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Agriculture development, food security and nutrition

South Africa:* 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, and 69/240 of 19 December 2014,

Recalling also 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 further 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 World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),⁸ the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference

* On behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the G77 and China.

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

² World Health Organization, document EB 136/8, annex I.

³ World Health Organization, document EB 136/8, 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.

⁸ *Ibid.*, resolution 2, annex.



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 outcome document of the 2010 high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,¹² the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,¹³ the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway¹⁴ and the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, convened by the President of the General Assembly on 25 September 2013,¹⁵

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled “The future we want”,¹⁶

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, recognizing that it builds on the Millennium Development Goals and seeks to complete their unfinished business, and stressing the importance of the implementation of this new ambitious Agenda, which has poverty eradication at its core and aims at promoting the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313, entitled “Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)”, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it and helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions within the framework of a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development,

Expressing concern 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 and the international community, reiterating that the root causes of food insecurity and undernutrition are poverty and inequity, and remaining concerned that excessively volatile food prices 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,

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 Resolution 65/1.

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

¹⁴ Resolution 69/15, annex.

¹⁵ Resolution 68/6.

¹⁶ Resolution 66/288, annex.

Reaffirming the importance of supporting the African Union's Agenda 2063, 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,

Welcoming the outcome of the forty-second session of the Committee on World Food Security, held in Rome from 12 to 15 October 2015,¹⁷

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 and the World Food Programme, on agricultural development and on enhancing food security and improving nutrition outcomes,

Welcoming the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its twenty-third ordinary session, and welcoming also the African Union strategy and road map for facilitating the realization of the 2014 Malabo Commitments on Agriculture, launched during the twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, in January 2015,

Reaffirming that agriculture remains a fundamental and key sector for developing countries, and noting the importance of working towards eliminating all forms of protectionism and the commitments to comprehensive negotiations aimed at substantial improvement in market access, substantial reduction in trade-distorting national support and the parallel elimination of all forms of export subsidies and disciplines on all export measures with equivalent effect as provided in the mandate from the Doha Work Programme,¹⁸ the framework adopted by the General Council of the World Trade Organization on 1 August 2004 and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration adopted by the World Trade Organization in 2005,

Reaffirming also 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 his or her 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 those living in vulnerable situations,

Remaining deeply concerned that, according to the most recent estimates of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 793 million people, or one in nine people in the world, suffer from chronic hunger and that 98 per cent of all hungry people live in developing countries, noting with concern that this number remains particularly high, and noting also that stunting is an important challenge to be addressed by Member States,

¹⁷ See Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document C 2017/19.

¹⁸ See [A/C.2/56/7](#), annex.

Remaining deeply concerned also about the continuing food insecurity and undernutrition being faced by millions of people in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel,

Reiterating the urgent need for action to address the adverse effects of climate change on food security, as well as the root causes of food insecurity and malnutrition,

Reiterating also the importance, inter alia, of empowering rural women, youth and smallholder and family farmers as critical agents for enhancing agricultural and rural development and food security and improving nutrition outcomes,

Welcoming the implementation of the International Year of Soils, 2015, and World Soil Day, 5 December, looking forward to the implementation of the International Year of Pulses, 2016, and looking forward also to the outcome of the participation of the United Nations in Expo Milano 2015, “Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life”, which focused on the theme “The Zero Hunger Challenge — United for a Sustainable World”,

Taking note with appreciation of the publication entitled *Achieving Zero Hunger: the Critical Role of Investments in Social Protection and Agriculture* issued by the Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Fund for Agriculture Development and the World Food Programme in July 2015, and the publication entitled *The State of Food and Agriculture 2015: Social Protection and Agriculture: Breaking the Cycle of Rural Poverty* issued by the Food and Agriculture Organization, and noting that the theme of the World Food Day 2015 is “Social protection and agriculture: breaking the cycle of rural poverty”,

Recognizing the need to increase public and private investment in the agriculture sector, inter alia, to fight hunger and malnutrition,

Recognizing also the ongoing inclusive consultative process within the Committee on World Food Security to develop voluntary and non-binding principles for responsible agricultural investments intended for all stakeholders that are involved in, benefit from or are affected by those principles,

Taking note of the report of the High-level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security on water for food security and nutrition, in which the Panel, inter alia, states that water, food security and nutrition are intrinsically linked and that water is essential for the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security, and acknowledges that different regions face context-specific challenges associated with water scarcity, producing enough food for a growing population, increasing competition for water between people and sectors, climate change, increasing degradation of water resources and ecosystems, and the lack of fair and transparent allocation mechanisms that recognize and protect the interests and rights of all users, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized,

Recalling that the Sustainable Development Goals and targets are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development, and acknowledging that reaching sustainable development goal 2 and the interlinked targets of other goals will be critical in achieving a shift to resilient, diverse and productive agriculture and food systems that are environmentally, socially and economically sustainable,

