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Chair: Ms. Brown (Vice-Chair) (Jamaica)

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In the absence of Mr. Diallo (Senegal), Ms. Brown (Jamaica), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

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

Agenda item 25: Agriculture development, food security and nutrition (*continued*) (A/68/73-E/2013/59 and A/68/311; A/C.2/68/3)

1. **Ms. Choudhry** (India) said that global progress towards food security and nutrition required addressing food availability and access, price stability, consumption, undernourishment, malnutrition, health and sanitation. Food security could not be ensured by national action alone, due to the role of systemic and structural international factors influencing food price volatility, as well as the speculative practices of commodity markets. Distorted agricultural subsidies had allowed member countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development to profit, while forcing developing countries to benchmark the current prices offered to their poor farmers against an antiquated reference price.

2. The right to food must be recognized as a basic human right, and the essential link between food security and income poverty must be acknowledged. The successful international collaboration that had engendered the Green Revolution should be replicated, in part by adopting more flexible global intellectual property rights regimes.

3. In order to change unsustainable consumption patterns, awareness must be raised in the developed world about food wastage. Additionally, poor infrastructure and a lack of advanced technologies had produced unacceptably high levels of post-harvest losses in developing countries, an issue which must be addressed by increased rural investment and better access to technology. Finally, gender equality and women's empowerment were key determinants for food security.

4. **Ms. Al-Hadid** (Jordan) said that agricultural growth could be more effective at reducing poverty than growth arising from other economic sectors, and could thus contribute to alleviating poverty, hunger and malnutrition worldwide. In order to increase food production despite fewer resources, it was necessary to reinvigorate rural economies, enhance access to research and technology, improve global trade and reduce food loss and waste. Poverty and food insecurity were concentrated in rural areas where

farmers owned small parcels of unproductive agricultural land.

5. As Jordan was heavily urbanized, it was highly dependent on food and fuel imports, which made meeting domestic food and water needs challenging. Consequently, various development initiatives had been undertaken to build a modern, more export-oriented agricultural sector.

6. **Mr. Back** (Australia) said that the Asia-Pacific region had shown the way forward in agricultural development, with progress underpinned by sound economic policies and strong national leadership, including in China, Indonesia, Viet Nam and the Philippines. However, poor infrastructure still hindered developing economies from engaging in global markets. In addition, the world was facing insufficient investment in agricultural research, a halt to productivity increases and a dearth of agricultural experts and researchers. The private sector must be tapped to meet investment requirements.

7. Many countries faced the double burden of malnutrition and rising obesity levels. Food security was improved when barriers to the participation of developing country producers in international agricultural trade were lifted and agricultural subsidies were removed.

8. **Ms. Medvedeva** (Russian Federation) said that, despite some progress, the global food crisis persisted. Its solution was complicated by countries' lack of scientific and technical capacity, imbalances in the world economy, volatility of commodity prices, instability of consumption and production, environmental degradation and reduced biodiversity. She also stressed the negative impact of the irrational use of food resources for the mass production of biofuels.

9. Global mechanisms to manage food security must be included in the post-2015 development agenda. Key measures should include developing rural lands, increasing productivity in the agro-industrial sector, enhancing the transparency and efficiency of agricultural markets and improving the food security of vulnerable population groups.

10. After welcoming the initiatives being taken by several United Nations bodies with the aim of reducing hunger and enhancing food security, she mentioned the Russian Federation's focus on that aim in international

organizations and groupings and its collaboration with the World Food Programme. Her country was increasing its food assistance to members of the Commonwealth of Independent States and to countries in Asia and Africa.

11. **Ms. Brooke** (United States) said that the moral obligation of the United States to lead the fight against hunger and malnutrition had been the impetus behind several of its initiatives, in particular Feed the Future. Nutrition must be at the forefront of all food security efforts, as good nutrition during the critical 1,000-day period from a woman's pregnancy until her child's second birthday had the biggest impact on saving lives and improving lifelong development.

