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Agenda item 26

Agriculture development, food security and nutrition

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Diamane **Diome** (Senegal)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 18 September 2020, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-fifth session the item entitled “Agriculture development, food security and nutrition” and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. At its 1st meeting, on 5 October 2020, the Second Committee, taking into account the situation regarding the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, limitations on meetings held on United Nations premises as precautionary measures aimed at containing the spread of COVID-19, as well as available technological and procedural solutions, and bearing in mind the conference room paper of the Bureau of the Second Committee on the work of the Committee during the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly,¹ approved the working arrangements of the Committee for the seventy-fifth session, as set out in the organization of work of the Committee.²

3. The Committee convened virtual informal meetings on 16 October 2020 to hear introductory statements and hold a general discussion on the item. The proceedings of the virtual informal meetings, as well as written statements submitted under the item, are reflected in the annex to the present document. Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 1st to 4th meetings, on 5, 6, 8 and 9 October 2020.³ Action on the item was taken at the 7th meeting, on 25 November 2020.⁴

¹ Available at www.un.org/en/ga/second/75/bureau-paper.pdf.

² See [A/C.2/75/L.1](#).

³ See [A/C.2/75/SR.1](#), [A/C.2/75/SR.2](#), [A/C.2/75/SR.3](#) and [A/C.2/75/SR.4](#).

⁴ See [A/C.2/75/SR.7](#).



4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on agriculture development, food security and nutrition ([A/75/272](#));

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting a report on the main decisions and policy recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security ([A/74/79-E/2019/58](#)).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions [A/C.2/75/L.31](#) and [A/C.2/75/L.56](#)

5. At its 7th meeting, on 25 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Agriculture development, food security and nutrition” ([A/C.2/75/L.56](#)), submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Maria Danielčáková (Slovakia), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution [A/C.2/75/L.31](#).

6. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

7. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.2/75/L.56](#) (see para. 10).

8. Also at the 7th meeting, following the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the European Union (on behalf of its member States, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine), the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

9. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution [A/C.2/75/L.56](#), draft resolution [A/C.2/75/L.31](#) was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

10. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Agriculture development, food security and nutrition

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions [65/178](#) of 20 December 2010, [66/220](#) of 22 December 2011, [67/228](#) of 21 December 2012, [68/233](#) of 20 December 2013, [69/240](#) of 19 December 2014, [70/223](#) of 22 December 2015, [71/245](#) of 21 December 2016, [72/238](#) of 20 December 2017, [73/253](#) of 20 December 2018 and [74/242](#) of 19 December 2019,

Reaffirming its resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution [69/313](#) of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recalling the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security,¹ particularly the Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security, and noting the Rome Declaration on Nutrition,² as well as the Framework for Action,³ which provides a set of voluntary policy options and strategies for use by Governments, as appropriate, adopted at the Second International Conference on Nutrition, held in Rome from 19 to 21 November 2014,

Recalling also the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,⁴ Agenda 21,⁵ the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,⁶ the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development⁷ and the Plan of Implementation of the

¹ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document WSFS 2009/2.

² World Health Organization, document EB136/8, annex I.

³ Ibid., annex II.

⁴ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

⁵ Ibid., annex II.

⁶ Resolution [S-19/2](#), annex.

⁷ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),⁸ the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,⁹ the 2005 World Summit Outcome,¹⁰ the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,¹¹ the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,¹² the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024¹³ and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,¹⁴

Reaffirming the Paris Agreement,¹⁵ and encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change¹⁶ that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Highlighting the synergies between the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, and noting with concern the scientific findings contained in the special reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, entitled *Global Warming of 1.5°C*, *The Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate* and *Climate Change and Land*,

Welcoming the holding of the 2019 Climate Action Summit convened by the Secretary-General on 23 September, taking note of the multi-partner initiatives and commitments presented during the Summit, and taking note also of the Youth Climate Summit, held on 21 September,

Welcoming also the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, held in Buenos Aires from 20 to 22 March 2019, and its outcome document,¹⁷ and recognizing the important role that South-South and triangular cooperation play in fostering partnerships among developing countries that lead to the end of poverty and hunger and to the achievement of food security and improved nutrition, as well as the promotion of sustainable agriculture,

Welcoming further the Sustainable Development Goals Summit, held in New York on 24 and 25 September 2019, on gearing up for a decade of action and delivery for sustainable development, and taking note of the *Global Sustainable Development Report 2019*,

Reaffirming the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016,¹⁸ and reaffirming also the importance of promoting the integration of food security and the nutritional needs of urban residents, particularly the urban poor, in urban and territorial planning, in order to end hunger and

⁸ Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

⁹ *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

¹⁰ Resolution 60/1.

