more investment in infrastructure, knowledge-sharing and technology transfer, through responsive targeting of Afghanistan's needs and priorities. It was hoped that the World Food Programme (WFP), FAO, the United States Department of Agriculture and other donors would continue to provide assistance, and that the international community would work together to achieve global food security.

38. **Mr. Al-Outaibi** (Qatar) said that food security would be achieved only when its four pillars of availability, access, use and stability were established. He hoped that the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification would raise awareness of the particular problems posed by drought, which affected a vast amount of land and a large number of people and were only likely to worsen owing to climate change.

39. As part of the Qatar National Vision 2030, launched in 2008, his country had been implementing a food security programme designed to increase

domestic production and to make up any shortfalls through imports. His Government hoped that the programme would serve as a model for other countries threatened by desertification. Through the "Global Dry Land Alliance", it hoped to contribute to developing adaptive agricultural technologies for arid climates. His country also planned to host a regional conference entitled "Food Security in the Arab World — Partnering for a Sustainable Future" in October 2011.

40. **Ms. Ochir** (Mongolia) said that her Government fully endorsed the Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security and welcomed the action taken by the Secretary-General's High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis, through its twin-track long-term strategy to combat poverty and hunger. Mongolia faced considerable challenges to its agricultural development and food security, owing to its nomadic pastoral animal husbandry, the vulnerability of its herders and farmers to extreme weather conditions, its unique food consumption patterns and its underdeveloped food markets, networks and infrastructure. After a difficult transition to a market economy, the country's agricultural sector had nearly collapsed: crop production was no longer self-sufficient, with imports now accounting for more than 70 per cent of Mongolia's food staples.

41. In response to the food crisis, a national crop rehabilitation campaign, launched in 2008, had helped to gradually increase agricultural production; in 2010, domestic demand for wheat and potatoes would have been fully met, and that for vegetables would be met by over 60 per cent. The Government had also taken gradual steps to improve the legal environment and coherence of its policy framework, to revive industrial production and to improve food supply while ensuring food safety and security. Its national food security programme for the period 2009 to 2013 included time-bound actions, with a special focus on fostering an environment to help the private sector play a key role in increasing food production and generating income for herders and producers. Continued cooperation with bilateral and multilateral partners was needed to fully implement policies to address structural weaknesses in the agricultural sector, productivity in smallholder farm operations and sustainable resource management. Such cooperation was also needed to improve infrastructure and the market chain and to foster innovation in agricultural production technologies.

42. **Mr. Kononuchenko** (Russian Federation) emphasized the need, in both the short and the long term, for national and international solutions to the global and systemic food crisis, which was especially affecting developing countries, jeopardizing attainment of the MDGs and creating social and political instability in many countries.

43. A good starting point would be the Declaration of the High-Level Conference on World Food Security, held in Rome from 3 to 5 June 2008, and the Comprehensive Framework for Action produced by the United Nations High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis. The Framework should be the basis for continuing efforts, especially at the country level.

44. The Russian Federation, which was the world's largest food producer, was expanding and modernizing its agriculture, increasing its food aid and humanitarian deliveries and assisting developing countries to develop their agriculture. In 2009, it had provided food aid worth \$26.5 million under WFP auspices and, as a result, aid had been given to Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Guinea, Zimbabwe, Cuba, Palestine and Ethiopia. The Russian Federation was the principal financial donor to WFP operations in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. It was continuing in 2010 to provide humanitarian food aid to Kyrgyzstan, which by year end would total almost 16,000 tons. The Federation's annual contribution to WFP in 2010 amounted to \$20 million, or \$30 million if emergency aid contributions were included.

45. The food aid mechanisms of international food and agriculture institutions should be modernized to enable them to react speedily to fluctuations in world grain prices. The Russian Federation welcomed the reforms of FAO and of that Organization's Committee on World Food Security, which should allow them to play an appropriate role in the formulation and implementation of food and agriculture policy.

46. **Mr. Thu** (Myanmar), emphasizing the need for more investment in the agricultural sector, said that Myanmar fully supported strengthening the role of the Committee on World Food Security as well as the establishment of the High-level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition, in line with the calls made at the 2009 World Summit on Food Security.

47. He stressed that agriculture was one of the main pillars of Myanmar's economy and that its national

development plan gave priority to poverty eradication and rural development. While the sustainable use of land and resources was imperative to agricultural development, it was also important to meet the needs of small-scale farmers.

