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later: Ms. Nipomici (Republic of Moldova)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Item 25: Agriculture development, food security and nutrition (A/71/89-E/2016/69 and A/71/283)

1. **Mr. Mukherjee** (Policy Analysis Branch of the Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on agriculture development, food security and nutrition (A/71/283), said that the report outlined progress in eradicating hunger and malnutrition and achieving food security for all in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which incorporated the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Sustainable Development Goal 2 renewed the pledge to fight hunger and malnutrition and expanded its scope. The relationships between Sustainable Development Goal 2 and the other Goals illustrated the fundamental role of agriculture, food security and nutrition in the 2030 Agenda, which had opened up a new, more holistic approach to fighting hunger and malnutrition.

2. Section III of the report focused on Sustainable Development Goal 2, targets 2.1 and 2.2, on ending hunger and malnutrition. Addressing malnutrition in all its forms required integrated action across sectors, including in agriculture, food systems, public health and education. Nutrition was being mainstreamed in an increasing number of countries, particularly in Africa, Asia and Latin America, and being given greater prominence in regional development strategies. Although the report highlighted data on progress towards the six internationally agreed targets addressing global malnutrition set by the World Health Assembly in 2012, data gaps, especially on gender, posed an obstacle to the analysis and monitoring of food and nutrition security. Increased efforts were needed to transform political commitments into action. Investment should be made in institutional capacities to support evidence-based decision-making through monitoring and evaluation, and to provide the means of knowledge exchange among countries for innovative solutions across the nutritional spectrum. Nutritional needs should be considered in all steps of the food chain, from production to consumption.

3. Section IV of the report addressed Sustainable Development Goal 2, target 2.3, on the doubling of

agricultural productivity and the incomes of small-scale food producers. Solutions to improve productivity in a sustainable way must take into account small-scale food producers, who produced more than 80 per cent of the world's food in terms of value. Despite research, technologies and approaches to boost efficiency, a key challenge was for producers to access technologies and innovations and to adapt them as required.

4. Secure and equitable access to natural resources for rural populations was critically important. For example, most land tenure regimes in developed and developing countries were characterized by gender disparities in land distribution, weak governance structures and a conflicting mixture of land management practices that included customary rules. Improved land governance would require fundamental change in the perception of access to land and in mainstreaming governance work. In that regard, the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security provided a global framework on tenure governance through a multisectoral perspective. Sustainable increases in agricultural productivity required a holistic approach to value-chain development that brought all actors together. A competitive agro-industry could serve as a platform for inclusive and sustainable development. Emphasis should be placed on developing cooperatives, farmers' and business associations, scientific organizations and other agents that explicitly supported the needs of small-scale agricultural producers and entrepreneurs.

5. The focus of section V of the report was Sustainable Development Goal 2, target 2.4, on ensuring sustainable food systems. Sustainable and resilient farming practices should increase smallholder farmers' productivity, while off-farm employment and planned migration should be managed to take pressure off the land. In view of the increasing influence of urbanization on food systems and the provision of ecosystem services, solutions to sustainable food production must adopt the nexus approach that managed water, vegetation and soil resources in an integrated way, while taking into consideration changing environmental and socioeconomic conditions. In that context, the entry into force in 2017 of the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change would have significant

implications for Sustainable Development Goal 2. Sustainable agricultural and land use practices could deliver a triple win by improving rural livelihoods, nutrition and productivity, building resilience to climate change and tackling emissions and carbon stocks. Follow-up to the International Conference on Nutrition had increased the focus on the role of fish in nutrition and food security.

6. Section VI of the report referred to Sustainable Development Goal 2, target 2.5, on maintaining agricultural genetic diversity and promoting access and benefit sharing. It was important to abate the long-term consequences of biodiversity loss and reduce the rate of losses. Crop genetic diversity was essential to strengthening resilience in agriculture and preventing crop devastation under changing environmental conditions. The Convention on Biological Diversity constituted the international regime on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing, while the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture facilitated cooperation among countries for the exchange of plant genetic resources, for breeding and agricultural research purposes, to increase the resilience of agricultural production and promote sustainable agriculture. Efforts made must match the reality of small-scale producers, indigenous food systems and traditional indigenous knowledge in order to contribute effectively to achieving shared objectives.

7. Section VII on means of implementation noted the continuing importance of international financial institutions, notably global and regional development banks, as a source of financing in food and agriculture. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems and the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme were highlighted in particular. With respect to trade, mention was made of the conclusion at the Tenth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) of four ministerial decisions that referred specifically to agriculture. On price volatility in food commodity markets, the Agricultural Market Information System had been highlighted as a multi-agency platform to enhance transparency in international food markets and facilitate policy coordination in times of uncertainty.

Note had also been taken of the potential of technology to boost agricultural and rural development, help agricultural stakeholders make informed decisions and use the resources available in the most productive and sustainable manner.

8. Section VIII discussed some of the key global initiatives and processes that aligned with the 2030 Agenda: the Zero Hunger Challenge; the Committee on World Food Security; the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition; and the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement.

9. Lastly, he drew attention to the recommendations submitted for consideration in section IX, paragraph 81, of the report. Recommendations (g), (i), (k), (m) and (n) were aimed at sustainably increasing the availability of food; recommendations (a) and (c) addressed issues primarily connected to access; recommendations (h), (j), (l) and (o) were intended to improve the position of key populations critical to food systems that may lack the recognition or support to contribute most effectively; recommendations (b), (d) and (e) recognized that adequate nutrition went beyond calories alone and required differentiated approaches for different groups; and recommendation (f) targeted progress on Sustainable Development Goal 2 through joint action from different partners.

10. **Ms. Khunwuthikorn** (Thailand), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the report of the Secretary-General on agriculture development, food security and nutrition ([A/71/283](#)) had indicated that progress had been made in addressing undernourishment. Although the number of people suffering from undernourishment had fallen, from over 1 billion people in the period 1990-1992 to 780 million in the period 2014-2016, the goal of eradicating hunger remained out of reach. The full and effective implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 2 and its targets would be essential not only to eradicate hunger and malnutrition, but, since Goal 2 underpinned almost all the other Goals, it was also crucial for achieving the 2030 Agenda and its overarching objective of sustainable development and the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions.

11. The challenges to ensuring food security and nutrition included a weak global recovery, food crises, volatile food prices and a sharp decline in commodity

exports, which were exacerbated by a changing global environment of population movement, urbanization, limited natural resources and climate change. Those challenges adversely affected the developing countries, particularly agro-based economies and net food importers, and posed serious threats to their achievement of food security. A number of key issues should be addressed to overcome those challenges and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

12. First, the Group reaffirmed the right to adequate food and to be free from hunger, in order to fully develop and maintain physical and mental capacities. The international community should step up efforts to fulfil the right to food by mainstreaming food security and nutrition and the promotion of healthy diets in food and agriculture policies and investment plans. A twin-track approach should be taken to food security and nutrition through direct action to tackle hunger for the most vulnerable immediately, while also addressing those challenges and ensuring sustainable agriculture in the medium- and long-term. Furthermore, a rural development programme should be established to eliminate the root causes of hunger and poverty, in order to leave no one behind.

