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Chair: Mr. Carrillo Gómez (Vice-Chair) (Paraguay)

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In the absence of Mr. Logar (Slovenia), Mr. Carrillo Gómez (Paraguay), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

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

Agenda item 26: Agriculture development, food security and nutrition (*continued*) (A/70/92, A/70/92/Corr.1, A/70/129, A/70/333; and A/C.2/70/2)

1. **Mr. Alarjani** (Saudi Arabia) said that during the global economic crisis of 2008, his country had contributed US\$ 500 million to support the World Food Programme (WFP). Over the previous few years, it had encouraged its private sector to invest in agriculture abroad, and encouraged developing countries to maintain investment-friendly laws and regulations. The Kingdom would continue to support the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and all hunger eradication efforts at the national, regional and international levels. Domestically, it had integrated food security and sustainable agriculture into its economic plans, and established a national committee to explore ways of reducing food waste, including through awareness campaigns and recycling programmes.

2. **Mr. Morales López** (Colombia) said that according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), approximately 795 million people still suffered from hunger worldwide; that was the challenge that lay before the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, committed to eradicating hunger by 2030. Eradicating hunger in a sustainable manner would require rural and agricultural development policies that integrated the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainability.

3. Patterns of sustainable consumption and production would be key to ensuring that agricultural development could meet current and future needs. The production and consumption of foodstuffs, essential for life, constituted the foremost example of a production chain that must be sustainable. Technology access by developing countries, especially environmentally friendly technologies, on favourable, concessional or preferential terms, as well as technology transfer to those countries, would be equally important. In order to use arable land while still preserving ecosystems, all countries must have access to sustainable agricultural technologies. That cross-cutting reality underpinned every phase of agricultural development, from the use of renewable energy, to the use of efficient irrigation systems and the

sustainable use of soils. Modern, resilient and climate-smart agriculture required new technologies.

4. Social protection policies in rural areas must be organized in harmony with rural and agricultural development policies. His country had adopted numerous policies on housing, education and financial inclusion and targeting rural populations, especially smallholder farmers, women and youth. In striving to put an end to armed conflict and transition towards peace, Colombia attached great importance to rural and agricultural development. Peace and prosperity started with sustainable rural and agricultural development.

5. **Ms. Derderian** (United States of America) said that her delegation was committed to working with all stakeholders to realize Goal 2 of the Sustainable Development Goals. In 2014, the Food for Peace Initiative had provided food aid valued at approximately US\$ 2.4 billion in 58 countries, as well as US\$ 865.6 million in grants for local and regional purchases of food commodities, vouchers and cash transfers under the Emergency Food Security Program. In addition to supporting the work of the World Food Programme, the United States provided 22 per cent of the FAO budget, as well as over US\$ 50 million on average in voluntary funding. Launched in 2010, the Feed the Future programme had contributed to global efforts to reduce poverty and malnutrition, reaching more than 12 million children with nutrition interventions, and providing nearly 7 million farmers and food producers with new technologies and management practices. Feed the Future had also formed more than 2,000 public-private partnerships to help build food security in 2014.

6. Research showed that good nutrition during the 1,000-day period from a woman's pregnancy through her child's second birthday was critical for saving lives and improving lifelong cognitive and physical development. Her country had thus adopted the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action and would continue working to elevate the importance of nutrition at the global and national levels through the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement and the upcoming Nutrition for Growth event.

7. The United States also provided support to systems of food self-sufficiency by developing additional initiatives between Governments, the United Nations, the private sector and civil society partnerships, including

the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, which had raised US\$ 1.8 billion in investments through 2014.

8. As climate change was a critical challenge to reliable food production, and the agriculture, forestry and land use sectors accounted for approximately one quarter of man-made greenhouse gas emissions, the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change must serve to effectively address poverty, inclusive growth and sustainability.

9. Demand for crops was expected to increase by 14 per cent every decade, starting in 2050. Without adaptation, climate change would negatively impact yields, pushing up global food prices over the same period by 3 to 84 per cent. A commitment to climate-smart agriculture was essential to build resilience within communities by adapting to the challenges posed by climate change, reducing agriculture's impact on the environment, and sustainably increasing production. The Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture had been launched in 2014 to address such challenges to food security and agriculture in a changing climate.

10. Roughly one third of the food produced in the world for human consumption was lost or wasted every year; reducing food waste and loss could play an important role in meeting the food security and nutrition needs of 9 billion people by 2050. Moreover, any discussion on food security must consider the plight of the ocean, including issues of overfishing, illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, marine pollution and ocean acidification. The second "Our Ocean" conference, recently held in Chile, had resulted in commitments to protect the oceans by government, intergovernmental and private sources valued at more than US\$ 2.1 billion; the United States would host the third "Our Ocean" conference in 2016.

11. **Mr. Momeni** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that while undernourishment had decreased by around 10 per cent over the past three decades, almost 800 million people remained chronically hungry, and over 1 billion people lived in extreme poverty on less than US\$ 1.25 per day. While the report of the Secretary-General on agriculture development, food security and nutrition (A/70/333) described some initiatives for improving agricultural development and food security, it did not address the trade dimension of agriculture and food

security in the context of the multilateral trading system. A balanced conclusion to the Doha Round, in particular with regard to agriculture, would play a crucial role in global initiatives and action in support of the 2030 Agenda. The existing divergence of views among States members of the World Trade Organization (WTO), especially with regard to export subsidies, remained a serious issue negatively affecting the lives of many in developing countries.

12. Goal 2 of the Sustainable Development Goals was critical for his country, which had made tremendous strides over the previous three decades in reducing food insecurity, achieving the lowest Global Hunger Index score in the Middle East. Given the importance of agricultural policies in the country's national development plan, the upcoming five-year development plan incorporated sustainable agriculture and other sustainable development goals. However, desertification, land degradation, drought, and dust and sand storms were serious concerns for sustainable agriculture in his country; addressing those challenges would require enhanced cooperation at the regional and international level.

