



**Intergovernmental Institution
for the Use of Micro-algae Spirulina
Against Malnutrition**

Permanent Observer to the United Nations Economic and Social Council

**Economic and Social Council Substantive Session For 2008
High-Level Segment**

This year's theme is "*Achieving Sustainable Development*"

STATEMENT BY:

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TO

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Check Against Delivery

Hon'ble President, Excellencies, distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Intergovernmental Institution for the use of Micro-algae Spirulina Against Malnutrition, IIMSAM, I am most delighted to interact with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

This year's theme is '***Achieving Sustainable Development***'. It gains a special importance in the context of the current food crisis the world is presently witnessing. The catastrophe wrecked by the food crisis is not only morally unacceptable but also politically unstable.

How shall the international community fulfill its commitments to the peoples of the world when our interventions are leading to unbalanced outcomes and causing disparities?

IIMSAM firmly believes that unless the issue of malnutrition is addressed on a priority basis by the international community, achieving sustainable development would remain a distant dream.

When I was in school, I read about Gandhi who said that ***there are people in the world so hungry that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread***. This gains significant importance as it juxtaposes the ***Right to Food*** with the ***Right to Life***.

The inherent link of nutrition with the achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals and with the processes that contribute towards sustainable development at various levels and quarters makes it imperative that the very issue is recognized and addressed on an immediate basis.

IIMSAM aspires to make Spirulina, a micro-algae that is abundant in all the essential proteins, minerals and vitamins; into a key driver to eradicate malnutrition, achieve food security and to bridge the health divide.

To realize our ambition of a world free of hunger and malnutrition; IIMSAM has prioritized to target the Developing and the Least Developed Countries. I am most pleased to inform you that the first-phase of IIMSAM's Green Life Fallujah project in Fallujah, Iraq has been completed successfully. This initiative would utilize Spirulina to eradicate malnutrition and various dis-empowerments that are concomitant with it amongst children in the Fallujah region of Iraq. Soon IIMSAM would be launching its projects in Brazil, Ghana, Haiti, Honduras and India as well.

The **United Nations World Food Conference of 1974** lauded Spirulina as possibly ***the best food for the future***. Spirulina now is produced in over 22 countries and consumed in over 77 countries. The **United Nations World Health Organisation (WHO)** found Spirulina to be an interesting food for multiple reasons, rich in protein, iron and essential nutrients; and able to be administered to children without any risk.

It is important that the Member States, Civil Society and other stakeholders realize, recognize and utilize; and exploit the potential of Spirulina as a tool of both policy and practical relevance not only to eradicate malnutrition but also to secure the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

The developing world can gain from its competencies to cultivate Spirulina as most countries are endowed with physical conditions that are conducive for successful cultivation of the micro-algae. Local cultivation, procurement; and distribution of Spirulina would not only lead to an empowerment process that has its roots based in the locale but would also lead to building lasting capacities and capabilities that would contribute significantly towards sustainable development per se.

I perceive the very approach as the **UN Secretary General H.E. Ban ki Moon** terms it- *real commitment and real action*- on the need of fresh ideas to strategize the initiatives of the international community to counter the challenges of malnutrition.

Mr. President, I thank the **UNECOSOC** for providing **IIMSAM** with an opportunity to present its case to realize a world free of hunger and malnutrition. **ECOSOC** is a platform to develop shared understandings and to address the challenges faced by the humankind with a spirit of common purpose.

I am confident that the Member States and other stakeholders present here would be an agent of positive change that would help **IIMSAM** fulfill its commitments to the peoples of the world.

Thank you.