48. He outlined a range of national actions being taken to improve agriculture, including new cropping methods and the gradual mechanization of farming practices. His Government's investments in its agricultural sector over the past 20 years had enabled it to increase its paddy production sufficiently to feed its 59 million citizens while retaining a surplus, and to increase the total net sown area. In addition, vast expanses of arable land remained available for use.

49. While recognizing that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development, effective and efficient global actions were also required. The pledge to halve poverty and hunger by 2015 must be met. In that respect, Myanmar remained committed to securing sufficient, safe and nutritious food supplies for a growing population, with a view to enabling all to enjoy the right to food.

50. **Mr. Habil** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that the key to confronting food insecurity was to recognize the mistakes of the previous two decades. Population increase, climate change and deficiencies in the international financial system had all contributed to the food crisis. Developed countries should divert at least a fraction of what they spent on their arms races to the struggle against poverty and hunger, particularly since the wealth that they were investing in weapons partly owed its existence to a legacy of imperialist exploitation of the very countries where poverty and hunger were most rampant. Despite all the obstacles, the world had sufficient resources to feed its people if the right kinds of investments were made in agricultural infrastructure, production and research. Developed countries should abandon protectionism, resume the Doha Round and work to implement the recommendations of the seventeenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the 2009 World Summit on Food Security. International cooperation was necessary to ensure adaptation to climate change, and corporations should not be allowed to monopolize agricultural technology or seeds.

51. His country had lowered tariffs on food imports and was experimenting with ways to boost domestic food production through irrigation. Regionally, it

supported intensive agricultural specialization. While Africa had the resources to feed its people, it needed greater continent-wide integration of food security initiatives within the context of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, as called for by the Sirte Declaration on Investing in Agriculture for Economic Growth and Food Security, adopted at the thirteenth ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union, held in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in July 2009.

52. **Mr. Kedar** (Israel) said that there was widespread agreement that the closely related efforts to promote food security and agricultural development remained central to the pursuit of the MDGs. Israel welcomed the Secretary-General's report (A/65/253) as a useful framework for strengthening partnerships to promote food security with a view to alleviating poverty, increasing stability and reducing morbidity and mortality rates. Israel had acquired considerable knowledge and expertise through its own rapid, successful agricultural development, which it would continue to share with present and future partners through its international cooperation agency, MASHAV. One of its projects, entitled "Techno-agriculture Innovation for Poverty Alleviation (TIPA)", had been successfully implemented in several African countries. Based on a bottom-up approach targeting smallholder farmers and agricultural communities, TIPA relied on simple low-cost drip irrigation developed in Israel to improve yields and to make small farms profitable. Similarly, Israel was partnering with Ghana and Germany in a programme to help citrus farmers achieve self-sufficiency, including elements of microfinance, microcredit and capacity-building, to ensure lasting and sustainable results.

53. Successful agricultural development entailed teaching farmers not only effective field techniques, but also how to effectively sell their products. In an 11-month programme for students from South-East Asia, in partnership with Israel's private sector, hands-on training had been provided to students on Israeli farms along with classroom instruction on how to manage an effective agricultural business. Israel's support for the Songhai Centre in Benin provided another example of its work in agricultural education. Working in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme, the centre sought to create viable socio-economic environments by advancing

sustainable agricultural practices through training, production, research and development.

54. Israel recognized the importance of empowering women as a crucial part of any effective and comprehensive strategy for agricultural development and food security. Women were central to the agricultural sectors of developing countries and accounted for more than 70 per cent of all those suffering from poverty. As a way of promoting coalitions between Governments, civil society, business and non-governmental organizations, Israel had marked International Development Day with a conference on the challenges of development, including agricultural development, trusting that such activities would also raise public awareness in Israel about the importance of development issues and the MDGs in particular. Israel remained committed to advancing the shared objective of promoting agricultural development and food security and would continue to devote energies, resources and expertise to the pursuit of that goal.

55. **Mr. Rangel** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that there could be no development while the poverty of the people and the poverty of the land continued to increase. To date, the international community had been promoting agricultural development policies directed by the major multinational corporations. The latter, driven by considerations of profitability, produced biofuels in place of food, promoted transgenic crops, destroyed traditional seeds and multiplied poverty and hunger. Those policies were responsible for the death of one child worldwide from hunger every six seconds.

56. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela considered that agricultural development must be focused on small and medium production, social cooperatives and indigenous communities, with the more than 2 billion peasants who inhabited the Earth having decision-making powers on agricultural development.