13. Global challenges, such as a growing population, would place additional pressure on existing food systems, further increasing the need for a global partnership, especially with regard to funding and implementation. The partnership must be inclusive, integrated and transparent, and address the key challenges of sustainable development. Achieving objectives in the agricultural sector should be facilitated by more ambitious, fully inclusive and non-discriminatory provision of means of implementation, particularly finance and transfer of technology and associated know-how. One of the lessons learned from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) was that economic growth, while an important factor for success in the fight against hunger, was often insufficient to guarantee access to food. Growth must be accompanied by strong political will at the global level, and special action to ensure that it benefited the poor.

14. **Mr. Doucouré** (Mali) expressed his delegation's condolences to the people and Government of the Russian Federation on the death of the 224 passengers on board the aircraft downed in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, on 31 October.

15. Since agriculture accounted for the livelihood of more than 80 per cent of the economically active population in Mali and between 40 and 45 per cent of its gross domestic product (GDP), his Government prioritized agricultural development. FAO had rewarded his country for achieving Goal 1 of the MDGs on eradicating extreme poverty and hunger; indeed, the number of people suffering from hunger in Mali had dropped from 1.4 million in 1990-1992 to 0.7 million in 2014-2016. Mali was working to introduce technological progress into its agricultural systems, promote mechanization and make food processing a more significant part of the agricultural sector. Mali hoped to become one of West Africa's largest meat, dairy and freshwater fish producers as well as the region's breadbasket and a leader in agro-industry. To that end, it had adopted legislation and a number of national policies, plans and programmes that involved the agriculture, nutrition, health, and rural, social and sustainable development sectors. A multisectoral approach had been taken to fight malnutrition, with a view to better integrating nutrition into food security and emergency resilience programmes.

16. Out of respect for its international commitments, especially the Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security, his Government had allocated 15 per cent of its budget to agriculture for the second year in a row. The establishment of tractor assembly plants, policies to stabilize land tenure and input subsidies were among the measures that had been taken to encourage growth of the agriculture sector.

17. His Government supported the UNITLIFE initiative as an innovative source of financing provided by the extractive sector in the fight against malnutrition; it would use the levy on extractive industry revenue to finance programmes against malnutrition. Mali would spare no effort to achieve Goal 2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and suggested pooling the efforts of all development actors at the international level to that end.

18. **Mr. Shava** (Zimbabwe) expressed his delegation's sympathy to the people and Government of the Russian Federation in connection with the death of the 224 passengers on board the aircraft that had crashed in Sharm el-Sheikh.

19. Agricultural development was fundamental to ending hunger, achieving food security and improving nutrition, as well as promoting sustainable development

and sustained, inclusive economic growth. No country had ever been able to achieve a rapid transition out of poverty without increasing agricultural productivity. The agricultural sector accounted for the livelihood of over 70 per cent of Zimbabweans and between 15 and 25 per cent of the GDP. His country's economic blueprint envisioned the creation of a self-sufficient and food surplus economy, as well as a prosperous, diverse and competitive food security and nutrition sector that contributed significantly to national development. A number of programmes had been implemented to boost agricultural development and food security, including historic land reform that had resettled 300,000 landless rural households on arable lands.

20. Chronic drought was a major challenge to agriculture in Zimbabwe, and was exacerbated by climate change, often resulting in the loss of 35 per cent to 45 per cent of maize crops and thus affecting national food security. His Government had launched an irrigation rehabilitation and development programme to target chronic drought. To increase productivity, it had also launched a farm mechanization programme and promoted agricultural specialization with a view to empowering smallholder farmers. Lack of funding, a major challenge facing agriculture in Zimbabwe, often meant that farmers had no access to seeds and fertilizer. To address that problem, his Government was working with the local banking sector to mobilize financing for agriculture inputs for smallholder farmers.

21. The lack of sufficient agricultural financing was further compounded by falling rates of official development assistance (ODA) and loans from multilateral agencies, including the World Bank. Development assistance was vital to support the agricultural sector in developing countries, especially in Africa.

22. Agriculture was increasingly affected by global macroeconomic policy issues, especially international trade and finance. Barriers to international trade in agricultural products remained a great concern for many developing countries, while tariffs, subsidies and other trade-distorting policies in developed countries continued to undermine agriculture in developing countries. As policies and practices that significantly depressed international prices for agricultural commodities eroded the market share and incomes of developing countries, his delegation called for a speedy conclusion to the Doha Round.

23. Sustained and coordinated international cooperation was essential to ending hunger and ensuring global food security, and should take the form of technical and financial assistance and capacity-building. Agriculture must become a priority for the international development agenda. If international cooperation on agriculture were intensified, most countries would have a better chance of achieving the 2030 Agenda.

24. **Ms. Sule** (India) said that her delegation welcomed the inclusion of a stand-alone and comprehensive goal on ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture as part of the Sustainable Development Goals. Her country favoured the multi-pronged approach to tackling global food insecurity and malnutrition embodied in Goal 2. The Goal included targets on policy imperatives to facilitate its realization — from doubling the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers to strengthening capacity for adaptation to climate change; improving land and soil quality; increasing investment in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services; and preventing trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets. Balanced implementation of all those policy imperatives could engender a hunger-free world by 2030.

25. Goal 12 on ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns would also play a key role in achieving a hunger-free world. It was inexcusable that the world produced enough food to feed the global population, and yet millions went hungry because over one third of all food produced was wasted every year. Such waste was largely due to unsustainable and wasteful consumption patterns in developed countries, with the level of consumer food waste in industrialized countries alone almost equalling total food production in sub-Saharan Africa. Greater efforts must be made to create awareness and change attitudes in the developed world in order to save huge amounts of food. There were also unacceptably high levels of post-harvest losses in developing countries, the result of poor infrastructure and lack of advanced technologies for production, processing, packaging and transportation. Investment in rural infrastructure, transportation and storage facilities must be enhanced alongside the deployment of new technologies. Goal 12 and its target of halving per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reducing food losses along

production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses, was of critical importance.

