Statement of
the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Meetings of the Second Committee
United Nations General Assembly
68th Regular Session

Item (25)
Agricultural Development,
Food Security and Nutrition

Delivered By
Counselor / Mohanna Saleh Abal-Khail

Monday 28 October 2013 – New York

Unofficial Translation
Please check against Delivery
Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

May peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you,

At the outset, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia would like to align itself with the statement given by Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. President,

The importance of agricultural development and food security lies in being a key factor in facing the global challenges and changes related to global food crisis and rising prices. Accordingly, it is necessary to attach great importance to agricultural development through the promotion of investment in agriculture and land reclamation, and to stimulate scientific research in this area in support of the efforts being made at the national, regional, and international levels to curb rising prices.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia believes that the global food crisis has led to higher prices of basic food commodities; and in turn, it negatively impacted the standard of living in many countries, especially developing countries importing goods and agricultural products.

Among the most important factors causing this crisis come the decline in world grain production, the growing trend towards producing biofuels from agricultural products (such as sugar and oilseeds), and restricting the export from major food-producing countries. Consequently, this caused a lack of confidence and security in the world markets for those products.

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is one of the top states supporting international efforts to address the global food crisis and mitigating its effects on poor countries. In 2008, the Kingdom donated $500 million to support the efforts of the World Food Program, which benefited (62) developing countries around the world. In addition, the Kingdom allocated (4,000) four thousands tons of dates annually to the World Food Program to be distributed to countries in need; and also covered the expenses of the World Food Summit held by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome on 16 November2009.
Mr. President,

In line with the directives of the specialized agencies to help developing countries, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia launched the Initiative of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques for Saudi Foreign Investments. This initiative aims to develop these countries' internal investment, to boost their infrastructure, to provide incentives related to the sustainable use of soil and water, to expand agricultural markets and economic development in the host countries, and to achieve food security for their people.

In this regard, we emphasize on the necessity that the recipient countries provide the suitable environment for these investments by, including but not limited to, developing comprehensive stable policies and investment laws, facilitating and simplifying investment procedures for investors, and to provide the necessary security and protection for these investments.

Recently, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia announced the establishment of a company for foreign agricultural investments which will work on providing food security for the Kingdom while assisting in developing the agricultural sectors in recipient countries in a quest to strengthen their agricultural and economic development.

In conclusion Mr. President,

The Delegation of my Country stresses the importance of concerted international efforts within the framework of the United Nations, in order to enhance international partnership aimed at achieving broad prospects of agricultural development and sustainable food security through the implementation of the outcomes and recommendations of the Rio+20 Conference.

May peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.