13. Second, agriculture remained a key sector for developing countries and contributed immensely to their economic growth and well-being. The international community should therefore work towards eliminating all forms of protectionism, enhance commitments to improve market access, reduce trade-distorting domestic support and eliminate all forms of export subsidies and disciplines. In that regard, the outcome of the Tenth WTO Ministerial Conference was welcome.

14. Third, as the world population increased, technology and innovation were needed to sustainably boost agricultural production, improve the global supply chain and reduce food loss and food waste. The transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technology should be promoted to developing countries on favourable terms. The Group called for sustained funding and increased targeted investment to enhance food production for developing countries, as well as new and additional financing from all sources to assist those countries in achieving sustainable agricultural development and food security.

15. Fourth, the adverse impacts of climate change undermined the ability of all countries to achieve food security and sustainable development, while unsustainable agriculture and food systems were a major contributor to climate change. Agriculture and food policies must therefore be transformed to become sustainable and compatible with the challenges imposed by climate change.

16. Fifth, small-scale farmers and fishers played a crucial role in eradicating hunger, reducing rural poverty and improving global food security. National, regional and international strategies should therefore promote the inclusive participation of farmers and fishers, especially smallholder farmers, including women, in community, national, regional and international markets.

17. Lastly, the collective and dedicated efforts of all States, the United Nations system and all relevant stakeholders would be needed to revitalize the global partnership in order to translate relevant commitments into action.

18 **Ms. Krisnamurthi** (Indonesia), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that food security was a universal necessity that not only benefited human health but served as the basis for achieving sustainable economic growth. Although current agricultural production was double the need, one in nine people in the world still suffered from chronic hunger, while a similar figure lived on less than \$1.25 a day. Food insecurity was caused by poverty, price volatility due to production shortages, climate change, land and water resource degradation and the deterioration of ecosystems. Food security required coordinated action in sectors ranging from finance and trade to agriculture, health and nutrition and infrastructure, in order to establish resilient, diverse and productive agriculture and food systems.

19. Food security was a high priority for ASEAN. Although the region had successfully achieved the MDG target of halving the proportion of people suffering from hunger by 2015, the challenges of ensuring food security and nutrition remained. Nearly 65 million people within the ASEAN region were undernourished, with high rates of stunting in children under five years of age in some countries. Environmental and climate-related change and a

declining natural resource base had increased the vulnerability of 600 million people in the region to food insecurity. Steps taken to eliminate hunger and malnutrition included the adoption of a strategic plan for the period 2016-2025 to guide the completion of the MDGs, and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Zero Hunger Challenge. The strategic plan was intended to support the 40 per cent of the ASEAN population who depended on forestry and agriculture for their livelihoods. It envisioned a competitive, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agriculture and forestry sector integrated in the global economy, based on a single market and production base that contributed to food and nutrition security and prosperity in the ASEAN community.

20. The ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework was intended to ensure food stability and introduce regional arrangements for emergency food relief. It had been established under the Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security in the ASEAN Region 2015-2020 and would also ensure long-term food security and nutrition, and improve the livelihoods of farmers in the region. Other institutional measures in that field included initiatives on climate change, agriculture, forestry and fisheries. The High-level Consultation on Regional Cooperation in Sustainable Fisheries Development towards the ASEAN Economic Community had been held in Bangkok on 3 August 2016. At the meeting, ASEAN members had agreed to increase cooperation to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and enhance the competitiveness of regional fish and fisheries products.

21. A broad commitment from the international community was not enough to end hunger; common efforts and adequate support were needed to turn commitments into action. In that regard, multi-stakeholder partnerships were needed to promote engagement, transform global commitments into local actions and raise awareness of the importance of supporting the poorest and most needy people. Similarly, training and research institutions should allocate adequate resources to enhance agricultural productive capacity, in particular to improve production and productivity of non-cereals and reduce post-harvest loss and food waste along the entire value chain.

22. **Mr. Wafy** (Niger), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that despite the positive picture painted in the report of the Secretary-General (A/71/283), it contained the disturbing assertion that nearly 800 million people around the world were undernourished and global nutrition challenges were increasingly complex. That figure was unacceptable in the context of the momentous agreements adopted in 2015 and the dictum to leave no one behind. The goal of eradicating hunger was unlikely to be achieved unless agriculture development, food security and nutrition were placed at the centre of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. With that in mind, the first 10-year implementation plan (2014-2023) of the Africa Union Agenda 2063 provided a strategic framework to bring about positive socioeconomic transformation in Africa. In that context, agriculture and enhanced access for small-scale farmers — especially women, young people and indigenous peoples — were central.

23. Since a large sector of the population of Africa depended on agriculture, African countries were encouraging modern agriculture to increase production, productivity and value addition, in the interests of enhancing prosperity and sustaining collective food security. The report's emphasis on investing in agriculture, diversifying food production and diets and providing quality education on nutrition to consumers was therefore welcome. The policies pursued by Africa, as set out in the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods, indicated the efforts made to mainstream nutrition and the promotion of healthy diets in food and agriculture policies, as emphasized in the report.

24. The Sustainable Development Goals presented an ideal and a means to achieve it. Agriculture development, food security and nutrition were central in that regard, since people living in rural areas constituted the largest percentage of those living in extreme poverty and because investment in agriculture had been proven effective in reducing poverty. Nevertheless, the importance of providing the requisite means to implement any Sustainable Development Goal or Committee agenda item could not be overemphasized. When providing finance and technology, the dominance of smallholder farmers in the agricultural sector in Africa must be borne in mind. Introducing capacity-building

mechanisms and working towards a fair and functioning trade system would mean that the agriculture sectors of developing countries could increase their efficiency, in order to thrive and improve livelihoods.

25. Lastly, he recalled that the theme for the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2017 would be “Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world”, which was closely linked to agriculture development, food security and nutrition.

26. **Mr. Bin Momen** (Bangladesh), speaking on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries, said that agriculture was a dominant sector in most of the least developed countries and a primary source of employment. The sector faced challenges, however, such as inadequate investment in rural infrastructure, research and development and extension services, and a lack of affordable and adaptable technologies. The least developed countries that were affected by conflict were plagued by high incidences of poverty, food deficit and malnutrition. The average share of agriculture in gross domestic product (GDP) in the least developed countries was 23.7 per cent, compared to 10 per cent for developing countries as a whole, while agricultural productivity was around half the world average. His Group had been disproportionately affected by climate change, including the current El Niño-Southern Oscillation, and productive land had been reduced through desertification and land degradation.