26. Her country fed 17 per cent of the world's population on less than 5 per cent of the world's water and 3 per cent of its arable land. Agriculture had contributed over 16 per cent of the nation's income in 2014-2015 and provided employment to 55 per cent of its population. Her delegation was proud that Indian agriculture had achieved self-sufficiency, not only meeting the needs of the country's population, but also playing a major role in agricultural trade. Farmers should be supported in enhancing their productivity, combating the negative effects of climate change and safeguarding their production from the adverse impact of declining international commodity prices. To that end, her Government had launched major programmes to revive public investment in agriculture. It had also started a flagship agricultural science centre in every district throughout the country, where farmers could be included in research programmes and receive and share agricultural information via mobile technologies, thus increasing production.

27. Recognizing the value of declaring 2015 as the International Year of Soils to increase awareness of the soil's importance for food security and ecosystem sustainability, India had created Soil Health Cards that would be issued to all farmers over a three-year period. At the same time, the National Food Security Act aimed to provide food and nutritional security to all by ensuring access to quality food at affordable prices, and a flagship midday meal programme had been launched to provide all school-attending children with a free meal every day.

28. To ensure food security for all, gender equality and women's empowerment must be prioritized, with a particular focus on social inclusion and equal access to economic opportunities and resources in rural areas.

29. **Mr. Sukhee** (Mongolia) expressed condolences to the people and Government of the Russian Federation on the death of the 224 passengers on board the aircraft that had crashed in Sharm el-Sheikh.

30. While 216 million people had been lifted out of hunger worldwide, overall progress in reducing hunger had been highly uneven. His delegation therefore welcomed the Sustainable Development Goals and in particular Goal 2, designed to end all forms of hunger and malnutrition by 2030.

31. Mongolia's agricultural sector contributed about 14 per cent of its total GDP and employed 28.6 per cent of its labour force. State policies on food and agriculture were aimed at creating a better economic and business environment; increasing production capacity and capability; ensuring the stable development and growth of the livestock, crop and food sectors; and producing and effectively distributing ecologically cleaner, better-quality and safer foodstuffs. Implementation of the country's Third Crop Campaign had introduced environmentally friendly and zero-tillage technology to conserve soil fertility, as well as new harvesting equipment and machinery, ultimately achieving national self-sufficiency in wheat production. The Zero Hunger Challenge was a useful framework for national plans to address hunger and its underlying causes: Mongolia had hosted the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific the previous year.

32. As the majority of the country's food was imported, rising foreign currencies and the costs of transporting food, coupled with the poor quality of food, brought on malnutrition, which was especially high among children. The double burden of undernutrition and obesity was also an emerging issue in Mongolia. The Second International Conference on Nutrition, held in Rome in 2014, had focused attention on strengthening institutional policy coherence and coordination to improve nutrition and mobilize the necessary resources to that end.

33. As a landlocked country, Mongolia was vulnerable to climate change, desertification and land degradation, which affected its agricultural sector. To address those emerging challenges, his Government had adopted an ambitious and forward-looking Green Development Policy in June 2014, with a number of initiatives to strengthen the national resilience capacity, reduce the negative impacts of climate change and meet domestic demand for wheat and vegetables.

34. **Mr. González Franco** (Paraguay) expressed his delegation's sympathy to the people and Government of the Russian Federation in connection with the death of the 224 passengers on board the aircraft that had crashed in Sharm el-Sheikh.

35. The fight against poverty in all its dimensions with full respect for human rights was a priority of his Government and central to its policies. Paraguay hoped to generate a fruitful debate within the international

community on the consequences of climate change, paying special attention to its impact on developing countries and the most vulnerable populations.

36. His Government's main priority was guaranteeing food security and definitively eradicating undernutrition. To that end, it had launched social programmes focusing on extreme poverty, through tied aid and other strategies that might be able to provide holistic and permanent solutions to help individuals become self-sufficient and achieve their full potential.

37. The country's law on school feeding and health controls had incorporated nutritional education and was supporting family farmers through local purchases. The programme provided breakfast and afternoon snacks to 90 per cent of all students, as well as lunch for 15 per cent, a total investment of US\$ 95 million. Paraguay had almost achieved universal elementary school attendance, with no differences across gender, economic situation or area of residence. School nutrition policies based on family agriculture ensured that all children would receive the necessary food to continue their education and live healthy lives, thus creating a virtuous circle for local producers.

38. His delegation urged the international community to thoroughly analyse the impact of climate change, especially drought, desertification and natural disasters, on landlocked developing countries, as those phenomena directly affected capacities for agricultural development and food security.

39. His delegation also urged the international community to help mitigate and reverse the effects of climate change and develop resilience. Action to be taken to that end should include strengthening national action plans in landlocked developing countries; promoting investment in climate-safe agricultural innovation; diversifying economies; ensuring access to water; promoting renewable energy development; establishing and strengthening early warning systems for natural disasters; raising public awareness about the risks of climate change and facilitating access to relevant information; incentivizing scientific research and development, as well as data collection, analysis and dissemination; and developing and strengthening institutional and human capacity in landlocked developing countries.

40. **Ms. Prizreni** (Albania) said that agriculture development and food security and nutrition — in addition to being central to the most important

Sustainable Development Goal, the Zero Hunger Challenge — would be key issues in the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and at the Paris Climate Change Conference. Her Government was committed to developing sustainable food systems that were inclusive, resilient, safe and diverse; provided healthy and affordable food to all people in a human rights-based framework; and minimized waste and conserved biodiversity while adapting to and mitigating impacts of climate change. It was therefore focused on building interdepartmental and cross-sector coordination at regional, national, local and community levels to integrate food policy into social, economic and environmental policies, programmes and initiatives, such as food supply and distribution, nutrition-sensitive social protection, equity, food production, education and waste reduction.

41. Ending hunger and malnutrition and achieving food security would require dedicated resources to develop rural areas, sustainable agriculture and sustainable fisheries by supporting smallholder farmers, especially women farmers, herders and fishers. Current food systems in Albania faced challenges in providing permanent and reliable access to adequate, safe, local, diversified, fair, healthy and rich food for all, due to constraints imposed by unbalanced distribution and access, environmental degradation, resource scarcity, climate change, unsustainable production and consumption patterns, and food loss and waste. In order to better address the issue of food loss and waste, her Government was supporting family farmers and smallholder producers by creating an integrated system to collect and redistribute crops. It was also seeking coherence between the city and nearby rural food production, processing and distribution, with a focus on smallholder producers and family farmers. By providing services to food producers in peri-urban and rural areas, including financial assistance (credit, technology, food safety, and market access), her Government was working to build a multigenerational and economically viable food system with inputs such as compost from food waste and grey water from post-consumer use, while ensuring that those did not compete with human consumption.