¹¹ Resolution 63/239, annex.

¹² *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. II.

¹³ Resolution 69/137, annex II.

¹⁴ Resolution 69/15, annex.

¹⁵ Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

¹⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

¹⁷ Resolution 73/291, annex.

¹⁸ Resolution 71/256, annex.

malnutrition, as well as promoting coordination of sustainable food security and agriculture policies across urban, peri-urban and rural areas,

Reaffirming also the importance of supporting Agenda 2063 of the African Union, as well as its 10-year plan of action, as a strategic framework for ensuring a positive socioeconomic transformation in Africa within the next 50 years and its continental programme embedded in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the New Partnership for Africa's Development and regional initiatives, such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme,

Recalling the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the fight against tuberculosis, held in New York on 26 September 2018, and its outcome,¹⁹ the third high-level meeting of the Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, held in New York on 27 September 2018, and its political declaration,²⁰ and the action plan on antimicrobial resistance 2016–2020 of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, as well as resolution 6/2019 of 28 June 2019 of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, on antimicrobial resistance,²¹

Expressing concern that the current pace and scope of implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 2 is unlikely to promote the transformational change needed and that its targets will not be achieved in many parts of the world, and calling for additional efforts to support the transformational change needed,

Expressing concern also that the multiple and complex causes of the food crises that occur in different regions of the world, affecting developing countries, especially net food importers, and their consequences for food security and nutrition require a comprehensive and coordinated response in the short, medium and long term by national Governments, civil society, the private sector and the international community, reiterating that the root causes of food insecurity and malnutrition are poverty, growing inequality, inequity and lack of access to resources and income-earning opportunities, the effects of climate change and disasters, and conflicts, and remaining concerned that excessively volatile food prices can pose a serious challenge to the fight against poverty and hunger and to the efforts of developing countries to attain food security and improved nutrition and to achieve internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those related to ending hunger and malnutrition,

Recalling the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030,²² acknowledging that forests provide essential products and ecosystem services, such as timber, food, fuel, fodder, non-wood products and shelter, as well as soil and water conservation and clean air, that sustainable management of forests and trees outside forests is vital to the integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and that forests prevent land degradation and desertification and reduce the risks of floods, landslides and avalanches, droughts, dust and sand storms and other disasters, and stressing in this regard the role of all types of forests, including boreal, temperate and tropical forests, in providing food security and nutrition,

Recalling also the outcome of the forty-sixth session of the Committee on World Food Security, held in Rome from 14 to 18 October 2019, taking note of its main outcomes, and recalling the ongoing inclusive process leading to the development of Committee on World Food Security voluntary guidelines on food systems and nutrition, to be endorsed at the forty-seventh session of the Committee,

¹⁹ Resolution 73/3.

²⁰ Resolution 73/2.

²¹ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document C 2019/REP, appendix C.

²² See resolution 71/285.

Welcoming the initiative by the Secretary-General of 16 October 2019 to convene the Food Systems Summit in 2021,

Welcoming also resolution 7/2019 of 28 June 2019 of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, entitled “Further integration of sustainable agricultural approaches, including agroecology, in the future planning activities of FAO”,²³ and recognizing that agroecology is one approach, among others, to contribute to sustainably feeding a growing population,

Taking note of the launch of the Sustainable Food Systems Programme under the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns,²⁴ an inclusive initiative to accelerate the shift towards sustainable food systems,

Encouraging Member States to advance innovative pathways to achieve sustainable consumption and production, in line with United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 4/1 of 15 March 2019,²⁵

Recalling the operationalization of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries, which is helping the least developed countries to strengthen their science, technology and innovation capacities and fostering the development of national and regional innovation ecosystems, as well as developing capacities for partnerships in science, technology and innovation collaboration with other countries worldwide,

Noting with appreciation the work undertaken by relevant international bodies and organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Food Programme, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children’s Fund and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) on agricultural development and on enhancing food security and food safety and improving nutrition outcomes,