12. Climate change was a critical challenge for food production. Therefore, the United States and other partners were launching the Climate-Smart Agriculture Alliance to set aspirational goals for 2030, address opportunities for action, build community resilience and accelerate the implementation of climate-smart agricultural practices. Those issues, as well as the growing challenge of food waste and loss, should be addressed by responsible investment in research and development to design new methods to increase incomes, improve nutrition, reduce waste and strengthen resilience among resource-poor populations. However, the sharing and transfer of technology between stakeholders must always occur voluntarily and in mutually agreed conditions: one successful example was the Water Efficient Maize for Africa project.

13. Partnerships between donors, international organizations, private sector and civil society actors, as well as stakeholders on the ground such as smallholder farmers, were all needed. National ownership was critical to successful development, and developing countries should participate directly in the design of programmes targeted to their specific strengths and needs.

14. **Mr. Msosa** (Malawi) noted that, although the world was producing more food than ever, food insecurity was increasing. Malawi was well endowed with arable land and water but its population had grown and resources were not being used to their full potential or in a sustainable manner, primarily because of a lack of appropriate and affordable technologies. The sub-Saharan region was unfortunately still plagued by pervasive and dehumanizing hunger. Malawi had

prioritized agricultural growth not only as a means to attain household and nutritional food security, but also as a wealth-generating business and a potential source of national economic growth.

15. Thanks to the support of the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition launched by the Group of 8 in 2012, Malawi had seen a tremendous boost in its agricultural sector. It encouraged further strong partnerships with the private sector and investment-friendly policies.

16. **Mr. AlAjmi** (Kuwait) said that it was essential to support the least developed countries in their efforts to achieve food security and a dignified life for all. Although climate change impacted all nations, it presented special problems for developing countries and threatened the very existence of some small island States. His delegation urged the international community to increase efforts to reduce the effects of climate change, in line with internationally approved plans to improve energy use, diversify energy sources and assist in the exchange of low-emission technologies. Agricultural development should be the focus of the post-2015 development agenda.

17. Since its establishment in 1961, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development had raised 18 billion dollars. The country had also decided to increase its annual voluntary contributions to a number of agencies, programmes and funds of the United Nations in order to support humanitarian activities and deepen mutual cooperation.

18. **Mr. Naing** (Myanmar) agreed that sustainable agriculture must be promoted, enhanced and supported to improve food security, eradicate hunger and allow economic viability. Myanmar welcomed the successful approval of two crucial documents at the fortieth session of the Committee on World Food Security, held in Rome in October 2013, and endorsed the recommended investment in smallholder agriculture and biofuels.

19. Agriculture had become an increasingly market-driven sector rather than a policy-led one. Providing market access to developing countries was crucial for them to reap the benefits offered by such a shift. Production shortfalls, price volatility, agricultural subsidies and trade distortions remained a threat to global food security and to the economies of developing countries in particular. Agriculture was the largest contributor to Myanmar's gross domestic product (GDP). The country was not only self-sufficient in terms

of food, but also a leading exporter of rice and some pulses and beans. Nevertheless, comprehensive reforms in agriculture had been undertaken, and Myanmar fully subscribed to the need for developed countries to provide public financing and transfer the appropriate technologies to facilitate sustainable agricultural practices.

20. **Ms. Dwyer** (Ireland) said that, due to their complex and interdependent causes, food insecurity and malnutrition manifested themselves in diverse ways in different regions of the world. Short-term relief efforts should be embedded within longer-term strategies. Ireland had directed 20 per cent of its aid budget to hunger-related activities, seeking to ensure that the programmes it supported were not merely focused on food quantity, but also on quality. It had also pledged to double its spending on nutrition by 2020, as the return on investment in nutrition was very high and had lasting effects on national stability and prosperity.

21. Placing people at the centre of food security discussions and empowering grassroots practitioners were essential requirements for good policymaking and targeted actions. Ireland had contributed to reducing global hunger by boosting smallholder agricultural productivity, in particular by empowering women and farmers in sub-Saharan Africa; by targeting undernutrition in infants, children and mothers; and by promoting governance and leadership to reduce global hunger at both national and international levels. The international community should be wary of focusing exclusively on increasing agricultural productivity and simple measures of food security, but should instead focus on the improved health and nutrition of the poorest segments of society.