42. Hunger and malnutrition were a great burden on individual health and well-being, and imposed great social and economic costs on households, communities and nations. By supporting shorter food chains,

producer organizations, producer-to-consumer networks and platforms and other market systems, her country was trying to develop sustainable food systems and promote safe nutrition. As a country where a large portion of the population lived in rural areas, small farmers, smallholder producers and family farmers played a key role in feeding the population, and helped to maintain resilient, equitable, culturally appropriate food systems, and reorient food systems and value chains towards healthy nutrition.

43. Women and youth were important for agriculture development, food security and nutrition; civil society and the private sector should also play a major role. Such stakeholders brought experience and innovation and organized awareness campaigns for more sustainable food systems by mainstreaming the crucial need for a social, economic, environmental and rights-based national food policy.

44. **Mr. Abdou** (Niger) said that agriculture and livestock industry were the source of the livelihoods of 80 per cent of the population of the Niger and accounted for 46 per cent of the country's GDP. The sector was plagued by climate-related hazards that threatened the normal development of those production chains and their contribution to national development as a whole. The combined effects of drought and flooding, land degradation, pests, and the decline in arable land had for decades engendered chronic nutritional deficits and quasi-permanent food instability. As a result, his Government had increasingly focused its efforts on achieving self-sufficiency and food security through a number of national policies and strategies, the most recent of which, the 3N Initiative, also drew on the successful experience of countries with similar agro-economic profiles and was consistent with regional agriculture plans, such as those put forward by the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States and the West African Economic and Monetary Union.

45. The 3N Initiative was aimed at building resilience to food and nutrition insecurity following major demographic growth, while ensuring that the agricultural sector was a vector for social transformation and economic growth. Its objective was to protect the people of the Niger from hunger, ensure their full participation in national production and increase their income. Its actions to that end were designed to cover shortfalls in national food security, improve the quality of food, and increase agricultural productivity and

diversification; enhance the resilience capacity of poor households through income generation; reduce malnutrition among the most vulnerable groups through nutritional education and diversification; and build national and local capacity to predict, prevent and manage food crises. Through the implementation of the 3N Initiative, his country had managed to reduce by half the number of people suffering from hunger and had thus achieved Goal 1 of the MDGs. His country welcomed the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, in particular targets 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 of Sustainable Development Goal 2, which would bolster national efforts to eliminate hunger and malnutrition by 2030.

46. Thirty per cent of the world's hungry lived in least developed countries, which were home to only 12 per cent of the global population. Despite progress made in the implementation of the MDGs, the situation in many least developed countries remained dire. In countries like his that were primarily desert regions, sustainable agriculture capable of feeding the national population and increasing revenue would be dependent on promoting resilient agriculture and fighting desertification.

47. His delegation called for the harmonization of all sectors relevant to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and in particular for special attention to its means of implementation. It was therefore necessary to increase investment in agriculture, environmental sustainability, the preservation of biodiversity, sustainable land management, smallholder farmers and resilience-building. Increased aid and the establishment of the proposed technology bank for least developed countries would also help those countries to work towards economic transformation and growth with a view to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The goals outlined in the United Nations Framework Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa would have to be implemented in order to achieve sustainable agricultural development in arid countries.

48. **Mr. Maturu** (Kenya) said that the challenges facing the agricultural development, food security and nutrition sectors were unfinished business of the MDGs. As most people in least developed countries relied on agriculture for their livelihood, food security and nutrition were essential for eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development. However, due to expensive inputs and the subsequent high cost of

production, food security remained a challenge. Global food prices were beyond the reach of the poor, who constituted the majority of the world's population. Almost 800 million people were hungry or lacked sufficient food to conduct an active and healthy life, and almost one out of four people who were hungry lived in sub-Saharan Africa. As Africa spent close to US\$ 35 billion annually on food imports, despite having between 50 and 60 per cent of the world's unused arable land, addressing food insecurity was a key priority for the continent.

49. His delegation welcomed the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and Framework for Action. Agriculture was the mainstay of his country's economy, contributing 24 per cent of GDP. It was a very important source of livelihood for the majority of Kenyans in rural areas and was closely linked to manufacturing, distribution and other service sectors. His Government was therefore launching an agricultural sector development strategy to propel the sector towards representing 10 per cent of annual economic growth, transforming agriculture into a profitable activity that attracted adequate and sustained private investment and provided gainful employment. Other important interventions included subsidizing farm inputs, offering research and extension services to farmers, improving rural infrastructure, developing rural agricultural markets and agribusiness skills, and reviving and expanding existing irrigation programmes.

50. Despite such interventions, speculation continued to exacerbate food insecurity. His Government, convinced that a well regulated market could address distortions while protecting the interests of both farmers and consumers, was committed to ensuring that commercial actors played a limited role in the food market. Market distortions were being addressed by purchasing produce surpluses from farmers to stabilize market prices. Appropriate and participatory policies were also being used to intensify and commercialize production with a view to increasing productivity and incomes for smallholder farmers. Diversification into non-traditional agricultural commodities was being encouraged; assistance was being provided to build the capacity of smallholder farmers to enter those new areas.

51. Through a partnership between the Government and private organizations, half the country's population was expected to have access to nutritionally fortified wheat flour, vegetable oil and maize meal within the

next five years. A national nutrition action plan was being finalized by the Government and nutrition budgets had been mainstreamed into its medium-term development plan. However, although many countries were fully committed to addressing the challenge of food security at the national level, their efforts would not be meaningful unless adequate resources were available. His delegation urged the international community and multilateral institutions to provide resources for agricultural projects in countries that had historically been left behind, especially least developed countries and African countries. It also called for the elimination of all forms of agricultural subsidies and other market-distorting measures by developed countries in contravention of WTO rules.