Recalling the declaration of 2016–2025 as the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition, based on the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action, and the call upon the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization to implement a work programme for 2016–2025, taking into account contributions from relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, using coordinating mechanisms such as the Standing Committee on Nutrition and multi-stakeholder platforms such as the Committee on World Food Security,

Recalling also its resolution [72/239](#) of 20 December 2017, in which it proclaimed 2019–2028 the United Nations Decade of Family Farming, which raises the profile of the role of family farming in contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to the achievement of food security and improved nutrition,

Reaffirming that agriculture remains a fundamental and key sector for developing countries, and noting the importance of working towards eliminating all forms of protectionism,

Acknowledging the importance of promoting sustainable farming and agriculture, which will contribute to sustainable food production systems and the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems and help to eradicate hunger and malnutrition,

²³ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document C 2019/REP, appendix D.

²⁴ [A/CONF.216/5](#), annex.

²⁵ UNEP/EA.4/Res.1.

Emphasizing that water is critical for sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger, that water, energy, food security and nutrition are linked and that water is indispensable for human development, health and well-being,

Noting with concern the findings of the first report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on the *State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*, of 2019, and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, and bearing in mind that the agriculture sector depends heavily on biodiversity and its components, as well as on the ecosystem functions and services which biodiversity underpins, and that these sectors also have an impact on biodiversity in various direct and indirect ways, as acknowledged in the Cancun Declaration on Mainstreaming the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for Well-being,²⁶

Reaffirming the right of everyone to have access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, so as to be able to fully develop and maintain their physical and mental capacities, and underlining the need to make special efforts to meet nutritional needs, especially of women, children, older persons, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities, as well as of those living in vulnerable situations,

Taking note with appreciation of the publications entitled *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020: Transforming Food Systems for Affordable Healthy Diets*, issued by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Food Programme and the United Nations Children's Fund, and *The State of Food and Agriculture 2019: Moving Forward on Food Loss and Waste Reduction*, issued by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,

Remaining deeply concerned that, according to the most recent estimates of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Food Programme, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, the number of chronically undernourished people in the world increased to nearly 687.8 million in 2019, from around 678.1 million in 2018, and that global nutrition challenges are increasingly complex as multiple forms of malnutrition, including stunting, wasting, underweight, micronutrient deficiencies, overweight and obesity, may coexist within the same country or household,

Noting with great concern the threat to human health, safety and well-being caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, as well as the severe disruption to societies and economies and the devastating impact on lives and livelihoods, and that the poorest and most vulnerable are the hardest hit by the pandemic, reaffirming the ambition to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by designing sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to help to reduce the risk of future shocks, and recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic requires a global response based on unity, solidarity and renewed multilateral cooperation,

Recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic is one of the greatest global challenges in the history of the United Nations and its impacts, as well as the extraordinary measures adopted to combat it, may have increased vulnerabilities in food systems, which could raise the risk of food insecurity and malnutrition and exacerbates inequalities in access to healthy diets, deeply concerned about the

²⁶ United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/13/24.

preliminary assessment suggesting that the COVID-19 pandemic, under different economic growth scenarios, could add between 83 million and 132 million people to the total number of undernourished in the world in 2020, especially in Asia, parts of Latin America and Africa, where malnutrition is estimated to affect one in five people, and about the estimation that more than 2 billion small producers, farm labourers, family farmers, smallholder farmers and other people in vulnerable situations, as well as women and children, who represent a large proportion of the moderately and severely food insecure, may be disproportionately affected, recognizing that hundreds of millions of people were already suffering from hunger and malnutrition before the virus hit, underlining that the impact of the pandemic is exacerbating existing high levels of acute food insecurity and humanitarian needs, and highlighting the importance of reducing food loss and waste,

Recognizing also that economic slowdown, gender inequalities, conflict, drought and the adverse effects of climate change, including more frequent and extreme weather events, are among the key factors contributing to a reversal in the long-term progress in fighting global hunger, making the prospect of ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition by 2030 more difficult,

Remaining deeply concerned about the continuing food insecurity and malnutrition being faced by hundreds of millions of people, in particular in sub-Saharan Africa, in South and West Asia and in parts of Latin America,

Recognizing the need to prevent the recurrence in the future of deaths of people from famine,

Expressing its concern about the growing number of obese adults in the world, from 563.7 million in 2012 to 672.3 million in 2016,