22. **Ms. Martina** (Ukraine) said that Ukraine strongly supported the Agricultural Market Information System established by the Group of 20 and was proud to have been a project partner. The country had presented its candidature to chair the organization in 2014. Ukraine had also adopted an agriculture development strategy for 2020, which aimed to provide its population with high-quality, safe and affordable food, as well as to tackle hunger around the world.

23. Open and rules-based trade, supported by functioning markets, was essential to promote growth and ensure food security. Consequently, Ukraine and

the European Union were about to sign an agreement to create a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area.

24. **Ms. Richards** (Jamaica) said that, like many other developing countries, Jamaica faced decreasing food production and a growing dependence on imports. Domestic economic challenges had led to food security issues for the country's most vulnerable. Jamaica's food and nutrition security policy sought to ensure that all people had ongoing access to sufficient supplies of safe food for a nutritionally adequate diet and, by doing so, to achieve and maintain health and nutritional well-being for all.

25. Food security was a fundamental right of all citizens regardless of their socioeconomic status. A national food security law would be enacted to ensure that domestic food production of a core set of food products met a minimum threshold. The post-2015 development agenda should set ambitious goals.

26. **Mr. Naanda** (Namibia) said that many Namibians depended on agriculture either directly or indirectly for their livelihoods, and that subsistence agriculture sustained approximately 48 per cent of rural households. Like the region as a whole, the country faced chronic drought, water scarcity, land degradation and the effects of climate change. In addition, Namibia was also still struggling to correct the historically skewed distribution of land and the fact that a small minority continued to have access to most of the country's farmland.

27. The country's national development plan was designed to diversify agricultural practices and products, create jobs, improve competitiveness, develop markets locally, regionally and internationally, ensure potable water and basic sanitation services, promote integrated environmental management, improve regulatory frameworks, promote food safety standards and, above all, ensure food security. The role played by women in agriculture and food production should not be overlooked, and gender should be mainstreamed in all development agendas.

28. **Mr. Essohanam** (Togo) said that Togo had adopted the Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Employment Promotion that sought to improve farmers' incomes, guarantee food security and annually reduce rural poverty by at least 5 per cent. Togo's resulting cereal surplus would allow farmers to sell part of their harvest to the State and reinvest the money in measures to increase agricultural productivity.

29. In the context of the Abuja Declaration on Development of Agribusiness and Agro-Industries in Africa, Togo planned to focus on the major problems facing the development of agriculture and fishing in order to ensure food security and increase rural dwellers' incomes. Agricultural zones would be created to increase the average area of agricultural operations, introduce appropriate mechanization and improve productivity and competitiveness. Togo was also concerned with environmental degradation and sought to promote agroforestry, support collective efforts for natural resource conservation, fight against invasive aquatic plant species, create community forests, identify and disseminate climate-smart agricultural practices and support community efforts at biodiversity preservation. Togo called on its development partners to help it achieve those goals.

30. **Mr. Bengaly** (Burkina Faso) said that the right to food was far from being respected. As a developing landlocked Sahel country, Burkina Faso faced serious climate change issues. In addition, insufficient rainfall, combined with wasteful traditional cultivation methods and increased population pressure were contributing to the degradation of land and water resources. The country had consequently adopted a national policy on land tenure in partnership with the United States Millennium Challenge Account in order to promote sustainable food security and nutrition, spur economic growth and reduce poverty levels. Other measures were being taken to promote mechanization, off-season cultivation and irrigated perimeters, and to create regional chambers of agriculture.

31. Burkina Faso welcomed the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition launched by the Group of 8. The funding provided by the programme would allow 1.6 million people in Burkina Faso to escape hunger and poverty by 2022.

32. **Mr. Jiménez** (Nicaragua) said that the prevailing, unjust international economic order impeded developing countries in their efforts to develop sustainable agriculture and achieve food security. Food security could only be achieved through equitable economic growth; job and income generation; and technological advances, particularly in the agricultural sector. Technological innovation, access to technology, cooperation, capacity-building and sharing of best practice could foster sustainable agriculture. Technologies should increase productivity and address climate change.