Stressing the importance of inclusivity within the United Nations development system and stressing also that observer States should be taken into account in the implementation of the present resolution,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;¹⁹
2. *Stresses* the importance of continued consideration of the issue of agriculture, development, food security and nutrition, and encourages Member States and all stakeholders to give due consideration to this issue while implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
3. *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 with all key stakeholders at the national level, as appropriate, and urges Member States, especially those affected, to make food security and nutrition a high priority and to reflect this in their national programmes and budgets;
4. *Calls upon* the international community to intensify its support to the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme and its results framework, which is an integral component of the Programme that provides guidance on planning and implementing investment programmes;
5. *Welcomes* the increased political commitment by Member States to tackle hunger and undernutrition, in this regard welcomes the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement, and encourages Member States to engage in the Movement at the global and country levels to further reduce global hunger and undernutrition, in particular in women, especially pregnant and lactating women, and children under age 2;
6. *Stresses* the need to increase sustainable agricultural production and productivity globally, noting the diversity of agricultural conditions and systems, including through improving the functioning of markets and trading systems and strengthening international cooperation, particularly for developing countries, and by increasing public and private investment in sustainable agriculture, land management and rural development, and notes the benefit of such public and private investment and engagement to local smallholders with regard to promoting food security, improving nutrition outcomes and reducing inequality;
7. *Recognizes* the need to increase the resilience of food and agricultural production to climate change, and encourages efforts at all levels to support climate-sensitive agricultural practices, including agroforestry, conservation agriculture, water management schemes, drought- and flood-resistant seeds and sustainable livestock management, and measures to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable groups and 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;
8. *Reaffirms* the necessity to promote, enhance and support more sustainable agriculture, including crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, that improves food security, eradicates hunger and is economically viable, while

¹⁹ A/70/333.

conserving land, water, plant and animal genetic resources, biodiversity and ecosystems and enhancing resilience to climate change and natural disasters, and further recognizes the need to maintain natural ecological processes that support food production systems;

9. *Takes note* of the publication entitled *The State of Food and Agriculture 2015: Social Protection and Agriculture: Breaking the Cycle of Rural Poverty*, issued by the Food and Agriculture Organization, in which it is stated that social protection programmes are effective in reducing poverty and hunger;

10. *Encourages* 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;

11. *Calls for* closing the gender gap in access to productive resources in agriculture, noting with concern that the gender gap persists for many assets, inputs and services, and stresses the need to invest in and strengthen efforts to empower women, in particular rural women, to address their own food and nutritional needs and those of their families, and to promote adequate standards of living for them, as well as decent conditions of work and access to local, regional and global markets;

12. *Remains deeply concerned* about the recurring food insecurity and undernutrition in different regions of the world and their ongoing negative impact on health and nutrition, especially in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel, 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;

13. *Recognizes* the role of indigenous peoples and small farmers and their traditional seed supply systems in the conservation of biodiversity and food security and nutrition;

14. *Takes note* of the report of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on its thirty-eighth session,²⁰ which highlights, inter alia, the importance of the development of measures to protect Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems;

15. *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 lead to rich payoffs across 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 by agricultural producers, in particular small producers, women, youth, indigenous peoples and people living under foreign occupation and in vulnerable situations, to credit and other financial services, markets, secure land tenure, health care, social services, education, training, knowledge and appropriate and affordable technologies, including for efficient irrigation, reuse of treated wastewater and water harvesting and storage;

²⁰ See Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document C 2013/REP.

16. *Reaffirms* the commitment to promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, in order to ensure food security and nutrition and promote sustainable agricultural development;

17. *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 world food security, and urges national, regional and international strategies to promote the participation of farmers, especially smallholder farmers, including women, in community, national, regional and international markets;

18. *Also stresses* the need to continue to strengthen cooperation among the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Food Programme, 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, in order to increase their effectiveness, as well as to strengthen cooperation with non-governmental organizations and the public and private sectors in promoting and strengthening efforts towards sustainable agriculture development, food security and nutrition;

19. *Further stresses* the need to significantly reduce food waste and losses, and notes that a leading cause of food loss and waste is the standardization of products offered to consumers coupled with unsustainable consumer behaviour and that there are major challenges related, inter alia, to adequate storage and management of perishable products, transportation infrastructure, availability of adequate information about market demand and prices, appropriate harvesting practices, agro-food processing and sustainable consumption and production patterns;

20. *Reaffirms* the inclusive nature of the Committee on World Food Security, and notes the role that the Committee could play in advancing the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those related to ending hunger and malnutrition;

21. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to include observer States in the implementation of the present resolution;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session on new developments related to the issues highlighted in the present resolution;

23. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session the item entitled "Agriculture development, food security and nutrition".