57. About 30 years ago, only 5 per cent of commercial seed had been subject to intellectual property rights; today the figure was 82 per cent. The 10 largest companies accounted for 67 per cent of the market, with three of them alone having 47 per cent. Six companies controlled 100 per cent of the market for genetically modified seeds, and every year they had more power over what was grown and eaten.

58. That monopoly explained why countries' commitments at the summit meetings on agriculture

and food security were not met and why people's right to food was violated. It also explained why the analysis of agricultural development and food security issues was slanted towards the commercial view of the big companies. Every year since the beginning of the food crisis in 2007, all agribusinesses had increased their profits. Speculation in food commodities had also played a role in price increases, hunger and millions of deaths. Rather than the polluting transgenic agriculture, the world must ensure the expansion of an agriculture that was diverse, decentralized and healthier for people and the planet.

59. His country's legal framework fostered public food security and agriculture institutions through an integrated rural development model that was endogenous, socially productive and generated employment to ensure an adequate level of rural welfare. In the interests of sustainable food production, his Government promoted and protected cooperatives and microenterprises but opposed large landholdings, which were contrary to the needs of the majority.

60. **Mr. Lukwiya** (Uganda) expressed concern that, for the first time since 1970, the number of hungry or undernourished people worldwide had exceeded 1 billion, and that food insecurity persisted in 29 countries, mostly in the developing world. That was not just a food crisis; it was also a political crisis requiring strong and urgent action. Developing countries, including Uganda, had therefore made great efforts to enhance agricultural sector development and food security.

61. Agriculture played an important role in Uganda's economy, accounting for almost 23 per cent of GDP and employing nearly 70 per cent of the country's labour force, primarily women. Developing that sector would have long-term multiplier effects on rural development, poverty reduction and the empowerment of women. In that connection, and as part of the Government's broad framework for poverty reduction adopted in 1997, an agriculture modernization programme was being implemented in line with the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

62. While the implementation of policies to improve agriculture might not be advancing fast enough, the real responsibility for the crop failure in sub-Saharan Africa, leading to the current food shortages, lay with the

consequences of climate change, especially drought and floods. The countries that bore the historical responsibility for climate change must join the rest of the international community in providing support for adaptation measures in vulnerable regions and in searching for a real solution. In that regard, Uganda welcomed the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative, which linked food security, in part, to climate change adaptation. However, the pledge of the Group of Eight to advance the implementation of the Global Partnership for Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition by the end of 2009 still remained unfulfilled.

63. **Mr. Abani** (Niger) said that the principal challenge facing the Government of Niger was to lay the foundations for lasting and sustained socio-economic development. To that end, in 2002 his Government had put in place a poverty reduction strategy which took a participatory approach and relied on assistance from development partners.

64. Niger's development strategy encompassed the country's goal of becoming a modern, democratic and prosperous nation with dynamic and diversified economy, good governance and a thirst for knowledge and innovation. However, the path towards that vision would be long and arduous.

65. The rural sector, as the engine for economic growth, was the subject of particular attention from the Government, which intended to make structural improvements to irrigation infrastructure and provide tailor-made technical assistance and advisory services to farmers. In addition, measures would be taken to enhance food security, to promote research and to relate it pragmatically to agricultural education, knowledge-sharing and efforts to combat the advance of the desert and environmental degradation.

66. The food and nutrition situation of the people of Niger was one of the most precarious in West Africa, largely because of the droughts affecting the Sahel region. The 2009 agricultural season had ended with a drastic shortfall in cereal supply, which the Government had addressed with support from its development partners, to whom he wished to express his country's thanks.

67. **Mr. Solón** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that humanity was consuming the Earth's resources faster than they could be replenished. Relearning how to live in harmony with nature would require firstly accepting that development must stop at the limit of the Earth's

regenerative capacity. The current model of capitalist production and consumption was unsustainable: if everyone consumed natural resources at the same rate in the developed countries, the planet would collapse. Growth could not be thought of only in economic terms. GDP, as an exclusively quantitative economic indicator, was not suitable for measuring the sustainability of the planet: other indicators were needed that could take into account the deterioration in nature being caused by economic growth.

68. His country was profoundly concerned by the current food crisis, in which around 950 million people were at risk of hunger. While the crisis had been attributed to speculation in food prices, the use of food to make biofuels and the impact of climate change, another of its causes, was the change in eating habits owing to the replacement of native highly nutritious foods such as quinoa by foreign and industrialized foods. In that connection, his delegation had put forward a draft resolution (A/C.2/65/L.16) proposing that 2012 should be declared the International Year of Quinoa.