Expressing concern that, according to the Global Report on Food Crises 2020, about 135 million people face crisis-level food insecurity or worse in countries affected by, inter alia, conflict, and exacerbated by climate-related events, environmental factors, including natural disasters such as locust infestation, and extreme food price volatility,

Noting that an increasing number of countries, in particular in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific, are integrating food security and nutrition into their agriculture policies and investment plans and that, as a result, eradicating hunger, improving food security and ensuring adequate nutrition are being given greater prominence in regional development strategies, such as the African Union Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations food security and nutrition strategy, the Piura Declaration on Food Security, the Framework for Multi-Year Programme on Food Security and Climate Change and the Strategic Framework on Rural-Urban Development to Strengthen Food Security and Quality Growth, adopted by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, the Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean 2025 Initiative, the strategy on food security and nutrition of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, the Arab food security initiative, the initiative for the Adaptation of African Agriculture to Climate Change and the climate-smart agriculture strategy for the Central American Integration System region (2018–2030), all of which emphasized the importance of investing in agriculture, diversifying food production and diets and providing quality nutritional education to consumers, introducing labour-saving technologies in food production and processing, enhancing women's access to income and strengthening capacity-building in improving food safety at all stages of the food chain, and noting also the establishment of the Islamic Organization for Food Security, headquartered in Nur Sultan,

Reiterating the urgent need for action to enhance efforts to build resilience, especially for the most vulnerable, by investing in resilience, including disaster risk reduction, strengthening adaptation strategies and enhancing joint risk assessments and risk management strategies, to cut the impact and cost of natural disasters to address the adverse effects of climate change on food security, in particular for women, youth, older persons, indigenous peoples, local communities and persons with disabilities, as well as the other root causes of food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition,

Expressing concern that climate change will disproportionately impact people in vulnerable situations, especially women and children, and their livelihoods, ultimately putting hundreds of millions of people at risk, and that by 2050, the risk of hunger and child malnutrition could increase by up to 20 per cent owing to climate change,

Reiterating the importance of achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, as well as the recognition and protection of the rights of smallholders, particularly women, reiterating also the importance, inter alia, of supporting the empowerment of rural women, youth, small-scale farmers, family farmers and livestock farmers, fishers and fish workers as critical agents for enhancing agricultural and rural development and food security and for improving nutrition outcomes, and acknowledging their fundamental contribution to the environmental sustainability and the genetic preservation of agricultural systems and to sustaining productivity on often marginal lands,

Recognizing that livestock contributes 40 per cent of the global value of agricultural output and supports the livelihoods and food security of almost 1.3 billion people, and in this regard acknowledging that the sector offers opportunities for agricultural development, poverty eradication and food security gains, and offers an opportunity for raising climate awareness,

Acknowledging that social protection programmes and measures are effective in reducing poverty and hunger,

Noting the importance of initiatives under the United Nations system, including the observance of World Pulses Day, World Tuna Day, Sustainable Gastronomy Day, World Bee Day, World Food Safety Day, World Soil Day, the International Year of Camelids, the International Year of Plant Health, the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables, International Tea Day, the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste, the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, and the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019–2028), aimed at increasing public awareness of relevant agriculture, food security and nutritional benefits, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions [53/199](#) of 15 December 1998 and [61/185](#) of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years and Economic and Social Council resolution [1980/67](#) of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries,

Recognizing the need to increase responsible public and private investments and partnerships in the agriculture sector, inter alia, to find inclusive solutions to and fight hunger and malnutrition and to promote rural and urban sustainable development,

Recalling the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and its guiding principles,²⁷ and recalling also its promotion of regular disaster risk preparedness, prevention, response and recovery exercises, at the national and local levels, with a view to ensuring rapid and effective response to disasters and related

²⁷ Resolution [69/283](#), annex II.

displacement, including access to essential food and non-food relief supplies, as appropriate to local needs,

Noting that in 2011, an initial estimate reported that one third of the food produced annually in the world for human consumption, equivalent to some 1.3 billion tons, was lost or wasted, while it is estimated that there are nearly 690 million people in the world who are hungry and that nearly 144 million children under 5 years of age were affected by stunting in 2019,

Recalling that the Sustainable Development Goals and targets are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development, and acknowledging that reaching Goal 2 and the interlinked targets of other Goals will be critical, inter alia, in ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition,

