



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
19 April 2013

Original: English

Substantive session of 2013

Geneva, 1-26 July 2013

High-level segment: annual ministerial review

Statement submitted by International Association of Students in Agricultural and Related Sciences, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.



Statement

Living in the twenty-first century in a world where science and technology are the first steps to success, power, wealth and health, we would expect to see a lot of progress in every possible aspect of life. But that's just our expectation. We consider ourselves among the lucky young people on this planet as we've never experienced war in our country; we had access to food, water, education, knowledge, science and technology.

At this very moment, people around the world are dying of hunger, wars are destroying people's reality, multinational corporations are getting wealthier and governments are not using their power for the people of their nation but against them.

On the one hand, there is science and technology, which are continuously evolving, especially in agriculture, making it more efficient, increasingly precise and productive. Nowadays, the agricultural sector employs a diversity of technological solutions with the ability to create a lot more decent jobs for people.

On the other hand, there is a constant fear of how secure the food is, if food will exist tomorrow, how the planet will feed 9 billion people and if there is a possibility for us to survive together.

The root of the problem is not how secure our food is or how 9 billion people will be fed, but why all this food and wealth is gathered by 1 per cent of the population of the planet, and why people don't have access to drugs, food, education or knowledge.

Finally, we would like to share with you the tale of David and Goliath, though a little bit transformed. In our case, David is represented by each and every person in the world who wants to change his/her future and fights for it.

Goliath is represented by all the multinational corporations who are refusing the basic needs of every person, profiting from other people's unhappiness and destroying everything in order to get wealthier, and by governments that care only about their future and ignore the thousands of people of their nations. Science and technology is the way that David has to get Goliath to understand where this world is going. David cannot kill Goliath, but he can change his mind, he can show him that Goliath has the power to alter the future of both of them. This is what we need to do, change Goliath's mind.