27. Although the prevalence of undernourishment in the least developed countries had declined, close to 245 million people — 26 per cent of the population — were still undernourished and rates of malnutrition in children under five years of age remained high. Aggravated by structural and technological constraints, low value addition in agricultural produce was a common phenomenon. There was an increasing dependence on imports to meet food consumption requirements. Despite a projected fall in global food import prices in 2016, those prices were expected to fall slower for more economically vulnerable nations, many of whom had depreciating currencies. The decline could also cut farmers’ incomes and hamper investment in production, infrastructure and services. The majority of farmers in the least developed countries were smallholders, many of them women,

who were highly exposed to environmental and price shocks. The food and nutritional insufficiency of persons displaced by climate change, natural hazards and conflicts was an emerging challenge.

28. The achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 2, the overarching goal of eradicating poverty and the aim of enabling half of the least developed countries to graduate from that status by 2020, in accordance with the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020, would require a resilient and sustainable food system. The nexus of agriculture, food security, peace and migration needed a holistic approach. Investing in food security and agricultural development would strengthen efforts to prevent conflict and achieve peace.

29. The concerted efforts of all stakeholders at national, regional and global levels were essential to strengthen the agriculture sector, ensure food security and end malnutrition in all its forms. Increased investment in agriculture, through enhanced international cooperation in rural infrastructure development, agricultural research and extension services, and access to finance and technology, were vital. The least developed countries, particularly their smallholders and women, had limited capacities to adapt to and mitigate the impact of climate change. The agricultural and food system would need to be transformed to cope with climate change, including through building resilience and growing resilient crop varieties. The least developed countries also needed capacity-building and financing to adopt climate-smart practices and technologies.

30. Given their responsibility for food security and nutrition, the empowerment of women, particularly rural women, was critical to eradicating poverty and malnutrition. Improved rural infrastructure and access to innovative rural financing would facilitate their participation in regional and global value chains, and generate cash flows to rural communities for improved livelihoods.

31. **Ms. Bajana Tinoco** (Nicaragua) said that the 2030 Agenda had restored the right of all people to access healthy and sufficient food, and to be free from hunger. The international community should focus its efforts on agriculture development, food security and nutrition in developing countries. Food security and

nutrition had become an urgent global challenge. In that context, she reaffirmed the importance of a global commitment to improving food security and access.

32. The 2030 Agenda applied to all nations, with a view to leaving no one behind and prioritizing those most in need. While 72 countries had achieved the MDG target of halving hunger by 2015, the just, transparent and stable inclusion of developing countries in international markets was the only way to eradicate world hunger. Food security could only be guaranteed through equitable economic growth, job creation, income generation and technological progress, in particular in the agriculture sector. World hunger was not necessarily a problem of producing food, but rather of market control. Support for smallholders, protection of the land, free trading in seeds and fair trade were therefore crucial.

33. In Nicaragua, a national strategy for food and nutritional sovereignty and security had been devised to improve access to sufficient nutritional food. Other actions included support for smallholders, such as credit and technical assistance, and the provision of food packages for victims of climate change. Comprehensive assistance for rural and urban production that recognized the different capacities of Nicaraguan families and social policies to combat poverty had reduced chronic malnutrition. A recent example of her country's commitment to fighting hunger and poverty was the work of the Government, in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), to promote the exchange of experience among fishers, business owners and officials, which had resulted in three groups travelling to Mexico to learn about lobster fishing practices.

34. *Ms. Nipomici (Republic of Moldova), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

35. **Ms. Ponce** (Philippines) said that World Food Day, celebrated on 16 October every year, highlighted the unified global struggle against hunger and malnutrition. Hunger should be viewed not simply in terms of food supply, but through the lens of agricultural productivity and the effects of climate change. Those most vulnerable to climate change included small-scale and family farmers and fishers, who depended on activities linked to the climate, like traditional farming systems based on experiential

knowledge and local resources. They were increasingly affected by disasters such as super typhoons, flooding and drought, which damaged crops and led to low yields or crop failure.

36. In 2015 and 2016, the Philippines had suffered from one of the worst droughts in its recorded history, which had been caused by an El Niño cycle exacerbated by climate change. The Government of the Philippines had prepared for El Niño with a roadmap that focused on revitalizing farm irrigation systems, maintaining an ample supply of drinking water and stabilizing food prices. Nonetheless, drought had affected almost 8 million Filipinos, mostly smallholders, and had caused \$300 million in production losses.

37. Stronger international cooperation was needed to support country-led food security strategies to eliminate chronic hunger and food insecurity and prevent future food security crises. Technology transfer, capacity-building, information management and policies and financial mechanisms to adapt agriculture to climate change were imperative. Smallholders, family farmers, rural women, fishers and indigenous communities required increased access to resources, employment and income. It was vital to work towards eliminating all forms of protectionism, including the reduction of trade-distorting domestic support and the parallel elimination of all forms of export subsidies, as provided for in the Doha Development Round.

38. The efforts of the Government of the Philippines for agriculture development and food security were geared towards the sustainability and resilience of agriculture and food systems, with a view to eradicating extreme poverty and hunger. Institutional capacities were being developed to manage and reduce the risks of natural hazards and climate change. The global multilateral framework on agriculture development, food security and nutrition must be conducive to long-term global food security and nutrition through effective and resilient agriculture, environmental sustainability and sustainable patterns of consumption and production.

39. **Mr. Sinha** (India) said that, while enough food was produced to feed the global population, millions of the poor went hungry. Improving agricultural productivity while pursuing sustainable agricultural

practices at an affordable cost, improving farm incomes and making nutritious food available equitably remained important to inclusive growth and development, and therefore to achieving the 2030 Agenda. The close relationship of Sustainable Development Goal 2 to the other Goals indicated the fundamental role, in the 2030 Agenda, of agriculture, food security and nutrition, and reflected the global nature of agricultural production and food security.

40. His country had transitioned from food efficiency to self-sufficiency in a couple of decades to become a major exporter of farm produce and animal products and the world's largest producer of milk. Agriculture was a vital sector in India. World-class research and training institutions had developed affordable and effective farming techniques and equipment. Microirrigation systems were being actively promoted. The steps taken to meet challenges like boosting agricultural productivity, introducing more sustainable farming practices and improving food distribution systems included the launch of an electronic trading platform, eNAM, for the national agriculture market, to improve the linkage between farmers and markets. Schemes had been introduced to improve the availability of credit, crop insurance and direct benefit transfers for farmers using the biometric unique identification system, Aadhar. As part of the International Year of Soils in 2015, a scheme had been launched to provide soil health cards to all farmers, while a four-year effort had been launched to improve irrigation. The Midday Meal Scheme was intended to improve the availability of nutritious food in schools and had improved school enrolment rates. The National Food Security Act was aimed at improving access to quality food at affordable prices.

41. International collaboration was needed to achieve collective goals. Indeed, research collaboration had facilitated the Green Revolution in India, which had long shared its experience and expertise with other developing countries through training and capacity-building. Development cooperation with Africa and developing countries in other parts of the world was being expanded to facilitate irrigation projects and improve agricultural productivity.

42. **Mr. Naumkin** (Russian Federation) said that a comprehensive approach to agriculture development was needed and would be assisted by the

recommendations contained in the reports by the Secretary-General (A/71/283) and the Committee on World Food Security (A/71/89-E/216/69).