69. It was not only human beings that had a right to life: plants, animals, forests and rivers also had a right to exist, and the existence of each was intertwined with the existence of the others. There needed to be a thorough debate on re-establishing harmony with Mother Earth, including the concept of “the rights of nature”. Moreover, any attempt to repair damage to biodiversity must recognize the sovereignty of States over their own natural resources, as well as the rights of indigenous peoples, particularly to land. To preserve biodiversity, sustainable agricultural development and food security, the Plurinational State of Bolivia proposed that an international climate and environmental justice tribunal should be established to punish crimes against nature.

70. **Prince Fahd bin Faisal Al Saud** (Saudi Arabia) said that his country’s agricultural output had grown by 4.5 per cent over the previous decade, in recognition of which King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud had been awarded the FAO Agricola Medal. Saudi Arabia had made up for its lack of rainfall and rivers by constructing hundreds of dams and digging hundreds of thousands of wells as part of an ambitious experiment in irrigation. It had diversified its crops dramatically while taking care not to deplete non-renewable aquifers. Agriculture was accounting for an increasing share of his country’s non-petroleum economy and

providing employment to an increasing number of citizens. Saudi Arabia was also making considerable investments in agriculture abroad.

71. **Mr. Park Kwangsuk** (Republic of Korea) said that food security was essential to economic and social development, as had been reaffirmed at the High-level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs. While the number of people suffering from hunger in 2010 had decreased compared with the previous year, it was still higher than before the food and economic crises of 2008 and 2009. In addition, the difficulties created by climate change were increasing the risk of prolonged food insecurity. In that situation, the international community should embrace the Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security.

72. For its part, the Republic of Korea would allocate \$100 million from 2009 until 2011 in line with the twin-track approach contained in the Comprehensive Framework for Action. A part of that amount would be channelled through WFP for emergency food relief. The remainder of the sum would be set aside for long-term agricultural development programmes designed to share knowledge and experience in building infrastructure and improving policies for sustainable rural development in 18 partner countries. His Government had also made a financial commitment of \$50 million to the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme.

73. **Mr. Momen** (Bangladesh) said that the ongoing global recession had unfortunately diverted attention away from the food crisis. According to FAO, 28 of the 36 countries with critical food situations were least developed countries. Most of them had seen their situation worsen as a result of exceptional production shortfalls, adverse climatic conditions and a worsening economic situation.

74. While every human being was born with the inherent right to food, to make that right a reality, the international community must implement measures to compensate for the massive lack of investment in the agricultural sector over the past two decades. The Comprehensive Framework for Action of the High-level Task Force on the Global Food Crisis had estimated that an additional \$25 billion to \$40 billion would be needed every year to meet the global incremental financial requirements. While world leaders had pledged \$20 billion in new aid for

agricultural development, less than 20 per cent had actually been delivered.

75. It was also urgent to address the impact of climate change on hunger, as extreme weather events might dramatically increase the number of people facing serious food shortages by the end of the current century. The sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Cancún should therefore agree on ambitious cuts in emissions and legally binding mechanisms for adequate and predictable funding as well as technology transfer to developing countries.

76. Overcoming the financial crisis was critical to minimizing further risks to global food security. Bailout and stimulus packages must be designed in such a way that they did not lead to further protectionism by developed countries. Grant-based credit should also be provided to stimulate agricultural productivity, marketing and consumption.

77. In the area of trade, developing countries must be allowed to preserve the flexibilities needed to shield their smallholder farming sectors from the competition of industrialized countries' farmers. There were huge differences in productivity levels between developing and developed countries, the result of more than 150 years of planned protection by the latter.

78. South-South cooperation had a role to play in addressing the food and energy crises, including through trade financing, early warning systems, the trading of food between neighbouring surplus and deficit countries, and the exchange of best practices. One specific proposal in that regard would be to utilize the millions of acres of fallow land in some developing countries to increase agricultural production, with skilled farmers from countries of the South such as Bangladesh cultivating them as hired labour.

79. In Bangladesh, despite resource constraints, his Government was working tirelessly to address the food crisis and had ensured access to food for all through various projects. Agriculture had been declared the number one priority in the country and farmers were receiving microcredit and medium-scale loans from the banking system, with Government assistance. However, there was a need for high-yield crop varieties that would resist salt water, submersion and drought. He called on the international community to contribute such varieties and the technological knowledge to utilize them.