33. Nicaragua's national food security strategy had enabled it to achieve Target 1.C of the Millennium Goals. In 2013, the United Nations Children's Fund had singled out Nicaragua for making the greatest dent in child malnutrition of all the Latin American and Caribbean countries. A number of national social programmes targeting women were in place, including a "Zero hunger" project. It provided women with tools to produce food and opportunities to join cooperatives and more actively participate in agricultural production. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) had commended Nicaragua for its social policies targeting hunger. Political will, investment in microcredit programmes, and economic and social empowerment of the poorest were integral to hunger eradication.

34. **Mr. Gave** (France) said that supporting farmers was vital in the fight against poverty. On average, investment in agriculture was twice as effective as investment in other sectors. Action to support agriculture should be based on four priority areas. First, family farming had the greatest productive and job-creating potential and generated the majority of rural income. The international community should promote small-scale farming that respected the environment and generated wealth and employment. Second, the global community should adopt a new agricultural model: large, highly productive traditional farms and family farms in developed and developing countries alike should concentrate on ecologically sound practices. Sustainable agriculture that mitigated the effects of climate change and adapted to global warming was essential. Third, food losses and wastage must be reduced at each stage of production, and in developed countries' consumption. Finally, the international community needed to implement nutrition policies and interventions of proven efficacy. Maternal and child malnutrition hindered the development of whole societies. The "Scaling Up Nutrition" movement was praiseworthy.

35. Public and private investment in agriculture was needed, but commercial investment and official development assistance must ensure that they did not harm the communities they targeted. With regard to the monopolization of land, for example, the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security were crucial. Investment must have tangible benefits for smallholders,

improving their quality of life and contributing to food security, as emphasized in the Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment jointly established by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Bank. The causes of food insecurity must be addressed through the creation of decent employment and aid frameworks to support the most vulnerable, improvement of agricultural production processes and markets to ensure access to a varied diet, and guaranteed access to essential services such as maternal and child healthcare, clean water and basic education. The United Nations had a vital role in mobilizing the international community to eliminate hunger. France fully supported the Secretary-General's Zero Hunger Challenge.

36. **Mr. Gumende** (Mozambique) said that rapid, inclusive and sustainable socioeconomic growth was key to food security. Basic infrastructure development and employment creation were critical. Strengthened food security and nutrition governance; and improved seeds, water management, access to water, food storage and market systems were necessary. Mozambique's Strategic Plan for Agricultural Development, aimed at ensuring adequate nutrition for the entire population, had yielded positive results. Food production had risen by 7 per cent in 2012/13 and the country had produced surpluses of maize, cassava and beans. Mozambique allocated 10 per cent of its national budget to agriculture and had an annual agricultural growth rate of at least 6 per cent, thanks to a national investment plan within the framework of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme.

37. Despite progress, 43 per cent of children under 5 in Mozambique were malnourished. Initiatives to fight hunger and malnourishment were vitally important. As leaders of the Scaling Up Nutrition movement had recently highlighted, better policy frameworks and more financial resources were needed. Women, youth and local communities must play a role in nutrition-related actions.

38. The Ninth Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, held in 2012, had provided impetus to achieve Goal 1 of the MDGs. Hunger and malnutrition eradication were critical within the framework of both the MDGs and the post-2015 development agenda.

39. **Mr. Estreme** (Argentina) said that, in order to satisfy world hunger and a growing global population, Argentina had substantially increased its production of grain for export. It now produced 100 million tons, owing to collaboration between the private sector and the Government.

40. Poverty and unfair distribution of wealth, not price volatility, were responsible for hunger. Artificially reducing the prices of basic products was not the solution to price volatility. Agricultural market protectionism, including developed countries' agricultural subsidies, greatly impacted vast regions, including Latin America and the Caribbean, discouraging investment and restricting those countries' development, productive potential and export capacity. Financial speculation led to price volatility; markets must be regulated to curb speculation. Protectionism prevented developing countries from accessing markets. Subsidies generated unfair competition, negatively affecting value-added production and investment in developing countries.

41. Long-awaited agriculture policy reforms must be prioritized in the Doha Round. Members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) must begin to comply with the Organization's agriculture mandate at the Ninth WTO Ministerial Conference.