52. **Mr. Abebe** (Ethiopia) said that more than 60 countries, including his, had met the MDG target of halving hunger. Despite progress, however, hunger and malnutrition remained the top developmental challenge requiring urgent and concerted action. Ending hunger and ensuring food security required a shift to resilient, diverse and productive agriculture and food security systems that were environmentally, socially and economically sustainable. In that regard, agricultural technology was key to achieving the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda related to food security, nutrition and agriculture. As agriculture was a fundamental tool for reducing poverty and ensuring food security, his delegation welcomed the emphasis on enhancing the production of smallholder farmers in the Secretary-General's report.

53. As agriculture was the mainstay of the Ethiopian economy, his Government had launched the Agricultural Development-Led Industrialization strategy to transform the agricultural sector to contribute to inclusive and sustainable industrialization. Encouraging results had been witnessed in enhancing the production and productivity of smallholder farmers. Thanks to continued public and private investment, the agricultural sector had grown at an average of 8 per cent per annum for the previous 12 years. His country continued to intensify its efforts to ensure food security by taking comprehensive measures, including voluntary resettlement, productive safety nets and a national nutrition programme.

54. By emphasizing technology transfer and dissemination, his country had strengthened extension and agricultural research systems, deploying more than 60,000 development agents at the local level to assist

farmers. Information and communication technologies (ICTs) had also been introduced in the agriculture sector, especially to provide market services and climate information to farmers.

55. Despite progress, ensuring food security by further enhancing agricultural productivity remained a development priority, and sustainable agricultural development was at the heart of national plans and strategies. His delegation was committed to fighting poverty in all its dimensions, including food insecurity, by redoubling its efforts to achieve inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

56. As agreed in Addis Ababa, the international community should support sustainable agriculture by improving access to markets, promoting the transfer of appropriate technologies and creating an enabling environment at all levels. Goal 2 of the Sustainable Development Goals was a daunting challenge that required a revitalized partnership among international, regional and national developmental actors through coordinated initiatives.

57. **Mr. Irawan** (Indonesia) said that during the era of the MDGs, more than 50 per cent of developing countries had reached the target concerning hunger. In addition, undernourishment had fallen to nearly 11 per cent in 2014 globally, from 18.6 per cent in 1992. However, close to 800 million people were still undernourished. Three global trends must be addressed in order to work towards Goal 2 of the Sustainable Development Goals. First, growing populations and rapid urbanization had contributed to changing land use patterns in developing countries and competition for land had intensified. Second, rapid urbanization could lead to a decrease in male agricultural workers and to rural feminization. Third, exposure to natural hazards and disasters as well as climate change brought about food insecurity. Between 2003 and 2013, natural hazards and disasters in developing regions had affected more than 1.9 billion people and caused nearly half a trillion US dollars in estimated damage. The agriculture sector absorbed approximately 22 per cent of the total economic impact of such disasters, clearly affecting the capacity of the sector to support food security.

58. Agriculture played a central role in reducing poverty and creating employment, especially in rural areas, and had multiplier effects on other sectors. Ending hunger would require boosting agricultural

productivity. Appropriate and affordable technologies that increased agricultural production and capacity leading to greater exports of agricultural products, especially for smallholder farmers and fishers, should be developed. Investment should be made in research and development to increase agricultural yields, particularly in developing countries, where urbanization was expected to grow at a rapid pace. It was also important to establish safe, secure and stable markets to enable sustainable and resilient food systems, minimizing the effects of excessive price volatility. Women should also be provided with greater resources as their role in agriculture expanded.

59. Given the dwindling amount of arable land, as well as the conversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes, greater emphasis should be placed on marine resources and fisheries, and on improving the living conditions of smallholder fishers. Appropriate climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies to ensure sustainable production would be equally important. Certain structural challenges would require international cooperation, including in the development of agricultural and fishery products, the protection of biodiversity, and the promotion of strategic food sources to enhance food market opportunities, added value, and utilities.

60. **Ms. Pobee** (Ghana) said that agricultural development, food security and nutrition were high on the national agenda. As agriculture accounted for about 50 per cent of the total workforce, improvement in the sector's productivity would raise the average real incomes of a large percentage of the population and lead to rural transformation and development. Agriculture remained the main tool to achieve food security and end hunger as well as reduce poverty.

61. Like many other countries on the African continent, Ghana enjoyed conditions that should ordinarily lead to high agricultural productivity. And yet its agricultural capacity was constrained by a combination of factors that reduced farmers' incentives to invest and produce, including obsolete irrigation systems, inadequate extension services and insufficient agricultural financing. Progress was also considerably slowed by the lack of technological change and poor basic infrastructure; inadequate human resource and managerial skills; poor natural resource management; and the lack of technology development and dissemination, and market access.

62. Dedicated investments in agriculture would greatly enhance her country's ability to deliver on the promises of the 2030 Agenda. Ghana therefore welcomed the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme being pursued with other development partners to generate greater private investment in agricultural development, scale up innovation, achieve sustainable food security outcomes, reduce poverty and end hunger. With a view to implementing the Programme at the national level, it had introduced additional incentives for private-sector investments in agriculture, together with other measures aimed at facilitating inclusive access to and productive use of land and mainstreaming nutrition into all food security and agriculture-related programmes. As a result, her country had made great strides in agricultural growth. The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme was an example of African ownership and leadership in advancing agricultural development on the continent and was a viable model for inclusive and strategic collaboration among Governments, donors and the private sector.

63. Although a significant portion of the world's remaining arable lands and vast untapped resources were in Africa, the green revolution had not yet taken off on that continent. With improved seeds, fertilizers, appropriate technology and agricultural extension and advice, Africa could expand its agricultural productivity as well as provide jobs and hope for the future for its youth. The development of sustainable agriculture on the continent would also go hand in hand with the expansion of agroprocessing and agribusiness, for which Africa had a comparative advantage. Agriculture development, food security and nutrition would not progress automatically. Concerted efforts from all stakeholders would be required, which called for new and innovative thinking, partnerships, renewed commitment and forward-looking action.