80. **Mr. de Azevedo** (Brazil), said that much remained to be done to secure a world free from hunger. The obstacles to be overcome were many, including underinvestment, a lack of adequate technology and distortions in the international trade of agricultural products. Actions in one area would not be enough without movement in all others. Food aid must be complemented by productive cooperation and by the opening of new markets and opportunities for the agricultural output of developing countries.

81. Additionally, the world must find ways in which different actors could coordinate their activities and achieve agreed outcomes at the global, regional and national levels. Fortunately, to tackle that problem, the international community had an existing and recently improved platform: the Committee on World Food Security, which was a central component of the evolving Global Partnership for Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition. In that connection, Brazil welcomed the progress made towards implementation of the FAO reforms agreed in 2009 and looked forward to receiving the results of the most recent plenary meeting of the Committee on World Food Security. At the same time, he stressed that discussions in the Second Committee should complement and not duplicate those of FAO, IFAD or similar agencies.

82. His delegation reaffirmed that access to safe and nutritious food was a human right. The implementation of commitments in that regard should be informed by the Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Food.

83. South-South cooperation played an important role in improving agricultural productivity and food security. Brazil was sharing successful experiences in tropical agriculture with many countries, particularly in Africa and Latin America. Those and other similar exercises should be supported and encouraged. Using degraded lands to expand agricultural production was a central part of Brazil's agricultural development strategy, as was support for smallholder and family agriculture.

84. The Secretary-General's report had remarked on the impact of the expansion of biofuel production. However, it had not touched on the positive aspects of the production and use of sustainable biofuels: creating employment opportunities in rural areas, generating income, combating climate change and lifting countries out of food and energy insecurity. Brazil hoped that the

Secretary-General would take those elements into account in future such reports.

85. **Ms. Morgan Sotomayor** (Mexico) said that a long-term vision was needed to address food insecurity because food production would continue to face pressures caused by economic, demographic, technological and commercial changes. For Mexico, food security was a State matter that required collective action, the elimination of market distortions, the revision of financial mechanisms, the transfer of appropriate technologies to developing countries and the introduction of environmentally friendly policies.

86. The Government of Mexico reiterated its commitment to improving agricultural productivity and food security in developing countries through actions aimed at eradicating poverty, promoting public health and stimulating sustainable economic growth. Mexico was actively involved in the efforts to improve FAO, IFAD and WFP, with a view to ensuring that they achieved a better balance in allocating financial and technical resources among regions. Greater complementarity among international and regional organizations was also needed, while avoiding the duplication and diversion of resources. The variety of initiatives to establish financial funds tended to disperse the limited resources available and did not attend to the specific needs of middle-income countries, the category to which most Latin American countries belonged.

87. The transfer of appropriate technologies to developing countries must be a priority in international cooperation because it enabled producers to enhance performance and food production as a means to achieve food security and sustainable agriculture, while positively addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation. Mexico was therefore promoting a joint resolution on technological innovation and technical training to strengthen national food security strategies, which was designed to foster cooperation in the following three ways: the transfer of technology; the conservation and rational exploitation of water resources; and the promotion of rural sustainable development, particularly with respect to climate change mitigation and adaptation through technical and financial support from FAO.

88. **Mr. Xing Jisheng** (China) said that steep fluctuations in international food prices in recent years had dealt a heavy blow to developing countries and

even threatened their social stability. The FAO World Summit on Food Security had helped to sharpen the focus on development and food security and to mobilize the international community to respond to the food crisis and address food security. Nevertheless, the global food situation remained grave: two years after the 2008 world food crisis, 29 countries remained in the grip of crisis and the number of people suffering from hunger and malnutrition had stayed above 1 billion.

89. The food crisis required a comprehensive solution focused on four aspects. First, agriculture inputs should be increased and grain production improved in order to safeguard food supply and maintain an overall balance between grain supply and demand. In that regard, major food producers should do more. Developed countries and international organizations should provide assistance to developing countries in such areas as financing, technology, markets and capacity-building. Second, institutional reform and improved governance should make the global system of food production, storage and distribution more equitable and sustainable. China favoured a global system to safeguard food security and a comprehensive, coordinated and sustainable global food security strategy. Third, the approach taken should bear in mind long-term and overall interests, push for positive results at the Doha Round, establish an international trade order in agricultural products that was fair, equitable, stable and sustainable, and foster an enabling international environment for developing countries in trade, finance, intellectual property rights and other fields related to agricultural products. Fourth, a holistic approach was needed to achieve all-round and balanced development in order to attain sustainable food security. Food security was closely related to economic growth, social progress, climate change and energy security.