Reiterating the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;²⁸

2. *Urges* Member States and other relevant stakeholders to advance collective actions to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on agriculture development, food security and nutrition, including through sustainable agriculture and food systems; access to safe drinking water and sanitation; effective measures to ensure food security and nutrition during the pandemic and to minimize its broader repercussions; the promotion of healthy diets; the promotion of food safety and the prevention of the emergence of novel diseases; the promotion of sustainable practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality, for a sustainable, resilient and inclusive recovery; support to family farmers through comprehensive and long-term solutions to maintain productive capacity, in particular where severe impacts of COVID-19 impede access to markets; and through keeping food supply chains functioning; the reduction of food loss and waste and the promotion of sustainable consumption and production patterns; the promotion of decent work, entrepreneurship and sustainable technologies and practices in agricultural sectors and value chains; innovation and sustainable technologies in the field of agriculture, the strengthening of multi-stakeholder partnerships; the strengthening of social protection programmes and measures; the facilitation of access to basic goods and universal health coverage; the fostering of the resilience of people and systems to future shocks; the undertaking of efforts to prevent similar pandemics in the future; and the strengthening of international coordination for responses to crises, including by mobilizing a large-scale, coordinated and comprehensive global response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences, and in this regard also looks forward to the Food Systems Summit in 2021, convened by the Secretary-General with the support of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Food Programme and the International Fund for Agricultural Development;

3. *Stresses* the importance of continued consideration of the issue of agriculture development, food security and nutrition, and encourages Member States and relevant stakeholders to give due consideration to this issue while implementing

²⁸ [A/75/272](#).

the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development²⁹ and its Sustainable Development Goals;

4. *Emphasizes* that sustainable agricultural production, food security, food safety and nutrition are key elements for the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, and calls for greater efforts to sustainably enhance the agricultural production capacities, productivity and food security of developing countries;

5. *Also emphasizes* the need to accelerate and scale up action, as appropriate, to strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacity of food systems and people's livelihoods in response to climate variability and extremes to achieve a world without hunger and malnutrition in all its forms by 2030;

6. *Expresses concern* that the world is not on track to eradicate hunger and malnutrition by 2030 and that scarce and unsustainably managed natural resources, combined with insecure and uneven tenure rights for smallholders, are severely affecting those in vulnerable situations in rural areas, that the adverse effects of climate change, including persistent and recurring drought, floods, extreme weather events, land degradation, coastal erosion, ocean acidification, the retreat of mountain glaciers, sea level rise and desertification, as well as conflict and post-conflict situations, are challenges with regard to food security and nutrition and diet-related non-communicable diseases in many places, preventing progress in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and that countries in protracted crises are at risk of being left behind;

7. *Stresses* that urgent and concerted action is needed at all levels to recover momentum and accelerate efforts to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition, comprehensively tackling both its causes and effects, and to promote improved nutrition and sustainable agriculture and food systems;

8. *Reiterates* the importance of developing countries determining their own food security strategies, that improving food security and nutrition is a global challenge and a national policy responsibility and that any plans for addressing this challenge in the context of eradicating poverty must be nationally articulated, designed, owned, led and built in consultation, as an inclusive process, with all key stakeholders at the national level, as appropriate, and urges Member States, especially those affected, to make food security, food safety and nutrition a high priority and to reflect this in their national programmes and budgets;

9. *Underscores* the need to safeguard food security and nutrition for all, including women, children, youth, older persons, indigenous peoples, local communities, persons with disabilities and those living in vulnerable situations, inter alia, by promoting economic and social policies to counteract the adverse impact of economic slowdowns and downturns on efforts to end hunger and malnutrition;

10. *Calls upon* the international community to continue its support for the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme and its results framework, which is an integral component of the Programme that provides guidance on planning and implementing investment programmes;

11. *Encourages* Member States, in designing their national policies, to fully take into account the Rome Declaration on Nutrition as well as the Framework for Action, which provides a set of voluntary policy options and strategies for the use of Governments, as appropriate;

12. *Urges* increased political commitment by Member States to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition, notes in this regard the Scaling Up Nutrition movement,

²⁹ Resolution 70/1.

and encourages Member States to engage in the movement at the global and country levels to reduce the increasing level in global hunger and all forms of malnutrition, in particular among children, especially children under 2 years of age, women, especially those who are pregnant and lactating, and youth;

13. *Underscores* the need to address child stunting, which remains unacceptably high, with nearly 144 million children under 5 years of age, or over 21.3 per cent, affected by stunting in 2019;