64. **Ms. Rodríguez Pineda** (Guatemala) said that extreme poverty in her country had been reduced by 4.7 per cent between 1989 and 2011. Progress had been slow but steady. However, inadequate growth, combined with a series of severe weather events, had caused death and destruction, impacted infrastructure and impeded economic production, in particular in the agricultural sector. The agricultural workforce was declining as a result of migration, since most migrants were male. A middle-income country that also faced geopolitical challenges, Guatemala relied on cooperation

with developed countries, humanitarian assistance and regional and international support to fend off climate change, strengthen national institutions and achieve sustainability.

65. Inequality was another major issue. She noted the high correlation between regions with high levels of inequality and chronic malnutrition; those regions were also the most densely populated with indigenous and rural inhabitants. A national movement started in 2012 aimed to eliminate hunger with the support of the Government, civil society and international partners; however, chronic malnutrition indicators remained high. The draft resolution on agriculture development, food security and nutrition adopted during the current session should incorporate language on implementing the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda, agreements reached at the Second International Conference on Nutrition, and agreements between Member States should drive the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The universal goals it embodied should be adapted to national priorities. Her country was grateful for the support of international aid agencies and United Nations programmes in dealing with the adverse effects of climate change. The Second Committee should, in turn, work to reduce inequality and eradicate poverty and hunger. Lastly, an internal evaluation of the United Nations should be carried out within the framework of the 2030 Agenda so that all parts of the system could be more nimble and efficient in addressing the challenges of the Sustainable Development Goals.

66. **Mr. Gone** (Côte d'Ivoire) said that food security was a major concern and required ever greater mobilization by the international community. In his country, the agricultural sector employed 10 million people out of a total population of 23 million and accounted for over 40 per cent of exports. His Government's national agricultural investment programme and the related detailed investment plan were based on the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme developed within the framework of the New Partnership for Africa's Development. The programme aimed to expand the agricultural sector at an annual rate of 9 per cent; reduce food insecurity; reduce poverty and inequality; stimulate agro-industry so that it processed at least 50 per cent of local produce; and create jobs, in particular for young people. The programme had already made

significant progress since 2012, primarily by increasing crop yields.

67. His Government also sought to process agricultural produce into finished or semi-finished goods, thereby adding value to them. For both food production and food processing, the challenges were agricultural modernization, financing, research and technology. His delegation welcomed the support of bilateral and institutional partners and urged the international community to adopt more ambitious initiatives to transfer technology to developing countries. International trade was also a challenge since developing countries needed a fair and equitable international environment to be able to pass on the benefits of reduced poverty and inequality to their peoples. His delegation called for the effective implementation of the Bali package.

68. **Ms. Adhikari** (Nepal) expressed her delegation's sympathy to the people and Government of the Russian Federation in connection with the death of the 224 passengers on board the aircraft downed in Sharm el-Sheikh.

69. Rapid progress in eradicating poverty and hunger had been achieved as a result of investment in a sustainable food system; strengthened South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation; and exchanges of experience between all stakeholders. As a landlocked least developed country emerging from conflict and vulnerable to multiple disasters, Nepal had been implementing both the Istanbul Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries and the Vienna Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries. As agriculture was the mainstay of its economy, the inextricable link between poverty, food security and nutrition prevented its people from improving their quality of life and exercising their human rights. The problems facing the agricultural sector in least developed countries included a lack of sustainability; rising costs; high food prices; land fragmentation and declining soil fertility; and declining crop yields caused by climate change and disasters. Those problems and poverty created a vicious circle that affected the poorest countries and persons, including women and young people.

70. It was extremely important to enhance productivity through sustainable agriculture and universal social protection floors. However, sustained and predictable means of implementation were even more important;

sustainable graduation of the least developed countries would depend on modern and sustainable agriculture development. The recommendations made by the Committee on World Food Security should therefore be implemented. Her country valued the attention to food waste and the right to food in the face of globalization, but a balance should be struck between poverty and hunger, on the one hand, and food waste on the other. The Secretary-General's commendable Zero Hunger Challenge addressed food security issues holistically and should receive due emphasis in future.

71. The efforts made by least developed countries and landlocked developing countries to achieve economic growth would be facilitated by affordable, sustainable and climate-resilient agricultural technology that would contribute to food security while enhancing trade. Accordingly, a free, fair and frequent flow of goods and services and an early operationalization of the technology bank for least developed countries were vital for countries such as Nepal. Although two thirds of Nepal's population was dependent on agriculture, agriculture contributed less than one third of its gross domestic product. Furthermore, its per capita arable land area was one of the smallest in the world. Consequently, Nepal had incorporated the internationally agreed development goals, including the Istanbul Programme of Action and the Vienna Programme of Action, into its national plan and would do the same with the 2030 Agenda.

72. Although Nepal had been on track to achieve most of the Millennium Development Goals, the earthquake that had struck earlier in 2015 meant that it would fall short. Her Government was focusing on reconstruction with a "build back better" approach, as well as agriculture, food security, capacity-building and infrastructure development, improved connectivity, and domestic resource mobilization. There was a need for a revitalized global partnership in the field of agriculture development with policy coherence, better cooperation with relevant stakeholders, and sustainable technological advances. The fulfilment of official development assistance commitments and increased investments in the agricultural sector could make an immense contribution to that end.

73. **Mr. Biya** (Cameroon) said that rural development necessary for developing countries to realize the Sustainable Development Goals would be impossible without sustainable agricultural technologies. He urged Member States and relevant United Nations agencies to

redouble their efforts to perfect agricultural technologies that would also mitigate the effects of climate change, drought and desertification, and to scale up sustainable technology transfer to developing countries.

74. A revolution in agricultural technology would have a tremendous impact on Africa, where the sector was a source of livelihood for two thirds of the population. With that in mind, the African Union, under its Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, had set a goal of 6 per cent annual growth in agriculture. In 2014, the African Union had also adopted the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation of Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods.