43. In the Russian Federation, the agricultural sector had achieved substantial growth in recent years, attracting investment and achieving food security in a number of areas. His country was ranked sixth in the world for agricultural and food product exports. A State programme was being implemented to develop agriculture and regulate the market for agricultural products, commodities and food for the period 2013-2020. It had increased the production of items including grain, wheat and greenhouse vegetables.

44. Measures for agriculture development should take into account efforts to manage water resources through international mechanisms and the impact of climate change on agriculture. Implementing specific adaptations to changing weather conditions for the agriculture sector was an important part of the sustainable development of agriculture at the national and global levels.

45. He welcomed the proclamation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition and the adoption of related General Assembly resolution 70/259, which welcomed the adoption of the Rome Declaration on Nutrition, as well as the Framework for Action. The high-level thematic meeting on the implementation of that Declaration and Framework for Action that had taken place on 19 September should be noted in that regard. It was presumed that the organizers of the event, which included FAO, the World Health Organization and the Russian Federation, would continue work to develop indicators and a follow-up evaluation system.

46. Better nutrition would require agreed measures at all steps of the food chain, from producer to consumer. Crucial factors were national interdepartmental coordination, the development of social protection systems, expanding professional education and improving consumers' awareness of the principles of a healthy diet.

47. The Russian Federation focused much attention on food security and nutrition in international cooperation. Under the World Food Programme, between 2010 and 2015, his country had provided food aid worth approximately \$260 million to more than 20

States. Great attention was also paid to the implementation of the school feeding programme and social support for the most vulnerable sections of the population, and to disseminating knowledge and practice in those spheres. In the period 2010-2016, the Russian Federation had allocated approximately \$55 million to supporting school feeding programmes in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and countries in the Middle East and North Africa.

48. **Mr. Alrasheed** (Saudi Arabia) said that food security was particularly important in light of demographic growth, a reduction in arable land and the impact of urbanization and economic development. Food security was a key element of agriculture development and one of the main instruments that could have a positive impact in the fields of poverty, education, health, work and the environment. Problems that impacted on the dignity of human life included natural disasters, wars, disease, hunger and a lack of education or health care.

49. In an effort to support countries that suffered in the humanitarian and development fields, the King Salman Centre for Humanitarian Aid and Relief had been established. Its aim was to help preserve the dignity and lives of all human beings, in accordance with the teaching of Islam and as an example to others. The King Salman Centre cooperated with international aid organizations and, since 2015, had contributed to 72 programmes of the World Food Programme reaching 70 million beneficiaries. The Centre had also responded to the humanitarian situation in Yemen through an allocation of \$413 million to that country, in cooperation with several organizations and local, regional and international bodies. Emergency, medical, humanitarian, education and food aid had also been provided to projects in Albania, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritania, Somalia, Tajikistan and Zambia, with the aim of improving the situation of inhabitants, feeding displaced persons and resolving their situation. Agricultural investment had helped developing countries move towards achieving food security and agriculture development, including through the Saudi Agriculture and Livestock Investment Company.

50. Alongside support for local, regional and international development plans, particularly within the framework of FAO, Saudi Arabia had implemented a development plan to strengthen food security through

improved agricultural productivity and competitiveness, the use of natural resources and support for foreign agricultural investment. Saudi Arabia had also created a national committee to reduce food waste through public campaigns that targeted consumers and encouraged recycling.

51. **Mr. Al-Sheeb** (Qatar) said that all possible measures should be adopted to help the many parts of society who suffered from malnutrition, in particular women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities and those affected by armed conflict. An increase in factors such as large flows of refugees and migrants, land degradation and water shortages all hindered the achievement of global food security. His country had made significant efforts to develop all sectors, including the agriculture and food sectors, to achieve agriculture development. He reiterated that sustainable agriculture and food security were vital and were directly linked to the issues of water, poverty and the climate. Sustainable development could not be achieved without food security. His country had therefore established the Global Dryland Alliance, which was helping to coordinate international efforts in response to the 2030 Agenda.

52. Developing countries and groups of countries in special situations should be encouraged and helped to overcome the difficulties of applying national development strategies, in particular those linked to land degradation and desertification, and to reduce extreme poverty and achieve agriculture development and food security. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights established that all human beings enjoyed the right to a standard of living adequate for health and well-being, including food. In its work on development, Qatar focused on human rights and the individual's right to benefit from and contribute to economic, social and cultural development. Integrated and coordinated efforts were needed in all sectors, including health, agriculture, education, water and energy, to combat malnutrition and achieve food security. The burden of malnutrition and extreme poverty could not be ignored. Commitments must be turned into action.

53. **Mr. Meza-Cuadra** (Peru) said that his delegation had submitted a draft resolution entitled "Sustainable Gastronomy Day" (A/C.2/71/L.28), in which it was proposed that 22 June should be designated the

international day to mark sustainable gastronomy. In Peru, the early development of agriculture had seen crops like potato and quinoa feed generations and ensure food security throughout the world and, in rural areas, seeds and knowledge had been passed down through families. Diverse biological and cultural development, combined with participatory, inclusive and sustainable approaches, had encouraged the development of a rich gastronomy, which had experienced a boom that had generated economic prosperity. That boom had raised awareness of the need to protect ecosystems and had made it clear that gastronomy could be a catalyst of sustainable development, as recognized in the 2030 Agenda, and a vehicle to mobilize all to achieve sustainable development.

54. The proposed “Sustainable Gastronomy Day” would recognize the potential and shared responsibility of cooks, farmers, fishers and micro and small-sized enterprises and other stakeholders to make global goals — such as the eradication of poverty and hunger — a reality. Those groups should also promote sustainable agriculture and inclusive growth, reduce inequality and ensure the sustainable use of land and marine ecosystems, and promote sustainable patterns of production and consumption. He expressed the hope that all delegations would support the draft resolution.

55. **Mr. Mohammadi** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that a staggering number of people, including children under five years of age, were directly impacted by malnutrition, many of whom lived in developing countries. Despite adequate food production, millions of poor went hungry every day due to food wastage in developed countries linked to unsustainable and wasteful consumption patterns. Given that agriculture was increasingly affected by global macroeconomic policy issues, barriers to international trade in agriculture products remained a concern for many developing countries. Agriculture played a central role in reducing poverty and creating employment, especially in rural areas. Most people in developing countries relied on agriculture for their livelihoods.

56. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran had recognized the importance of food security in its Vision 2025. The national priorities for achieving food security, improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture at the policy and institutional

levels were: enhancing agriculture and its role in the economy and in combating poverty; achieving national food security, self-sufficiency and safety; improving agricultural productivity, including water productivity; enhancing commercialization and reducing the dependence on imports; promoting the sustainable development of natural resources through desertification control, reducing overgrazing, limiting irresponsible fishing practices and mitigating the effects of climate change; improving disaster risk management; and increasing the role of the non-governmental and private sectors. Appropriate climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies were crucial to sustainable production. Ending hunger and achieving global food security required sustained and coordinated international cooperation, in the form of technical and financial assistance and capacity-building support for developing countries.