42. The international community should take measures to create an international market favourable to agricultural development, based on three priorities. First, developed-country subsidies that impacted negatively on markets should be eliminated. Second, new technology should be adapted to deal with the limitations faced by family farmers. Third, investment in infrastructure and technology needed to be encouraged in all countries, but particularly in those with the potential for large-scale agricultural production. An integrated vision was needed to eradicate global hunger.

43. **Mr. García Landa** (Mexico) said that market fluctuations, environmental pressures and climate change represented significant challenges to sustainable agriculture development and food security. Mexico supported all programmes designed to promote cooperation to fight food insecurity, including the Zero Hunger Challenge and the "Scaling Up Nutrition" movement. The current economic challenges faced by Governments should not sidetrack their efforts to achieve the MDGs.

44. Financial markets needed to be more transparent, to facilitate a more stable and open trading system conducive to growth and poverty eradication. The Agricultural Market Information System and its Rapid Response Forum, hosted by FAO, could help to prevent future food crises.

45. Mexico's recently launched National Crusade Against Hunger brought together Government, the public and private sectors, and international organizations to improve nutrition, increase small farmers' incomes, minimize post-harvest losses and waste, and promote community participation in fighting hunger. The Government was developing the financial sector's stability and competitiveness, to enable it to better support agriculture. It was improving transport infrastructure and systems to reduce costs and improve connectivity for farmers and consumers.

46. The post-2015 development agenda must adopt a thorough, integrated approach to agriculture development, food security and nutrition. International cooperation was indispensable; South-South and triangular cooperation had great potential, particularly with regard to sharing technology, scientific advances, experience and best practice. Public, private and international organizations should also collaborate to enhance food security.

47. **Mr. Chipaziwa** (Zimbabwe) said that agriculture was the backbone of Zimbabwe's economy, as well as an engine for growth and poverty eradication. The Government had implemented measures to improve national agriculture and food security, including modernization of the agricultural sector. It continued to invest in rural infrastructure, with a focus on transport, communication, energy, water and sanitation.

48. Owing to several factors (the most important being climate change, limited financial resources and economic sanctions), farmers in Zimbabwe produced less than they could. Zimbabwe was deeply concerned by the fall in funding for agriculture development from international financial institutions and bilateral donors since 1990. Development partners should fulfil their commitments, and, importantly, support must be de-politicized. Trade-distorting agricultural subsidies squeezed developing countries out of international markets. The members of WTO should conclude the Doha Round in a manner favourable to developing countries; in particular, by removing tariffs and trade barriers. A new approach to agriculture and

international trade was needed, prioritizing economic empowerment of smallholders and rural communities, and leading to food sovereignty and security. The international community should support developing countries' efforts to mitigate climate change by contributing to the Green Climate Fund, and helping to develop drought-resistant and short-term seasonal crops, irrigation infrastructure and water-conserving techniques.

49. **Mr. Do Hung Viet** (Viet Nam) said that food availability was the primary objective of food security. States must reserve land for food production and develop climate-smart agriculture. Investment in research and development, and food producers, was necessary. National and international efforts should promote sustainable use of resources. Efficient food distribution systems were necessary, at both national and global levels. The international community should create an environment conducive to inclusive, equitable economic growth, to enable job creation and income generation, ensuring people's ability to afford available food. Early warning systems to prevent or mitigate economic or climatic crises were important to guarantee stable access to adequate food at all times.

50. Although Viet Nam's agricultural sector was shrinking, it still accounted for nearly 20 per cent of GDP, and was one of the forces driving poverty eradication. Viet Nam was one of 36 countries to already have achieved Goal 1 of the MDGs. Strategic policy had transformed Viet Nam from a food import-dependent nation into one of the world's biggest exporters, supplying approximately one fifth of rice exported worldwide. Viet Nam had been sharing its knowledge with other developing countries, especially in Africa, through triangular cooperation.

51. Despite many improvements, climate change and natural disasters continued to hinder Viet Nam's efforts to achieve food security. Investment was limited and global price volatility, as well as protectionist measures and developed countries' subsidies, affected its agricultural sector. Viet Nam remained determined to surmount the challenge of achieving global food security.

