

BRIEF REMARKS ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA BY MR. NEIL
PIERRE OF THE COOPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA AT THE INTERACTIVE
DIALOGUE ON TARGETTING HUNGER

12 February 2020

OPTION FOR PANEL 1 (agriculture)

- Hunger and food insecurity remain concentrated in developing countries, where the populations are predominantly rural despite rapid urbanization. About 70 percent of the extreme poor live in rural areas and most of them are farmers. And 63 percent of the population depends on agriculture in low income countries.
- Our current agricultural and food systems are failing us. Business as usual is not a solution; such systems need to work differently and better. Transforming food and agricultural systems is critical to win the fight against poverty, hunger and malnutrition. We must address the impacts of climate change and ensure the sustainable use of natural resources.
- In fact, the Global Sustainable Development Report recognized food systems and nutrition as critical entry points in order to accelerate progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- We note also that the “zero hunger” vision of SDG Target 2.3 focuses on small-scale food producers, particularly women, indigenous peoples and family farmers. The world’s 475 million small family farms account for up to 80 percent of the global food supply in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia.¹
- The Group calls for the full implementation of the Global Action Plan of the United Nations Decade on Family Farming 2019-2028, particularly its first pillar on an enabling policy environment to strengthen family farming.
- We know that agriculture is an important source of much needed jobs for the youth. In Africa alone, about 10 million youths enter the job market each year. This both a challenge and an opportunity to explore the demographic dividend.
- The youth can greatly contribute to leveraging digitalization to support our development efforts. We must harness their knowledge in new technologies and engage them in agribusiness, as well as in agricultural information gathering and dissemination.

Thank you

¹ Report of the Secretary-General of Agriculture development, food security and nutrition (A/74/237) para 27