90. China attached great importance to agriculture and food security. For the Chinese Government, feeding over 1 billion people had always been a priority task. China had resolutely pursued a policy of food self-sufficiency and its achievements in agricultural and rural development had gained worldwide recognition. With 9 per cent of world's arable land and 6.5 per cent of world's fresh water resources, China had succeeded in satisfying the food demand of 20 per cent of the world's population. For

many years, its food self-sufficiency rate had remained above 95 per cent.

91. China would continue to provide development assistance to other countries to the best of its abilities, including within the framework of South-South cooperation. Since 2009, it had exported 551,000 tons of food to countries in Asia and Africa that faced food shortages and had provided external food assistance totalling RMB 263 million. It had also donated \$6.5 million to WFP. In addition, the contract concerning the \$30 million FAO trust fund that China had pledged to establish had recently come into effect; it would be used to finance projects and activities to enhance the agricultural productivity of developing countries. Furthermore, at the High-level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs, China had announced that, in the next five years, it would dispatch 3,000 agricultural experts and technical personnel to other developing countries, provide 5,000 agriculture-related training opportunities in China, and enhance, on a priority basis, cooperation with other developing countries in agricultural planning, hybrid rice, aquaculture, farmland water conservancy and agricultural machinery.

92. **Mr. Traoré** (Senegal) said that, since 2000, world leaders had been committed to eliminating poverty and famine by 2015. However, the picture emerging from the midpoint review at the recent High-level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs was far from glowing and indicated that many developing countries were a long way from attaining Goal 1 of the MDGs.

93. Senegal therefore welcomed the international initiatives being undertaken by the United Nations, particularly through the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security, to promote agricultural activity and appropriate large-scale investments. Initiatives such as the Global Partnership for Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition, the High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis, the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme, the New Vision for Agriculture of the World Economic Forum and the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa provided conceptual frameworks that could push back the frontiers of famine. His delegation also welcomed the Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security.

94. In addition to international measures, domestic initiatives were needed in each country or region. For example, Senegal had been implementing a comprehensive agricultural recovery programme since

2008 known as “a major drive for agriculture, food and abundance” (GOANA).

95. The global food crisis was at risk of continuing unless the obstacles of agricultural subsidies and commercial protectionism were removed. A holistic approach was needed to tackle the structural causes of the crisis, including weak investment, food production shortfalls linked to climate change, the rise in production costs, population growth and exportable cash crops. Senegal called for a true turnaround by the international community, particularly in favour of the developing countries, including Africa, whose hunger prevalence rate was above 35 per cent.

96. **Mr. Errázuriz** (Chile) said that the food crisis had resulted from a deep crisis of agriculture caused by many factors, all of which deserved attention. Also noteworthy were many initiatives in agricultural development and food security, notably the Latin America and the Caribbean without Hunger Initiative of FAO and the reform of its Committee on World Food Security. There were a number of approaches to agricultural development and food security, such as training, entry to the market by small- and medium-sized farms, the promotion of credit, access to technologies, and, where appropriate, the conversion to more promising crops. Also to be borne in mind was the fundamental role of women in agricultural development and the need to make gender a cross-cutting element in the rural world.

97. He particularly wished to stress the decades-long disastrous impact of subsidies that distorted international trade and prevented better access to markets by products from the developing world. Without fairer international trade, it would not be possible to stimulate the investment necessary to realize the latent agricultural potential in the world, which would be the only way to feed the more than 9 billion global population in 2050. Also not to be forgotten were the dangers of malnutrition, especially for pregnant women and young children. If the world were to neglect that aspect of what WFP called “hidden hunger”, it would for years be paying the price in terms of health, learning capacity, social opportunities, development and social welfare.

98. **Ms. Ratsifandriamanana** (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)) said that the State of Food Insecurity report released by FAO and WFP indicated a decrease from 1.2 billion to

925 million in the number of hungry people in 2010. While that was an improvement, it was still far from the target set at the 1996 World Food Summit of halving the number of hungry people by 2025. Of those 925 million people, over 166 million in 22 countries suffered from chronic hunger as a result of protracted crisis and required targeted assistance focusing not only on emergency aid but on long-term measures to improve agricultural production and productivity.