14. *Emphasizes* the six global nutrition targets set by the World Health Assembly to address global malnutrition and the related monitoring framework;

15. *Takes note* of the Global Nutrition for Growth Compact, signed by more than 100 countries, companies and civil society organizations, to reduce the number of stunted children by 20 million by 2020 and the financial commitments made to support this goal, as well as the third Nutrition for Growth summit, held in Milan, Italy, in November 2017, and looks forward to the upcoming Nutrition for Growth summit, to be held in Tokyo in 2021;

16. *Stresses* the need to increase sustainable agricultural production and productivity globally, noting the diversity of agricultural conditions and systems, including by improving and aiming to ensure the functioning of markets and trading systems and strengthening international cooperation, particularly for developing countries, and by increasing responsible public and private investments and partnerships in sustainable agriculture, land management and rural development, as well as collaboration in science, technology and innovation, and notes that the benefit of such public and private investment and engagement should also reach, where appropriate, local smallholders in appropriate knowledge management systems and communications systems with regard to promoting food security, improving nutrition outcomes and reducing inequality;

17. *Recognizes* the need to increase the resilience and sustainability of food and agricultural production with regard to climate change in the context of the rising demand for crops, bearing in mind the importance of safeguarding food security and ending hunger and the particular vulnerabilities of food production systems to the adverse impacts of climate change, and encourages efforts at all levels to support climate-sensitive agricultural practices, including agroforestry, agroecology, conservation agriculture, water management schemes, drought- and flood-resistant seeds and sustainable livestock management, and to establish and strengthen interfaces between scientists, decision makers, entrepreneurs and funders of science, technology and innovation, as well as measures to strengthen the resilience of those in vulnerable situations and of food systems, which can also have a wider positive impact, emphasizing adaptation to climate change as a major concern and objective for all farmers and food producers, especially small-scale producers;

18. *Stresses* the urgent need to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change, and further urges Member States to continue to engage in adaptation planning processes and the implementation of mitigation actions;

19. *Calls for* the strengthening of agriculture and food systems to improve adaptation and resilience to climate change, including through ecosystem services and biodiversity preservation, and also calls for poverty, hunger, food security and nutrition objectives to be incorporated into national climate change adaptation and mitigation plans;

20. *Recognizes* the critical role of the private sector in support of sustainable food systems and the positive contribution and improved quality of multi-stakeholder

partnerships as a means to engage all key actors, and stresses the need for further efforts to strengthen strategic partnerships with the private sector;

21. *Reaffirms* the need to promote, enhance and support sustainable agriculture, including crops, forestry, fisheries, livestock and aquaculture, that improves food security, eradicates hunger, helps to prevent malnutrition and is economically viable, while conserving land, water, plant and animal genetic resources, biodiversity and ecosystems and enhancing resilience to climate change and natural disasters, and recognizes the need to maintain natural ecological processes that support sustainable and efficient food production systems and ensure food security, underlines the importance of mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the agriculture sector, and takes note of the importance of the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems and the Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform promoted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

22. *Expresses concern* about antimicrobial resistance, including in the agriculture sector, and in this regard encourages the implementation of the action plan on antimicrobial resistance 2016–2020 of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, which supports the food and agriculture sectors in implementing the global action plan on antimicrobial resistance³⁰ developed by the World Health Organization in collaboration with, and subsequently adopted by, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Organization for Animal Health, in order to minimize the impact of antimicrobial resistance;

23. *Recognizes* that sustainable food systems have a fundamental role to play in promoting healthy diets and improving nutrition and preventing and controlling non-communicable diseases, and welcomes the formulation and implementation of national policies aimed at eradicating malnutrition in all its forms and transforming food systems so as to make nutritious diets, including traditional healthy diets, available to all, while reaffirming that health, water and sanitation systems must be strengthened simultaneously to end malnutrition;

24. *Calls for* closing the gender gap in access to productive resources in agriculture, noting with concern that the gender gap persists with respect to many assets, inputs and services, and stresses the need to invest in and strengthen efforts to support the empowerment of women and girls, in particular rural women, to address their own food and nutritional needs and those of their families, to promote adequate standards of living for them, as well as decent work, and to guarantee their personal health, well-being and security, full access to land and natural resources and access to affordable, low-cost, long-term loans and to local, regional and global markets, taking into account that the prevalence of food insecurity puts the health and lives of women and children at risk;

25. *Recognizes* the critical role and contribution of rural women, including smallholders and women farmers, and indigenous women and women in local communities, and their traditional knowledge in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty, and in this regard stresses the importance of reviewing agricultural policies and strategies to ensure that the critical role of women in food security and nutrition is recognized and addressed as an integral part of both short- and long-term responses to food insecurity, malnutrition, potential excessive price volatility and food crises in developing countries, as well as of the recognition and protection of the land rights of smallholders, in particular women;

³⁰ World Health Organization, document WHA68/2015/REC/1, annex 3.