75. In Cameroon, the Ministry of Agriculture and Development and the Ministry of Scientific Research were working together to revitalize agronomy research institutes. During the period 2014-2020, Cameroon would attempt to achieve the goals under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme by channelling 3,550 billion CFA francs into the development of production chains; the modernization of production infrastructure; the elaboration of financing mechanisms; management and sustainable development of natural resources; and capacity-building. Already, a number of agricultural training institutes had opened across the nation. Additional training would be provided to vulnerable groups, including women and youth, and a special bank to finance agriculture had just opened. Cameroon would be grateful for financial and technological support from its development partners to expedite completion of those undertakings.

76. **Mr. Sarki** (Nigeria) expressed condolences to the people and Government of the Russian Federation on the death of the 224 passengers on board the aircraft downed in Sharm el-Sheikh.

77. His delegation welcomed the recognition given to smallholder and family farmers in the report of the Secretary-General on agriculture development, food security and nutrition ([A/70/333](#)). With the global economic crisis and the effects of climate change having left nearly 900 million people suffering from chronic undernourishment, it was time to focus renewed attention on agriculture, particularly in Africa. He called for regional and international support to help developing countries enhance agricultural productivity,

improve the nutritional quality of crops and develop sustainable farming practices. He was hopeful that the partnership among the Global Alliance for Resilience Initiative — Sahel, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the West African Economic and Monetary Union and the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel would develop long-term strategies for addressing the endemic food crises in the Sahel.

78. The Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative should be implemented with the full support and cooperation of the international community. Access to water should be conditional on conservation and expansion of renewable sources. The efforts of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa should be mainstreamed into the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme of the New Partnership for Africa's Development. His delegation also commended the twin-track approach to food security and nutrition of the High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis and was particularly pleased with the traction gained by the Zero Hunger Challenge launched by the Secretary-General in 2012. Coordinated actions should be taken to achieve the sustainable, inclusive and resilient food and nutrition targets outlined in the 2030 Agenda.

79. Efforts to address food insecurity and poverty should be nationally articulated and designed. His Government's Agricultural Transformation Agenda focused on key agricultural chains to create jobs and additional income for Nigerian farmers. Its medium- and long-term strategies included soft loans for university graduates interested in farming, support for rural agricultural development and irrigation schemes, and the Cassava Bread Fund to encourage the addition of cassava to wheat flour. It had established a National Food Security Programme with a view to boosting domestic production and developing agro-allied industries. His Government was also promoting the sustainable use of water, providing a range of services to farmers (including extension services, rural infrastructure and a farmers' database) and encouraging food processing that maintained the nutritional value of food.

80. Stressing that agriculture and food security remained the fundamental pillars for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Sustainable Development Goals, he called for greater investment in agriculture research

and development, increased funding and investment in agricultural production, and an exchange of experiences between countries with similar agricultural development challenges.

81. **Mr. Homevor** (Togo) said that his Government's Agricultural Production Recovery Strategy and National Agriculture and Food Security Investment Programme were in line with the regional vision of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme. National measures were focused on crop and livestock farming, sustainable fishing, technical management and training, and access to agricultural financing, with a view to extending the benefits of development (including education and health care) to poor people who tended to live in rural areas. The Government had established special funds to support poor farmers and young entrepreneurs. Over the previous decade, his country had gone from a grain deficit to a grain surplus, with a corresponding reduction in undernourishment, an achievement for which it had been recognized by FAO at that organization's 2013 and 2014 Rome conferences. Its global acute malnutrition rate among children under 5 years of age had dropped from 14.3 per cent in 2006 to 6.6 per cent in 2014. Togo supplied foodstuffs to neighbouring countries and also sold grain to WFP.

82. **Ms. Gazizulina** (Kazakhstan) said that addressing gender and geographic imbalances in food security and nutrition would require the empowerment of women, who were the main care providers, as well as macroeconomic strategies to prevent the kind of shortages and price fluctuations that were associated with globalized markets. Her Government had formulated national development priorities even before the Sustainable Development Goals had been conceptualized. Kazakhstan had made dramatic progress in achieving the MDGs, including increasing its GDP, decreasing its poverty rate and reducing its greenhouse gas emissions, and was poised to make further progress under its Kazakhstan 2050 and Green Economy initiatives.

83. She expressed gratitude to FAO for technical assistance in developing organic production, improving seeds and combating disease and pests. Kazakhstan had taken the lead in the creation of the Islamic Organization for Food Security, which would be headquartered in its capital Astana. The new organization would enable Asian, African, Eastern European and Latin American countries to import grain and other supplies, and would

contribute to infrastructure projects. Kazakhstan would also be hosting Expo 2017, which would contribute to realizing Goal 7 of the Sustainable Development Goals and could serve as a springboard for the establishment of an international centre for green technologies to be based in Astana, as proposed by her country's President during the opening week of the seventieth session of the General Assembly.

84. **Mr. Golistyn** (Ukraine) said that although the number of people suffering from hunger had been significantly reduced, it remained unacceptably high. His country was well aware of the importance of investment in agriculture not only to reducing hunger but also to overall economic growth, and encouraged intensified coordination between the three Rome-based agencies — FAO, WFP and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) — and the international financial institutions. As an active participant in the Agricultural Market Information System, Ukraine attached great importance to stability and predictability in the food market. He expressed gratitude for the continued support and assistance of the international community in repairing the damage done to his country's agricultural sector by the recent aggression of the Russian Federation. As the Food Security Cluster coordinator of the 2015 humanitarian response plan for Ukraine, WFP had provided food assistance to hundreds of thousands of people in conflict-affected areas in eastern Ukraine.

85. In spite of the conflict, Ukraine had maintained its position as a major exporter of grain, harvesting 54 million tons in 2015, half of which would be for export. It was in the process of harmonizing its national legislation with European Union quality and safety standards, and had launched a series of agricultural reforms to promote privatization, investment and integration into the European model. With support from the European Union, it had elaborated a draft Strategy for Agricultural and Rural Development 2015-2020. Ukraine would continue to cooperate with the Rome-based agencies and the international community to ensure achievement of the six Sustainable Development Goals related to hunger and malnutrition.