57. **Mr. Rattray** (Jamaica) said that food security was integral to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and critical for strengthening the resilience of food systems and achieving future prosperity. Low food production and high dependence on food imports presented Jamaica with a high food import bill and left it vulnerable to external economic shocks and climate change. The resilience of local food systems needed to be enhanced to counter the effects of future shortages. Drought in the northern hemisphere or floods in Australia and Pakistan increased the prices of wheat, corn and sugar, which precipitated similar increases in the national food import bill and in the cost of domestically produced livestock, since Jamaica imported animal feed.

58. At the same time, a lack of access to nutritious food had led to the emergence of the triple burden of malnutrition: undernourishment, micronutrient deficiency and obesity. The population’s diet had shifted from locally grown produce to a diet of processed and energy-dense foods with an increase in products of animal origin and those with added salt, sugars and fat. New food consumption patterns had increased the prevalence of obesity and non-communicable chronic diseases, such as diabetes and heart disease, which had become a key national public health problem. Food and nutrition security in his country were also threatened by cyclical natural events like annual hurricanes, drought and floods that had increased in intensity due to climate change.

59. A national Food and Nutrition Security Policy and subsequent action plan had been developed to address those challenges. It aimed to ensure that sufficient and quality nutritious food was available to all people in Jamaica through increased domestic production and sustainable import levels; all individuals had adequate resources to acquire appropriate foods for a nutritious diet; all individuals reached a state of nutritional well-being through food consumption that reflected dietary recommendations; and all people had access to adequate, safe and nutritious food at all times, regardless of external economic shocks and natural hazards, and consumed foods that reflected appropriate physiological needs. Implementation would be overseen by an interministerial committee consisting of the relevant ministries, agencies, international development partners, civil society and the private sector. The Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries had undertaken agriculture development and food security initiatives that included an increase in the production of major staples and a school feeding programme.

60. **Ms. Parkash** (Singapore) said that the theme of World Food Day in 2016 was “Climate is changing. Food and agriculture must too”. That was a timely reminder of the challenges to food security. Singapore was ranked third on the Global Food Security Index; a major achievement for a small city State that imported over 90 per cent of its food supply. As a country vulnerable to food supply and price fluctuations and food safety incidents overseas, Singapore had developed a Food Security Roadmap with three core strategies: optimizing local production, diversifying food sources and developing stockpiles. The small agricultural sector in Singapore played an important role in food security by acting as a buffer against supply disruptions. Local production needed to be increased to achieve greater food security.

61. New technologies and innovations enabled new thinking about the transformation of agricultural practices to become more resilient. The farms of the future should be high-tech, innovative and able to do more with less. It would be crucial to attract a new generation of agricultural professionals to write the next chapter in national, regional and global food security. Singapore had therefore embraced agrotechnology in a programme that comprised parks to house modern intensive farms, the development of

agrotechnology and agricultural biotechnology, and the promotion of investment in the agro-industry.

62. As a highly urbanized State, Singapore promoted urban farming solutions and progressive farming technologies. Her country could act as a living laboratory for new food production technologies, such as an indoor vertical vegetable production system for leafy greens that was under development and was potentially five times more productive than conventional farming systems. The use of technology and research and development was being considered throughout the value chain, including to reduce food loss and waste through new packaging systems.

63. The Government was committed to working with farms for the efficient use of limited land and labour. In August 2014, the Agriculture Productivity Fund had been established to help local farms increase their productivity and yields. Support for farmers would continue through technology transfer, the sharing of expertise, research and development collaboration and the co-funding of new technologies, with a view to helping Singapore become more self-sufficient in food production. The Government would continue to work with farms to understand their challenges and provide appropriate support, such as the extension of land leases to allow farmers a longer payback period for investments in technology and innovation.

64. **Mr. Ten-Pow** (Guyana), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that progress on agriculture development and food security could provide synergies for the achievement of all the Sustainable Development Goals. Agriculture development was a thematic priority for CARICOM as it strove to sustain and add value to agricultural production and enhance the sector’s contribution to development. The challenges to pursuing those objectives were long-standing; persistent exogenous shocks undermined the ability to pursue policies aimed at sustaining agricultural production. Over the previous two decades, as commodity prices for the main agricultural exports of CARICOM fell and global trade policies became more disadvantageous to smaller players, some CARICOM members had shifted their focus to other sectors. The annual food import bill for CARICOM as a whole had increased 50 per cent since 2000 and was projected to rise if efforts to address the problem did not bear fruit.

65. Although some larger CARICOM countries were able to produce enough livestock and fish for domestic consumption, in smaller island States, livestock production was constrained by the limited availability of land. Despite the decreasing contribution of agriculture to GDP, it remained a key sector of economic activity that was fundamental to development and livelihoods. The CARICOM region would continue to vigorously pursue efforts to revitalize the agriculture sector. For example, the Caribbean Week of Agriculture currently being celebrated in the Cayman Islands would provide a forum for deliberations on the opportunities and challenges faced by the agriculture sector. Activities included the sixty-second special meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development of CARICOM, which would discuss agricultural production, trade and policy, and health and food safety, with a view to reducing the region's food import bill and empowering rural communities.

66. As a particularly hazard-prone region, the Caribbean suffered from the effects of natural disasters, which were being exacerbated by climate change. Effects included the accelerated erosion of coastal area, the intrusion of saltwater into coastal agricultural lands and aquifers, the greater frequency and intensity of extreme weather-related events, an increase in the frequency and severity of coastal flooding, and disruptions in rainfall patterns and water supplies. Recent weather-related events had resulted in significant economic losses. Dominica had suffered damages and losses in excess of 90 per cent of GDP following tropical storm Erika in 2015, while Grenada had only recently recovered from hurricane Ivan, which had devastated the island in 2004. The full impact of hurricane Matthew, which had recently hit the Caribbean, especially Haiti, was still being assessed. Typically, damage was suffered by agricultural crops and the fisheries sector as countries alternated between drought and flood conditions. The biggest impact, however, was on the men and women who depended on the natural environment for their livelihoods.

67. The report of the Secretary-General (A/71/283) made a strong case for collective action to meet global dietary needs through the sustainable doubling of agricultural productivity, the mitigation of the effects of climate change, the reduction of food loss and

waste, and the adoption of healthy diets. Those challenges were particularly relevant to the CARICOM region, due to the centrality of the agriculture sector.

68. CARICOM members called for direct and urgent assistance from the international community to help the region remove constraints to agriculture development and food security. International support would bolster the region's prospects of successfully implementing the 2030 Agenda by reducing expenditure on food imports and optimizing export potential to drive development. The protectionist policies that had, in some cases, accompanied globalization were a major constraint in that regard. Substantial investment was needed in small and large-scale food and agriculture projects to encourage entrepreneurship. CARICOM members would continue to work together and with their partners to promote food security in the region and enhance the contribution of agriculture to development.