99. As the report of the Secretary-General indicated, while the reformed Committee on World Food Security remained as an intergovernmental FAO Committee it would constitute the foremost inclusive international platform in support of country-led processes towards ensuring food security for all. The Committee's thirty-sixth session, which had been the first meeting of the reformed Committee, had taken place two weeks previously and had addressed the issues of food insecurity in protracted crises, land tenure and international investment in agriculture, as well as managing vulnerability and risk to promote better food security and nutrition. A number of delegations had pointed out that food commodities markets would remain more volatile in the years ahead. FAO believed that measures to ensure greater market stability should be taken, including improved regulation, greater transparency, appropriate levels of emergency stocks, and fluid and efficient international trade in food products. The reformed Committee had requested its High-level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition to analyse trends and make further recommendations in order to manage the risks linked to excessive price volatility in agriculture and to lessen vulnerability through social and productive safety nets, particularly in the least developed countries. Those issues would also be addressed at the pre-conference meeting on agriculture and food security in preparation for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

100. FAO was encouraged by the outcome of the High-level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs, which had not only reaffirmed the international commitment to eliminating hunger and securing access to food for all but had also supported the Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security and the strengthening of international coordination and governance for food security through the Global Partnership for Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition. The High-level Plenary Meeting had also

called for the promotion of public and private investment, land-use planning, efficient water management, adequate rural infrastructure, improved access of small-scale farmers, including women, to markets and land, and supportive economic policies and institutions at all levels.

101. It was widely acknowledged that underinvestment in agriculture was the core reason for underdevelopment of the sector, and that official development assistance alone was not sufficient to produce the food needed for a world population expected to exceed 9 billion in 2050. FAO was encouraged by the international community's commitments mentioned in the Secretary-General's report, such as the Aquila Food Security Initiative, the European Union Food Security Facility, and the World Bank Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme. During the High-level Plenary Meeting, the World Bank had also announced a contribution of \$8 billion annually over 3 years in support of food security programmes.

102. **Ms. Stewart** (International Labour Organization (ILO)) said that ILO recognized the seriousness and persistence of the food security crisis and supported the urgent call in the Secretary-General's report for the broad mobilization of resources to address its causes and for well-integrated strategies and interventions. The definition of food security provided in the Secretary General's report was highly appropriate, as food security was linked to the capacity of all people to access food. ILO believed that access to productive employment, social protection, basic labour rights and social dialogue were crucial for enabling people to access food and formed a solid foundation on which to build food security strategies and collaboration.

103. Food security strategies and interventions needed to combine the agricultural and non-farm sectors in a mutually reinforcing manner. The ability to diversify out of farming into productive manufacturing and services was important for household earnings as well as for economic growth, sustained development and poverty reduction. Many non-farm activities developed along the agribusiness chain must be enhanced, including the distribution of seeds, tools and other agricultural inputs, as well as activities associated with produce processing and marketing. Current "missed opportunities" in that area were striking, given that an estimated one third of agricultural produce was going

to waste in some developing countries due to a lack of proper local processing, storage and transport facilities.

104. In developing effective strategies and interventions, it must first be recognized that rural areas provided potential engines of growth and crisis resilience. Rural areas must be viewed much more progressively than in the past, for example by considering farmers as “agrarian entrepreneurs”. The international community should also acknowledge the structural gaps that impeded realizing that potential, such as insufficient investment, technology and access to land and other assets. Substantial decent work deficits exacerbated those gaps.

105. The ILO had undertaken a thorough discussion on rural employment for poverty reduction at the 2008 ILO Conference and at a tripartite technical workshop on the global food price crisis and its impact on decent work in 2009. Both discussions had highlighted a number of critical decent work deficits that needed remedying in order to address agriculture development and the food crisis effectively, namely: a lack of employment opportunities and social protection; high child labour; women and youth disadvantages; and insufficient social dialogue and representation to give rural employers and workers a voice in national and international forums. Those deficits prevented rural men and women, their communities and their countries from breaking out of the trap of low productivity, food insecurity, poverty and vulnerability. Such important elements for decent work were included in the updated Comprehensive Framework for Action published by the High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis.