26. *Reaffirms* the crucial role of healthy marine ecosystems, sustainable fisheries and sustainable aquaculture in enhancing food security and access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food and in providing for the livelihoods of millions of people, particularly those in small island developing States, and in this regard encourages the full implementation of the Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States, which was launched on 4 July 2017;

27. *Encourages* and recognizes the efforts at all levels to establish and strengthen social protection measures and programmes, including national safety nets and protection programmes for the needy and vulnerable, such as food and cash-for-work, cash transfer and voucher programmes, school feeding programmes and mother-and-child nutrition programmes, and in this regard underlines the importance of increasing investment, capacity-building and systems development;

28. *Remains deeply concerned* about the recurring food insecurity and malnutrition in different regions of the world and their ongoing negative impact on health and nutrition, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, in South and West Asia and in parts of Latin America, and in this regard underlines the urgent need for joint efforts at all levels to respond to the situation in a coherent and effective manner;

29. *Recognizes* the important role of indigenous peoples and local communities, small-scale farmers, family farmers, livestock farmers, small-scale fishers and fish workers and their traditional knowledge and seed supply systems, as well the important role of new technologies in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and in aiming to ensure food security and improved nutrition;

30. *Stresses* the importance of the application of science, technology and innovation and related knowledge management and communications systems in ensuring food security by 2030, and encourages the adoption of the most advanced and appropriate information technology, such as the Internet, mobile platforms, meteorology, big data and cloud computing, in agriculture systems in order to support the efforts of smallholder and family farmers to increase their resilience, productivity and incomes and include them in the development of research and innovation agendas while reducing negative environmental impacts;

31. *Emphasizes* the need to revitalize the agriculture sector, promote rural development and aim for ensuring food security and nutrition, notably in developing countries, in a sustainable manner, which will contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and underlines the importance of taking the necessary actions to better address the needs of rural communities by, inter alia, enhancing access for agricultural producers, in particular small producers, women, youth, indigenous peoples and local communities, persons with disabilities and older persons, in conflict and post-conflict situations, to credit and other financial services, markets, secure land tenure, health-care services, social services, education, training, knowledge and appropriate and affordable technologies, including for development of local crops, efficient irrigation, reuse of treated wastewater and water harvesting and storage;

32. *Notes* the urgent need to address the issue of food loss and waste at all stages of the food supply chain, including through collaboration with relevant stakeholders;

33. *Recognizes* that, by 2050, the world urban population is expected to nearly double, making urbanization one of the most transformative trends of the twenty-first century, underscoring the growing need to take action to fight hunger and malnutrition among the urban poor through promoting the integration of the food security and nutrition needs of urban residents, in particular the urban poor, in urban and territorial planning, to end hunger and malnutrition, promoting the coordination of sustainable

food security and agriculture policies across urban, peri-urban and rural areas to facilitate the production, storage, transport and marketing of food to consumers in adequate and affordable ways, to reduce food losses and to prevent and reuse food waste, and promoting the coordination of food policies with energy, water, health, transport and waste and other policies in urban areas to maximize efficiencies and minimize waste;

34. *Reaffirms* the need to strive for a comprehensive twin-track approach to food security and nutrition that consists of direct action to immediately tackle hunger and address micronutrient deficiencies among the most vulnerable alongside the development of medium- and long-term sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition and rural development programmes to eliminate the root causes of hunger, all forms of malnutrition and poverty, including through revitalizing rural areas for young women and men, by creating decent jobs for all, through agricultural education systems, information and communications technology, training, scaling up research and development and strengthening the role of youth through education, entrepreneurship, access to markets and services, co-financing, capacity-building and rural-based youth organizations, and through the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security;