86. **Reverend Grech** (Observer for the Holy See) said that before implementing Goal 2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, it was important to evaluate the progress that had been made on Goal 1 of the MDGs. The success of over half the world's

developing countries in lifting people out of hunger and reducing undernourishment was encouraging, as were recent forecasts that the number of people living in extreme poverty was expected to fall below 10 per cent before the end of 2015. However, as the Secretary-General's report had noted, progress in reducing hunger had been uneven, with a high proportion of the world's hungry living in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. Persons living in conflict regions, and especially mothers and children, were acutely vulnerable. Evaluations had clearly shown that countries in conflict had lagged far behind in achieving the MDGs; Goal 2 of the Sustainable Development Goals could only be achieved in peaceful societies.

87. Pope Francis had repeatedly expressed his concern over the "paradox of plenty", whereby one third of global food production was lost to waste, distribution problems, and even deliberate destruction for the purposes of "market stabilization". The international community should not allow a throwaway culture and the globalization of indifference to anesthetize it to the suffering of people who were so concerned about fighting for their daily nourishment that they could not even think about formulating aspirations for the future. Defeating hunger had not only economic and scientific dimensions, but an ethical dimension as well. The 2014 International Year of Family Farming had been an opportunity to reflect on the important role in driving development played by the over 500 million family farms around the world. The family environment also bred an awareness of others and a love of the harmony of sustainable creation.

88. **Mr. Shawesh** (Observer for the State of Palestine) expressed condolences to the people and Government of the Russian Federation on the death of the 224 passengers on board the aircraft downed in Sharm el-Sheikh.

89. Palestinians could hardly follow the classical economic model based on agriculture when the percentage of GDP accounted for by their agricultural sector was only a small fraction of what it had been prior to the Israeli occupation. The delegation of the occupation regime would be submitting to the Committee a resolution on agricultural technology for development that was full of high-minded sentiments that that regime did not put into practice in the territories under its control. For example, that resolution encouraged international, regional and national efforts to strengthen capacity in developing

countries, especially that of smallholder and family farmers, at a time when the Israeli authorities were destroying traditional culture by increasing pressure on 7,000 Bedouins and herders in 46 communities, most of whom were Palestinian refugees, to leave their places of residence. That was not to mention the more than 1,000 km² of Palestinian-owned land, comprising 20 per cent of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, that had been confiscated by Israel as of the year 2013. Israel's draft resolution also called upon Member States to include sustainable agricultural development as an integral part of their national policies and strategies, even though it had destroyed thousands of acres of fruit trees, harvestable vegetables and topsoil during its war against Gaza in the summer of 2014. He wondered what the position of the international community should be towards a State that was failing to comply with the provisions of its own draft resolutions.

90. **Mr. Bleicher** (International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)), speaking also on behalf of the other two Rome-based agencies, FAO and WFP, said that the year 2015 was a milestone in the eradication of hunger and malnutrition. The target of halving hunger had been achieved by 73 out of the 129 developing countries, and the developing regions as a whole had missed it by only a small margin. A key factor in that success had been inclusive economic growth focused on the productivity of small and family farms, social protection mechanisms and resilience to extreme climatic events. He stressed the need for political commitment, respect for human rights and the integration of humanitarian and development assistance to address protracted crises resulting from conflict and natural disasters.

91. The 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda had recognized the need for an integrated implementation framework that matched the interconnected nature of the challenges. FAO, IFAD and WFP were committed to leaving no one behind, including smallholder farmers in the rural areas where most of the world's poor and hungry lived. A Zero Hunger world would require public and private investments to raise agricultural productivity and reduce all forms of malnutrition, including stunting; better access, especially for smallholders, to inputs, land, services, technologies and markets; measures to promote rural development; empowerment of women and youth; measures to ensure adequate nutrition,

especially during pregnancy and early childhood; social protection and strengthened resilience for the most vulnerable; and a strategy that took into account the increasing challenges posed by climate change and the need to feed a growing population. The Rome-based agencies had concluded that an additional annual investment of US\$ 267 billion between 2016 and 2030 could lift every person out of hunger.

92. There was no single solution, but rather various solutions that needed to be tailored to the realities of specific regions and even specific villages. Sustainable agricultural development had the potential not only to lift family farmers out of poverty but also to turn them into contributors to their nations' economic growth. There was already enough food to feed every man, woman and child on the planet. The challenge was to ensure that the benefits of growing more food reached the people most in need.

93. **Ms. Raviola-Borovik** (Russian Federation), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that she could not remain silent in the face of the politically motivated and unfounded statements made by the representative of Ukraine. Problems in the agricultural sector of Ukraine were entirely the fault of that State's Government. Over the previous year and a half, her country had sent dozens of humanitarian convoys to the southeast of Ukraine carrying more than 5,000 tons of humanitarian assistance, including medications, foodstuffs, seeds and fertilizers. Moreover, it had delivered that assistance in spite of the blockade imposed on the region by the Ukrainian authorities. She wished to recall that over 96 per cent of the population of the Crimean peninsula had voted to be reunited with the Russian Federation in a democratic and transparent referendum monitored by international observers. The Committee was supposed to be addressing economic and social issues, and was not the place for politically motivated accusations.

94. She expressed her gratitude to those delegations that had conveyed their condolences to the Russian people on the recent air disaster in Egypt.

95. **Mr. Sela** (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that much of what the representative of the State of Palestine had said was not true, and was merely another attempt to politicize the professional work of the Committee. He would be very pleased if the representative accepted his delegation's call to return to a dialogue of peace.

96. His delegation gave thanks to the countries supporting the trilateral and multilateral programmes launched by Israel. He had seen Palestinian farmers arriving in Israel to take advantage of Israeli knowledge for better agricultural production. The draft resolution put forth by Israel sought to provide support to all countries working towards improved agriculture.

97. **Mr. Golitsyn** (Ukraine), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that his statement was not politically motivated and had been based on nothing but facts. The unlawful seizure of an area that was comparable in size to some European countries had naturally affected agricultural production in his country. The humanitarian actions that the Russian Federation claimed to have taken would not have been necessary had that country not initiated military action in the first place.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.