

Islamic Republic of **I R A N**

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

**Statement by
Mr. Javad Amin-Mansour
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on
"Global Food Crisis"
before
The Special Meeting of the Economic and Social Council
on the Global Food Crisis
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In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. President;

I would like to thank you for organizing this Special Meeting of the Economic and Social Council to consider the Global Food Crisis. Fortunately, the discussions in the current implementation cycle of CSD on agriculture, rural development, desertification, and drought is providing us with the opportunity to identify some of the most important factors leading to food crisis and to set policy options and practical measures which can contribute to overcome the crisis.

As the international community tries to move towards achieving "Goal One" of the MDGs, and eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, the people across the globe, particularly in developing countries, are facing the new challenge of looming food prices which led to the current food crisis. The new circumstances indicate that a more realistic and holistic approach is required in dealing with global issues including MDGs. Needless to emphasize that political will of the governments and the collective efforts of the international community are prerequisites of any movement for reaching tangible result. The High Level Conference on World Food Security, to be held from 3 to 5 in June 2008 in Rome, is a milestone, where heads of states and governments and the other high-level officials and the representatives of the relevant international organizations will get together and address ways and means to tackle the current food crisis.

Now I would like to refer to several parameters which, in our view, affect directly the current food crisis.

In developing countries, development plays a major role in increasing agricultural productivity and enhancement of human resources, including in rural

areas. Agricultural sector has been neglected for a long time in terms of adequate funding and investment, access to appropriate and adequate fertilizers, new and appropriate technologies, strengthening indigenous seeds, appropriate packaging, better management of agricultural wastes, protection of biological diversity, as well as water supply. In addition, pastoralism, including nomadic pastoralism and aquaculture which play a major role in producing the protein to feed people, require further attention. The livelihoods of fish-farmers and pastoralists are not usually better than the others in rural areas of the developing countries.

It is worth noting that extended and prolonged cycles of drought as well as desertification have aggravated the environment in arid and semi-arid areas. Sand dune movement is encroaching agricultural fields and rangelands and sand storms continue to hit all desert areas including cities and villages. Desertification and drought increase water scarcity and give rise to migration.

I would be amiss if I fail to underline the major role of women and children in rural development and enhancing agricultural productivity. Unfortunately, such positive activities have led in many areas to their deprivation of socio-economic privileges such as education, adequate literacy, and welfare. Likewise, one can not ignore the constructive role of civil societies and private sector in rural development, agricultural sector, pastoralism, and aquaculture which affect positively the level of food production.

The current food crisis casts doubt on the sustainability of the biofuel development projects. The policy of biofuel production requires further studies in order to make sure it will not threaten food security and protection of the environment.

Although many governments in developing countries spare no efforts in improving the living conditions of their people by providing technical and financial support to various social layers involved in development of agricultural sector, lack of a favorable environment at international level exacerbates the situations. In this regard, we can refer to a number of constraints and setbacks, including the inadequacy of financial resources in relevant international mechanisms, stalemate in Doha negotiations on international trade, agricultural subsidies in developed countries, insufficient ODA and investment in the area of agriculture and rural development, lack of access to new and appropriate technologies. Moreover, unsustainable patterns of consumption and production continue to intensify the current food crisis.

Last but not least, Mr. President, We hope that the international community by provision of adequate and predictable financial resources for the agricultural sector, removal of barriers for the transfer of technology and enhancement of capacity building in developing countries will contribute to overcome the current food crisis at all levels.

I thank you Mr. President.