69. Lastly, he recalled the emphasis placed by the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway on agriculture, food security and nutrition and welcomed the Milan Declaration on Enhancing Food Security and Climate Adaptation in Small Island Developing States, which provided a template for action that could benefit small island developing States.

70. **Mr. Poudel Chhetri** (Nepal) said that the 2030 Agenda considered agriculture a vital development tool for achieving the universal and interconnected Sustainable Development Goals through stimulating growth, eradicating poverty and enhancing food security. Agriculture development was key to enhancing the competitive edge of agro-industries, particularly for the least developed countries and landlocked developing countries, which were largely based on agriculture.

71. It was not possible to imagine a happy, healthy and peaceful world without food. Therefore, ensuring food security and nutrition was the first step towards achieving other goals and targets. In that regard, the Zero Hunger Challenge should be emphasized in all endeavours for its efforts to comprehensively address the many issues around food security.

72. Agriculture development was a high priority for Nepal and the right to food sovereignty was guaranteed in the Constitution. As a landlocked least developed

country that was vulnerable to multiple problems, his country was doing its utmost to implement internationally agreed development goals and constitutional provisions by transforming the agricultural landscape through enhanced productivity and sustained growth. Sustainable agriculture development was critical, since Nepal had one of the lowest levels of arable land per capita in the world. Although the agriculture sector contributed less than one-third of GDP in Nepal, two-thirds of the population were economically dependent on it.

73. Appropriate, affordable, sustainable and climate resistant agricultural technology and its proper and timely integration, and the continuous upgrading of technology, were crucial to facilitating the efforts of the least developed countries and landlocked developing countries for economic growth, development and prosperity. Investment in agricultural productivity would not only contribute to food security and decrease hunger, but would enhance the trade capacity of the economy. In that regard, Nepal welcomed the progress made to operationalize the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries and establish the Technology Facilitation Mechanism.

74. **Mr. Slaiman** (Iraq) said that countries overflowing with natural resources should be able to achieve agricultural self-sufficiency. However, Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) had captured significant agricultural land and therefore threatened the food security of his country. As Iraq assumed political and economic responsibilities, it must analyse the lack of capacity for the Ministry of Agriculture to respond to food security needs. Agriculture was a principle source of income for the 30 per cent of the population living in agricultural zones. The current situation, which was a result of terrorist activity, left much to be desired with respect to the economic and social health of large areas of the country and for food security in general. The lack of labour, due to a rural exodus caused by fighting, was a particular problem. In addition, the drop in the quantity and quality of water resources was another aspect of the crisis that required a response, caused in part by the construction of dams upstream on the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.

75. The stranglehold of ISIL in certain zones had had a negative impact on drinking water and agriculture, contributing towards lower crop production and

damaging land that made use of an integrated irrigation system introduced by the Government of Iraq as part of its agriculture development plan. The amount of arable land was shrinking due to poor use of technologies, salinity, desertification and dependence on the oil sector.

76. A national development plan had been adopted for the period 2013-2017 that was intended to increase the share of agriculture in gross national product, meet the country's needs for water resources and increase local vegetable and animal agricultural production. The Government was working to rehabilitate agricultural zones that had been liberated from ISIL but needed financial support for modern irrigation projects and national and foreign investment to relaunch the agriculture sector. The families of farmers who had suffered during military operations must also be helped. Animal health and water resources must be strengthened to repair the damage to the food sector and end the food insecurity that threatened Iraqi families.

77. **Ms. Fofana** (Burkina Faso) said that data indicated that the majority of undernourished people lived in developing countries. Forecasts for the period 2014-2016 indicated an undernourishment rate in sub-Saharan Africa of 23 per cent. It was the region with the highest prevalence of hunger: one person in four was undernourished, malnutrition caused the deaths of 3.1 million children under five years of age annually and one in three children experienced stunting. That picture indicated the huge scale of the challenges to eliminating hunger. The dedication of Sustainable Development Goal 2 to the issue of hunger indicated a welcome determination and commitment to combat hunger and malnutrition and to promote sustainable agriculture. Goal 2 could only be realized, however, through combined efforts and active solidarity to end the distress caused by food insecurity and malnutrition.

78. Eliminating hunger, achieving food security, improving nutrition and promoting sustainable development were central concerns of the Government of Burkina Faso. A national plan for social and economic development had been adopted in July that year. The plan was intended to achieve food and nutrition security and self-sufficiency by increasing agricultural water management and irrigated areas; improving agricultural productivity; increasing

agricultural resilience to risk and disaster; strengthening agricultural research and development systems and promoting the results of research; and improving food and nutritional crisis prevention and management.

79. Agriculture development efforts had led to significant improvements in productivity, and had fed a growing global population. Nonetheless, progress was uneven and often accompanied by social and environmental costs. Solutions to gradually introduce a more sustainable, productive agriculture that could eliminate hunger and ensure food security for all required greater cooperation, particularly with a view to enhancing the viability of food production systems and preserving genetic diversity in agriculture.

80. **Mr. Gumende** (Mozambique) said that, notwithstanding the progress made, the goal of eradicating hunger was far from reach. The agreement within the 2030 Agenda to end poverty and hunger within 15 years could not be realized without sustainable and strong agriculture development. Efforts must be made to implement Sustainable Development Goal 2, which should be translated into practical and results-oriented actions through international regional and national mechanisms. Those mechanisms included a revitalized global partnership, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme and strengthened North-South and South-South cooperation.

81. Agriculture, food security and nutrition were strategic and mutually reinforcing areas of the national development agenda of Mozambique. Agriculture employed more than 70 per cent of the country's working age population, making the sector a major contributor to food production and a generator of income for rural households. The Government of Mozambique had aligned its strategic plan for agriculture sector development in the period 2011-2020 with its action plan on food security and nutrition, and had defined increasing production and productivity in all sectors as a strategic objective to be achieved by 2019. Sustainable and inclusive growth must be anchored in agriculture. Actions being carried out included those aimed at increasing productivity in the peasant family sector, promoting agricultural trade and generating productive climate resilient technologies. The actions taken were aligned with the 2030 Agenda,

the Zero Hunger Challenge and the Food and Nutritional Security Strategy of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, among others.

82. Given the encouraging results achieved from the implementation of its development framework for agriculture, food security and nutrition, his country would like to do more. Like many developing countries, however, Mozambique faced financial challenges that were compounded by the need to address the impact of climate change. He shared the understanding, set out in the Secretary-General's report (A/71/283), that the challenges of ensuring food security and nutrition were compounded by a changing global environment. States, international organizations and other stakeholders should continue to support the achievement of the common objective of promoting agriculture development, food security and nutrition as a matter of priority. In that regard, development partners were urged to meet their obligations under internationally agreed goals.

