



BRAZIL

Second Committee

Item 26 – Agriculture Development and Food Security

05 November 2012

(Please check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, my delegation would like to thank the Secretary-General for presenting his report on “Agricultural development and food security” (A/67/294) and for transmitting the report on the main decisions and policy recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security (A/67/86-E/2012/71).

My delegation fully aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of Algeria, on behalf of the G77 and China, and presents the following additional remarks in its national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

Agriculture development and food security are fundamental elements of our collective efforts towards poverty eradication. 75% of the world’s poor live in rural areas. In the poorest countries, particularly in Africa, the agricultural sector accounts for nearly 60% of national employment. Close to a billion people still go hungry everyday and many more are far from having access to safe, adequate and nutritious food.

The Rio+20 outcome document entitled “The Future We Want” has provided a number of important guidelines on how best to address the issue of food security that have already been mentioned by previous delegations. In Rio, the international community reaffirmed its commitment to address the global challenge of food security and nutrition for present and future generations in line with the Five Rome Principles for Global Sustainable Food Security.

The outcome document also stresses the need to focus on the situation in rural areas in developing countries, because this is where hunger and malnutrition are more prevalent. It also indicates the need for an increase in production and productivity, by means of better access of farmers – especially poor farmers – to technology and financing.

We wish to underscore the need for redoubled collective and coordinated action at the global, regional and country levels in the fight against hunger. In this regard, we join other delegations in commending the Secretary-General for the launch of the Zero Hunger Challenge.

Mr. Chairman,

The link between sustainability and food security has been well established and it can be envisaged from many angles. We wish to highlight a few of them.

First of all, we consider that international trade plays a decisive role. Protectionism in developed countries has been threatening food security in the developing world, as it hinders their agricultural production by exposing them to unfair competition from subsidized goods while denying access to important external markets. Agricultural protectionism also grants unfair advantages to producers in developed countries, which already enjoy better conditions, and discourages production diversification and investment in the rural sector in developing countries. This is the main reason why WTO members must redouble efforts to achieve an ambitious, balanced and development-oriented conclusion of the Doha Development Agenda.

A second point of importance is the crucial role of family farming – the smallholder farmers. Efforts to increase productivity of small farmers are of crucial importance in ensuring food security in developing countries.

This brings us to the third point we would like to stress: the importance of cooperation.

Brazil, as it is well known, has achieved significant progress in terms of food security and poverty reduction. Over the last decade, we have made unprecedented progress, lifting almost 40 million people out of poverty with a significant reduction in the levels of social and economic inequality. We still face many challenges but we are determined to move forward.

Mr. Chairman,

We believe these achievements should be shared by all nations facing the same challenges. Cooperation is a fundamental tool to that effect, being able to bring immediate results to populations in need. In that spirit, Brazil has undertaken a total of 34 bilateral or trilateral technical cooperation agreements in the area of agriculture with 17 Sub-Saharan African countries. About 97 scheduled projects have already been successfully completed by the Brazilian Cooperation Agency in Africa.

Family farming is at the center of many ongoing initiatives, such as “More Food for Africa Project”, which Brazil is currently carrying out with Ghana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique and that is open for others to join. The idea is to provide simultaneously technical cooperation and credit in order to support jobs and income in rural areas of Africa, concentrating on smallholder farmers.

The Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA), a state company, is a key component of the efforts towards increasing productivity by transfer of technologies, particularly in the African Continent. We have also been sharing our experience in producing biofuels without compromising food security.

Last August, within the context of the Summer Olympic Games, the United Kingdom organized an important event: the Hunger Summit. Brazil co-hosted the meeting and we considered it was effective in terms of using the public interest generated by the Olympics to leverage international action against hunger and malnutrition. As the hosts of the Olympics in 2016, we are committed to organizing a new edition of the Hunger Summit in Rio.

Mr. Chairman,

Brazil shares the serious concern with excessive food price volatility in international markets, especially as it affects the most vulnerable populations and hinder their access to adequate nutrition. This problem needs to be addressed effectively. The G-20 has been giving a positive contribution through the maintenance of the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS), which increased transparency in an unprecedented way.

We consider, however, that stable and affordable food prices cannot, in and of itself, ensure food security. In the long run, it is the creation of jobs, the generation of income and technological advances that will be essential in guaranteeing access to adequate, sufficient, safe and nutritious food. Therefore, it is necessary that farmers in developing countries have a sufficient level of income. To that end, it is important to raise production levels and to maintain remunerative prices for agricultural products.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, we would like to mention that, last September, on the occasion of a bilateral event related to food security, the Senegalese Prime

Minister, Mr. Abdoul Mbaye, stated that “We must turn agriculture into the engine of sustainable development, with a view to preventing food insecurity.”

We consider that these words sum up the many important aspects of the challenges we face. We must then redouble our collective efforts in turning agriculture into that engine of sustainable development and food and nutrition security. Brazil will continue to engage constructively in all fora with a view to achieve this goal.

Thank you.