35. *Also reaffirms* the need to promote a significant expansion of research on food, nutrition and agriculture, extension services, training and education, and of funding for such research from all sources, to improve agricultural productivity and sustainability in order to strengthen agriculture as a key sector, to promote development and to build up resilience to support better recovery from crisis, including by strengthening the work of the reformed Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers (CGIAR) so as to enhance its development impact, supporting national research systems, public universities and research institutions and promoting technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, the voluntary sharing of knowledge and practices and research to adapt to climate change and improve equitable access to research results and technologies on mutually agreed terms at the national, regional and international levels, while giving due consideration to the preservation of genetic resources;

36. *Stresses* that a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable, multilateral trading system will promote agriculture and rural development in developing countries and contribute to achieving food security and improving nutrition, and urges national, regional and international strategies to promote the inclusive participation of farmers and fishers and fish workers, especially small-scale farmers, including women, in community, national, regional and international markets;

37. *Recognizes* the efforts made by Member States and United Nations agencies that have already announced their commitments to the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025), and encourages all relevant stakeholders to actively support the implementation of the Decade, including by making commitments and establishing action networks;

38. *Also recognizes* the commencement of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019–2028), and in this regard encourages the full implementation of resolution [72/239](#) and takes note with appreciation of the global action plan for the Decade, which supports the development, improvement and implementation of public policies on family farming, including national plans, as appropriate, based on inclusive and effective governance and on timely and geographically relevant data, by 2024;

39. *Stresses* the need to continue to strengthen cooperation and coordination among the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International

Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Food Programme, the World Health Organization, the regional commissions and all other relevant entities of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions and international trade and economic institutions, in accordance with their respective mandates and national development priorities, in order to increase their effectiveness, as well as to strengthen cooperation between these organizations and with non-governmental organizations and the public and private sectors in promoting and strengthening efforts towards sustainable agriculture development, food security and nutrition;

40. *Recognizes* the contribution made thus far by early warning systems, and underlines that the reliability and timeliness of such systems should be further strengthened at the national, regional and international levels, with a focus on countries that are particularly vulnerable to price shocks and food emergencies;

41. *Reaffirms* the important role and inclusive nature of the Committee on World Food Security as a major intergovernmental platform for a broad range of stakeholders to work together towards ensuring food security and nutrition for all, and encourages countries to fully engage in the ongoing development by the Committee on World Food Security of voluntary guidelines on food systems and nutrition supporting the transformation towards sustainable food systems that contribute to the promotion of healthy diets and improved nutrition;

42. *Also reaffirms* the commitment at the very heart of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind and commit to taking more tangible steps to support people in vulnerable situations and the most vulnerable countries and to reach the furthest behind first;

43. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session an action-oriented report on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-sixth session the item entitled "Agriculture development, food security and nutrition".

Annex

General discussion

1. In accordance with its agreed organization of work ([A/C.2/75/L.1](#)), the Second Committee held a general discussion of the item in informal virtual meetings on 16 October, at which the Officer-in-Charge of the Division for Sustainable Development Goals of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs made an introductory statement, followed by a statement by the Director of Food Systems and Food Safety of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.¹
2. At the informal virtual meeting held in the morning of 16 October, statements were made by the representatives of Guyana (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Belize (on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States), Myanmar (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations), Kazakhstan (on behalf of the landlocked developing countries), Cameroon (on behalf of the African States), India, China, Peru, Bangladesh, Algeria, Mozambique, Maldives, Nicaragua, Eritrea, the Russian Federation, Bhutan, El Salvador, Nigeria, Indonesia, Libya and Ethiopia.
3. In the subsequent informal virtual meeting held in the afternoon of 16 October, statements were made by the representatives of Malawi (on behalf of the least developed countries), Kenya, Afghanistan, the United Arab Emirates, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Zimbabwe, Ukraine, Chile, the Niger, Brazil, Guatemala and Sri Lanka, as well as by the observer for the Holy See.
4. Statements delivered under the item, including written statements submitted under the item, that were provided to the Secretariat are available in the Second Committee Place of e-deleGATE and the eStatements section of the *Journal of the United Nations* online.¹

¹ See <https://delegate.un.int/dgacm/delegate.nsf/xpPlaceC2.xsp>; see also <https://journal.un.org/en/meeting/officials/903bd3f9-2efe-ea11-9116-0050569e8b67/2020-10-16> and <https://journal.un.org/en/meeting/officials/923bd3f9-2efe-ea11-9116-0050569e8b67/2020-10-16>.