83. **Mr. Fox-Drummond Gough** (Brazil) said that, following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the international community must prepare for a new development paradigm that would transform the way food was produced, traded, distributed, consumed and discarded. The means for financing development, and therefore combating hunger, were outlined in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which had galvanized Member States' commitments to enhancing food security and nutrition by addressing the needs of smallholders, women farmers and agricultural cooperatives in particular.

84. The Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation had worked to develop plant and animal varieties that could adapt to different climates, which had led to an improvement in agricultural production and notable increases in the planted area. That experience could be replicated in other countries. The Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation had a tradition of providing South-South cooperation, especially in Africa, to promote increased production and improved food security. Improvements could be hampered, however, by agricultural subsidies in rich countries that distorted world food markets and were a factor in impeding the development of robust agriculture sectors in the developing world. His country's experience of addressing malnutrition had shown that social protection measures, combined with broader

agriculture and rural development, helped to break the cycle of poverty. Indeed, that approach had played a role in the graduation of Brazil from the FAO Hunger Map.

85. He welcomed the proclamation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition, which endorsed the Rome Declaration on Nutrition. It provided the tools to align and unify the various nutrition commitments and initiatives, and would guide the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

86. **Ms. Hua Ye** (China) said that countries should increase their input in agriculture, focus on boosting the building of agricultural infrastructure and promote the development of science and technology in agriculture, with a view to increasing overall capacity for food production. The international community should work to establish a fair, reasonable, sustainable and stable order of agricultural trade, minimize trade protectionism, carry out North-South and South-South cooperation in agriculture and help developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, to implement the Sustainable Development Goals related to food and agriculture through increased technical and financial support that would elevate global agricultural production and food security.

87. Agriculture development and food security were priorities for the Government of China. During the implementation of the thirteenth Five-Year Plan, China would continue to scale up the building of infrastructure in agriculture and accelerate the development of agricultural science and technology to enhance its food production capacity and guarantee its food security.

88. Her country actively participated in international efforts to eradicate hunger and reduce poverty. Other developing countries had received help with agriculture development and food production through agricultural technology demonstration centres and technical training. In September 2015, the President of China, Mr. Xi Jinping, had announced the implementation of 100 agricultural cooperation projects in other developing countries in the following five years. In December 2015, the President of China had announced a plan for cooperation with Africa on agricultural modernization, which was already being implemented and would help other developing

countries to implement the 2030 Agenda, including the goals related to food and agriculture.

89. **Mr. Yacouba** (Niger) said that Africa had long suffered from chronic food shortages that remained unresolved. The African Union had sought to convince its member States to increase their investments in the agriculture sector and had declared 2014 the Year of Agriculture and Food Security in Africa. Although African leaders had committed to allocating at least 10 per cent of their national budgets to the agriculture sector, with the aim of maintaining a 6 per cent annual growth rate for the sector, at the second African Union summit in 2003, only 10 countries had fulfilled that commitment, one of which was Niger.

90. Agriculture was the basis of his country's economy and had accounted for an estimated average of 40 per cent of GDP in the previous 10 years. With respect to agriculture development and food security, the 3N Initiative had been introduced at the central and regional levels. Action taken in agriculture was aimed at improving the production of cereals and legumes, while action on livestock had focused on initiatives including the insemination of cows and the establishment of modern farms.

91. Recurrent food crises made rural populations, in particular women and children, vulnerable to frequent food and nutritional risks. The response to food insecurity was based on strengthening cereal banks and developing high intensity labour. The key challenge was passing from the cyclical management of recurrent food crises to more structured responses, through the 3N Initiative, to promote food security and develop sustainable agriculture. The 3N Initiative was aimed at strengthening national capacities for food production and supply, and resilience to food crises and disasters. The five key areas identified to achieve those objectives were: providing momentum for reforms on food security and sustainable agriculture development; improving the nutritional status of the people of the Niger; improving the resilience of vulnerable groups to climate change, food crises and natural disasters; providing regular supplies to rural and urban markets for agricultural and forestry products; and boosting and diversifying agricultural, forestry and fishery products. The 3N Initiative would contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 8, 12 and 17.

92. **Ms. Yirga** (Ethiopia) said that her country was among the 72 noted in the report of the Secretary-General as having halved hunger under the MDGs. Nonetheless, the number of hungry people remained unacceptably high. Enhanced political and societal commitments were needed to address the challenge of food security and malnutrition. In Ethiopia, an integrated development strategy placed agricultural production and productivity at its centre, while the Government was allocating more than 10 per cent of the national budget to agriculture. Agricultural extension programmes had been expanded through an integrated rural development programme that included education, health and rural infrastructure. The Government had continued to promote broader community participation, particularly from smallholder farmers. As a result, the agricultural sector had registered an annual growth rate of 6.6 per cent over the previous five years, while crop production had increased 10 per cent in the same period. Major interventions like expanded veterinary services had increased livestock value addition to an annual average rate of 5 per cent.

93. The adverse impacts of climate change posed serious threats to agriculture development and food security. The Government had mobilized local communities in the interests of natural resource conservation and management activities, such as forestry development and soil and water preservation. To address food insecurity, since 2003 Ethiopia had been implementing the New Coalition for Food Security Programme, in close collaboration with development partners. Another programme had registered significant success in creating assets for the most vulnerable communities, while investment in food-insecure and drought-prone areas had led to progress in building household assets.

94. Eradicating hunger and achieving food security remained a primary focus. Her country would continue to intensify the implementation of rural development programmes by scaling up successful practices and introducing new policy tools to meet the Zero Hunger Challenge. A rural job creation strategy had been launched that targeted young people, while climate change was being tackled by promoting green and resilient agricultural practices. The development partners of Ethiopia were encouraged to provide financial and technical assistance, as agreed in the

Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement, in order to support the national endeavours of developing countries, particularly the least developed countries.

95. **Mr. Yamba Pougault** (Central African Republic) expressed sympathy to the people of Cameroon in connection with the recent train derailment that had occurred in their country.

96. He also expressed his gratitude to the international community, including the United Nations system, for supporting the return of the Central African Republic to constitutional legality and stability following the coup of 24 March 2013. A sombre page in its history had been turned.

97. Noting that the Central African Republic was an agricultural country, he said that the crisis of 2012 and political instability had put a stop to planned activities for agricultural reform and to the framework for accelerating progress on the MDGs. However, economic relaunch, in cooperation with development partners, would encourage a return to cotton, coffee and cocoa cultivation by distributing inputs and seeds to planters.

98. Like other countries in Africa, the Central African Republic had developed strategies to integrate nutrition and healthy eating into its food and agriculture policies, such as the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods. The Declaration required Governments to take into account consumers' nutritional needs at all stages of the food chain, from production to consumption.

99. It was noteworthy that the 2030 Agenda emphasized the need to help the most disadvantaged, such as the Central African Republic, first. For its part, the Government was committed to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals on a participatory and inclusive basis.