52. **Mr. Madisa** (Botswana) said that an injection of resources into sub-Saharan Africa was needed if global hunger was to be eradicated. Agriculture development, food security and nutrition should remain at the heart of development initiatives and the post-2015

development agenda. Botswana had always depended on rain for subsistence farming, especially in rural areas. Climate change had made rainfall sporadic and unpredictable, leading to serious agricultural losses and to a reduced agricultural contribution to Botswana's economy. Climate change had also affected the nutritional value of foods traditionally grown, adding to difficulties in achieving food security and good nutrition. The Government's Integrated Support Programme for Arable Agricultural Development helped farmers with capitalization of their farming operations, tillage, crop management and acquisition of essentials such as seeds, fertilizers and fencing materials. Botswana called for the international community's assistance to sustain its agricultural initiatives. Nutrition was linked to economic, social and environmental factors, and it must be addressed in the post-2015 development agenda in an integrated manner.

53. **Ms. Pacheco** (Bolivia) said that the formulation of the post-2015 development agenda posed a challenge in a world that produced enough food for all its inhabitants but that, historically, had distributed it very unequally. Bolivia proposed a set of priorities pertaining to food security and nutrition. Those included revival of community-based knowledge and food production techniques, with a focus on food as medicine and as an integral part of cultural identity; protection of populations from malnutrition by controlling the marketing of foods that were damaging to the health; sanctions on financial speculation based on food production and marketing; and prioritizing crop production to feed people rather than to create biofuels.

54. Noting the designation of 2013 as International Year of Quinoa, she said that quinoa had high nutritional value, but was also valuable for its genetic diversity, capacity to adapt to varied climatic conditions and for its cultural and socioeconomic benefits.

55. The Bolivian Government had implemented policies to support farmers, including providing interest-free agricultural credit for the production of crops such as wheat, soy, rice and corn, and a land redistribution programme to democratize land access, which had flourished under President Morales. The country's 2013 agriculture census would collect data to contribute to the development of a strategic food security policy.

56. **Mr. Van Oosterom** (Netherlands) said that food security was related to peace, justice and development and food insecurity was linked with increased crime, violence and social unrest. There was a clear relationship between political and social rights, on the one hand, and food security and nutrition, on the other.

57. The Netherlands advocated a coordinated approach, in particular between the Rome-based agencies and the United Nations. Its Permanent Mission in New York contributed to discussions on food security through the Group of Friends on Food and Nutrition Security, an informal platform that brought together countries, the United Nations, the private sector and civil society. Food security, as well as the aims of the MDGs, should be integral to the post-2015 development agenda. The Netherlands supported the Zero Hunger Challenge, as well as innovative approaches to tackling food insecurity. It believed that access to financing for small-scale farmers was of vital importance.

58. A broad, integrated approach to food and nutrition security was required, incorporating aid, global governance and international trade. Consensus-based guidelines should be established, linking private agricultural investments to public concerns and objectives. Positive results could be achieved if governments, the private sector, universities and civil society worked towards a shared vision. The Netherlands, as the world's second biggest agricultural exporter, was prepared to share its considerable expertise in that area. It would continue to play an active role in global food security and nutrition initiatives, research and development on climate-smart agriculture, and efforts to reduce food waste and promote healthy oceans, particularly in its new capacity as Chair of the Committee on World Food Security.

59. **Mr. Šćepanović** (Montenegro) said that agriculture development and sustainable food systems were strategic priorities for Montenegro. Agriculture and rural development were crucial to reducing regional disparities and eradicating poverty. A robust agricultural sector could mitigate the effects of financial crises on other industries, thus arable land was a valuable resource.

60. Montenegro was working to align its agriculture policy with the highest standards of the European Union. With FAO assistance, it was developing a

strategy for agriculture and rural development. Recognizing the importance of Montenegro's biodiversity, and of environmentally sound growing techniques, the Government had adopted a law on organic production, with a related national action plan for the period 2012-2017.