106. ILO supported the way forward proposed by the Secretary-General to mobilize increased political and economic will. Unprecedented levels of coordination and joint work based on comparative advantages and synergies were needed. Partnerships played a key role in ILO work. Collaboration with FAO and IFAD, for instance, was rapidly broadening and deepening, facilitated by the adoption of decent work as the “common language” of development. Among others, a major FAO-IFAD-ILO workshop in March 2009 had developed practical decision-making tools for rural women’s empowerment; and an IFAD-ILO project had just been launched to review rural programmes and projects related to youth through a decent work lens. ILO would also be hosting an inter-agency technical meeting in November 2010 on incorporating decent

work into sustainable recovery and development, featuring a rural development dimension.

107. Unleashing rural potential through decent work was in the interest of all and it was the responsibility of all. Human resource-based rural development should feature in United Nations instruments as an explicit focus in order to achieve, simultaneously and in a mutually reinforcing manner, economic growth, poverty reduction and long-lasting food security for all. ILO looked forward to supporting that endeavour and, to that end, was working to promote effective partnerships.

108. **Mr. Assaf** (United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)) said that while the scourge of hunger and malnutrition had dramatic consequences on human lives in the present, it was also crippling future development potential and undermining progress towards the MDGs. The complexity of the problem called for a multidisciplinary response.

109. UNIDO could help to make a difference, as demonstrated by its African Agribusiness and Agro-industries Development Initiative or its joint programme with FAO and IFAD, launched at the request of the African Union to promote agribusiness in food value chains. The FAO-IFAD-UNIDO partnership was premised on the notion that developing agriculture did not merely equate with raising agricultural output, but also called for a holistic process of rural transformation and firmly inserting growers and cattle herders in a value chain from resources to the processing industry and markets. It even called for cultural change, with smallholder farming no longer being seen as a matter of tradition and subsistence but as a modern enterprise on the move to its rightful place in the twenty-first century. The pressing needs of adequate technology and organization, with legitimate concerns about the degradation of ecosystems and climate change, were also addressed.

110. The specific contribution of UNIDO relied on a distinctive combination of expertise that cut across the entire Organization. At its core was expertise in food processing technology, rural entrepreneurship development and the organization of supply chains and markets. However, agricultural mechanization could also dramatically enhance labour productivity in agriculture. Furthermore, UNIDO’s role worldwide in eliminating persistent organic pollutants under the

Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants had also led to the development of non-toxic methods of pest control that, together with work on rural energy and water management, offered industry-grade solutions to modern agriculture.

111. Smallholder agriculture was particularly vulnerable to the vagaries of climate change, which was not solely an issue of adaptation: sustainable agriculture, or agro-ecology, could make a positive contribution to mitigation as well. Alternative crops could offer significant prospects for carbon sequestration, while attendant certificates of emission reduction represented a new source of income for farmers under the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol, another area of proven UNIDO expertise.

112. At the post-production stage, UNIDO's expertise in resource-efficient and cleaner production ensured that increased output, notably in the livestock sector, did not result in harmful biological and chemical pollution in downstream processing activities. Specialists in food safety worked alongside Governments and industry to set up a robust quality control and food safety infrastructure with local institutions, progressively upgraded to international standards. Related services included calibration, testing, compliance with private standards, traceability and certification facilities increasingly backed by global accreditation services. UNIDO's contribution also capitalized on its unique access to private agents: an unmatched outreach not only to local procedures and industry associations, but also to global resources ready to offer expertise, finance, technology or markets through organized processing and retail.

113. The global food crisis of 2008 had triggered a much-needed global response, with initiatives such as the High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis, the Aquila Food Security Initiative, the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme, or, more recently, the reform of the Committee on World Food Security. UNIDO had participated in the thirty-sixth session of the Committee and was moving towards a more proactive role on that front in the years to come.

114. **Mr. Rajabi** (Islamic Republic of Iran), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that it was an undisputed historical fact that the full term "Persian Gulf" had always been used as the standard geographical designation for the sea area between the

Arabian Peninsula and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Countless maps drawn by various regional and non-regional authorities over hundreds of years all testified to that point and the United Nations in the past half-century had made it crystal clear that the term "Persian Gulf" was the only geographical designation applicable to that body of water and that it should be used in full, without any exception, when that body of water was referred to in documents.

115. However, the representative of Mauritania, in his statement on behalf of the Arab Group, had used a fabricated and unacceptable name for the Persian Gulf. In that regard, the Islamic Republic of Iran wished to express that the only correct, historically and universally recognized name for the sea area between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Arabian Peninsula, as also emphasized by the United Nations itself, was the Persian Gulf. Therefore, any use of fabricated names for that body of water was totally groundless, absolutely unacceptable and without legal value.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.