100. **Ms. Scott** (Namibia) said that, despite the positive developments noted in the report of the Secretary-General (A/71/283), challenges in agriculture, food nutrition and security confronted developing countries and negatively impacted their progress towards eradicating poverty and extreme hunger. Agriculture was the backbone of the economy of Namibia and a major employer. While the food and nutrition security situation

in the country had improved in the previous 20 years, the potential for agriculture was constrained by climatic factors, such as drought and floods. Access to adequate food remained a challenge for the marginalized and vulnerable sectors of the population and contributed to unacceptable levels of malnutrition.

101. The Government of Namibia was fully committed to agriculture programmes, such as the Comprehensive Programme on Conservation Agriculture and a national agriculture blueprint launched in 2015. Climate resilience, food security and poverty eradication were being addressed through measures that included the establishment of a food bank and also a Ministry of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare that was supervised by the Office of the President. Projects that encouraged cooperation between private sector farmers and subsistence farmers had been expanded, alongside other programmes, such as the programme of the Ministry of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare that synchronized traditional social welfare safety nets with a basic income grant.

102. As an active member of the African Union, Namibia was implementing the first 10-year implementation plan (2014-2023) of the African Union Agenda 2063, which included aligning its national development plan with the 2030 Agenda. The fifth national development plan of Namibia was aimed at the positive socioeconomic transformation of modern agriculture, boosting the resilience of rural communities and creating opportunities for exports. Efforts on value addition and service industry development were expected to grow that common area. All countries, including Namibia, should use their natural and human resources to generate growth and tangible benefits and ensure that no one was left behind.

103. **Mr. Philakone** (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that agriculture development, food security and nutrition were integral to socioeconomic development and the eradication of poverty in his country. As an agrarian country and one of the least developed countries, over 70 per cent of the workforce was engaged in agriculture and its extension services. Although the share of the agriculture and forestry sector in GDP was declining, it would remain the main sector of the economy. Agriculture development was

therefore of great importance to food security and better nutrition in his country.

104. The Government had focused on improving land management and development, constructing and expanding irrigation systems that supplied water efficiently to farms, and establishing centres for agricultural research and the application of new farming techniques to improve agricultural productivity. As a result, sufficient rice was produced for national consumption and for exportation. Other cash crops, such as cassava, maize, sugar cane, tea and coffee, were promoted, where suitable, to feed the processing industries. In addition, the Government had established a State bank to promote agriculture development that provided farmers with credit at low interest rates. Preparedness measures had been introduced to mitigate the impacts of climate change and natural disasters, including the founding of a rice bank that would make food available in times of need and could be distributed immediately to people affected by disasters.

105. A national committee for nutrition had been introduced in 2009 to better coordinate action on nutrition among the ministries and agencies concerned. The National Nutrition Strategy 2025 and Plan of Action 2016-2020 had been adopted to succeed the previous strategy and plan. The measures they contained included human resource development, improving nutrition information and promoting investment in nutrition interventions to enhance food security. The health sector was involved in every possible way, and promoted sanitation and provided micronutrients to children, particularly in rural and remote areas.

106. Agriculture development, food security and nutrition had been incorporated in the eighth five-year national socioeconomic development plan, which indicated his Government's commitment to providing food security and nutrition. In addition, his country participated in agriculture and forestry cooperation through ASEAN and international organizations like FAO.

107. He was grateful to development partners, United Nations development agencies, international organizations and other stakeholders for their past support and assistance, which had increased food

security and improved nutrition in his country, and which he hoped would continue in the future.

108. **Mr. Hemou** (Togo) said that the complex problems of nutrition faced by close to 800 million people around the world required clear, multidimensional action to meet their food needs and end hunger and extreme poverty. In view of the fact that approximately 70 per cent of the population in Togo was engaged in agriculture, the Government's national sustainable development plan emphasized the promotion of agriculture and food security. The National Programme for Agricultural Investment and Food Security had been implemented in recent years to ensure food security, improve farmers' incomes and the living standards of rural populations and boost national economic growth, with a focus on access to the principal agricultural inputs for the poorest. In 2015, fertilizer had been sold at subsidized prices, while an agricultural subsidy campaign had been piloted that used mobile phone technology and provided fertilizer and seed for quality cereals. Certified maize and rice seed had also been distributed to more than 129,000 producers, 40 per cent of whom were women.

109. Mechanization was emphasized, by making equipment such as tractors, seeders and transplanters available to producers at subsidized prices under a new strategy for managing agricultural equipment. To restore agricultural and forestry ecosystems and sustainably support intensified agriculture and reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change, the Government had taken action that included programmes for the integrated management of soil fertility and for reforestation. Animal diseases were addressed through vaccination campaigns, promoting livestock farming techniques, genetic improvements and transhumance management. A national programme to promote rural entrepreneurship had been launched in February 2016 and had benefited 1,800 young rural businesspeople. More than 1,100 new boreholes had been drilled and 1,890 others had been rehabilitated.

110. Although a pragmatic agricultural policy had produced encouraging results, significant challenges remained to ensuring sustainable food security and good incomes for all parts of society. Togo noted the need for sustained international cooperation to introduce sustainable and inclusive agriculture systems and eliminate hunger and the worst forms of

malnutrition, as emphasized in the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods and the Zero Hunger Challenge.

111. **Mr. Kadurugamuwa** (Sri Lanka) said that it was disheartening that overall progress in reducing global hunger had been highly uneven and that a large number of people across the globe remained chronically hungry. Carefully crafted national policies could alleviate the impact of global challenges on food security and nutrition. Ancient Sri Lankans had been among the first to manage water resources by building reservoirs to store water for irrigation. Giant reservoirs in the dry zone of his country remained the lifeblood of its agriculture, which was the foundation of the economy. Approximately 70 per cent of the rural population depended on agriculture for their livelihood and it contributed 11 per cent of the country's GDP. Agriculture development remained a crucial factor in poverty eradication, food security and improved nutrition.

112. With the aim of increasing food production to cope with rising food prices, the Government had introduced a home gardening project to increase vegetable production and make the harvest available throughout the year. The project would stabilize food prices in domestic markets, strengthen the economic status of individuals and minimize dependency on the market for food and nutrition. Since rice was the staple food of Sri Lanka, a rice paddy purchasing programme had been introduced to maintain minimum prices for paddy farmers and improve their living standards. Import duty concessions for agricultural machinery, a fertilizer subsidy scheme and adjusted import tariffs were all actions taken to protect the agriculture sector. As a result of those policies, his country had achieved self-sufficiency in rice. June had been named "national nutrition month" and a national nutrition surveillance system operated throughout the country. Under the Thripasha Programme, women who were pregnant or breastfeeding and children up to 59 months of age were provided with food supplements and micronutrients. Action on malnutrition was integrated across sectors and included interventions in the food system, public health and education.

113. Sri Lanka had achieved the MDG target of halving hunger seven years before the deadline of

2015, which showed that it was feasible to eradicate hunger by 2030. Sustainable Development Goal 2 would be achieved through the National Agriculture Policy, which was based on three pillars: achieving food security, ensuring environmental sustainability and developing economic opportunities.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.