61. Montenegro appreciated the importance of investing in small-scale farmers, and welcomed the launch of the International Year of Family Farming. While progress had been made on reducing chronic hunger, urgent action was still needed to deliver the most vulnerable from hunger and extreme poverty. His Government hoped that the post-2015 development agenda would address the issues of agriculture development, food security and nutrition responsibly and efficiently.

62. **Mr. Chullikatt** (Observer for the Holy See) said that agriculture development, food security and nutrition should be viewed from a human rights perspective. Hunger was caused by exclusion; agriculture policies should promote inclusion, respect for the dignity and rights of those on the margins of society, and the well-being of current and future generations. The human right to food was denied to some, despite the fact that globally enough food was produced to feed everyone. Improving food production was important, but it was also necessary to change social structures to show greater solidarity with the poor and hungry. Waste in the production and distribution of food was often due to the fact that wastage could be more profitable than ensuring that food went to those in need.

63. Access to food was too often used as a weapon for controlling or subjugating populations, rather than as a tool for building peaceful, prosperous communities. Sustainable food production should start at the most local level, so as to maximize participation and involve as many people as possible in the process of solving food insecurity.

64. **Mr. Madiwale** (Observer for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) said that the extent of global hunger was unacceptable. Growth alone could not adequately address the complex, interconnected root causes of hunger. In light of the need to build the resistance of the most vulnerable and ensure the resilience of future generations, Government efforts should focus on three areas. First, they should give greater support to

smallholders. Smallholders produced 70 per cent of the world's food, and tended to engage in sustainable practices, yet were often the least supported by national and international policy. They were also extremely vulnerable to natural hazards. Governments should give particular attention to female smallholders, who continued to have less access than men to resources and opportunities. Second, food security and nutrition programmes must focus on particularly vulnerable groups, including female-headed households, landless and displaced peoples, women, children, orphans, people with disabilities and the elderly. Third, the international community must improve the preparedness, quality and timeliness of international responses to food security crises. A number of actions should be taken, including: linkage of donor preparedness and resources to better prediction and early warning systems, early livelihood interventions in emergencies and funding for risk reduction and social protection, twin-track approaches that addressed emergency needs while building longer-term resilience, and greater integration of food and nutrition security and health in emergencies and post-disaster situations.

65. Food insecurity was not only a problem in developing countries: since the 2008 economic crisis, European Red Cross National Societies had seen a 75 per cent increase in the number of people reliant on their food assistance. Innovative partnerships would be needed to address the food security needs of the future. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies had partnered with FAO to combat land degradation and climate change, through programmes aimed at tree planting, sustainable water management and reduction of food loss and waste, in highly vulnerable regions and communities. The elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda provided a historic opportunity to end hunger in a generation; Governments should aim high and adopt a "getting to zero" approach on future goals and targets.

66. **Mr. Bleicher** (International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)), speaking also on behalf of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP), said that meaningful investment in resilient food systems was required. The international community must change the way food was produced, traded and consumed in order to respond to population growth, increased demand and climate change. Better policies

and programmes were needed to strengthen vulnerable populations' resistance to shocks. There should be more investment in enhancing agricultural productivity, in particular for smallholders, combined with improved access to productive resources and markets. The poorest, particularly pregnant women up until 1,000 days after the start of pregnancy, needed guaranteed access to nutritious food. There remained much to be done: it was necessary to tackle obesity and the associated increased incidence of non-communicable diseases, and to empower women, who played a critical role in supporting their communities.

67. However, there was cause for optimism. The Rome-based agencies had programmes and policies in place to help Governments address the challenges of food and nutrition insecurity both in the short and long terms. They continued to support countries in special situations, including through their commitment to improved South-South and triangular cooperation. Movements such as "Scaling Up Nutrition" were building unprecedented momentum to reduce child under-nutrition. The Rome-based agencies were working to ensure that the upcoming International Conference on Nutrition would mobilize political will to improve global nutrition.

68. A food security and nutrition goal should be included in the sustainable development goals. Through commitment to the implementation of the Zero Hunger Challenge and a focus on more sustainable agricultural practices in the post-2015 development agenda, it was possible to eradicate food insecurity and malnutrition.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.