68th Session of the UN General Assembly
Second Committee
28 October 2013
New York

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STATEMENT BY MS. BATTUNGALAG GANKHUURAI,
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MONGOLIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
On agenda item 25
Agriculture development, food security and nutrition

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation wishes to associate itself with the statement made by distinguished representatives of Fiji on behalf of G-77 and China and as well as the statement presented by the distinguished Representative of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, speaking on behalf of the Group of LLDCs.

Taking this opportunity, I also wish to express my delegation’s appreciation to the Secretary-General for submitting a comprehensive analytical report A/68/311 on the progresses and challenges in achieving agriculture development, food security and nutrition goals.

Mr. Chairman,

Many reports suggest that agriculture has been turned into an increasingly market-driven sector, as opposed to a policy-driven sector as in the past. This shift offers developing countries important investment opportunities and economic benefits, given their growing food demand. However, production shortfalls, price volatility and trade disruption remain a threat to global food security. The FAO food price index remains
somewhat volatile, averaging 211.3 points in June 2013, nearly 11 points higher than the previous year.

The economic challenges posed by the soaring food prices are daunting. They take toll on inflation rates and seriously impede economic development for developing nations. These countries also had to cope with consequent macroeconomic implications concerning the nexus between food price increase and overall inflation rate.

Having recognized the need to address the food price increase the Government of Mongolia took the necessary actions both at policy and practical levels to reduce its severe impact on the vulnerable strata of its population.

My Government has taken measures to achieve three main objectives of promoting food production to reduce country’s dependence on imported goods, raising public awareness about food quality and ensuring safe food production and processing in the country.

On the other hand, it’s very alarming to note that food losses and waste were estimated at 1.3 billion tons annually, occur in both low- and high-income countries at all stages of the food supply chain, as well as the consumption stage. There is an urgent need to take appropriate measures to reduce pre- and post-harvest losses and waste of food. It was indeed timely to draw the global public attention to food security, supply and conservation, by observing the 2013 World Environment Day (WED) under the theme “Think-Eat-Save: Reduce Your Footprint”, which was aimed at slashing food waste. In this regard, I wish to thank UNEP for hosting the 2013 WED in collaboration with the Government of Mongolia in inspiration of anti-food waste, food losses and protecting environment.

My Government believes that empowering rural women is crucial importance for enhancing agricultural and rural development, consequently, food security and nutrition. In this regard, I wish to inform the Committee that the delegation of Mongolia has tabled to the Third Committee traditional draft resolutions on improvement of the situation of women in rural areas and as well as on cooperatives in social development, which calls for promotion of agricultural cooperatives through easy access to affordable finance, the adoption of sustainable production techniques, investment in rural infrastructure and support for the participation of women in economic activities. We hope that member States will support the drafts and join the co-sponsors. We welcome the decision to designate 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming and my Government will take all necessary measures in cooperation with all stakeholders, including UN agencies.
Taking this opportunity, on behalf of the Government of Mongolia, I wish to express our sincere gratitude to FAO for its great efforts in supporting agriculture development agenda. My Government is ready to host 32nd session of FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC) in 2014 and invite all Members and relevant organizations to participate actively.

Mr. Chairman,

The sustainable agriculture development and food security deserve special attention in the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals. They should be adequately integrated into priority goals, targets and indicators, including means of implementation.

The Government of Mongolia has been implementing policies and corresponding measures to improve food supply and livelihood of the nation through legal regulations. The objectives were reflected in the comprehensive policy of a national development goals based on the MDGs. The Strategy to meet the domestic needs for livestock and agricultural products such as meat, milk, egg, vegetable oil, potato and vegetables was developed and included in the Government Action Plan for the next 4 years.

The last year, the Parliament of Mongolia adopted the law on food and its safety and as well as the National Programs on development of agricultural sector, which would increase food supply and production. As example, programs on “Crop”, “Mongolian Livestock”, “Industrialization”, “Food safety” can be mentioned.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation appreciates the efforts of the Working Group on sustainable development goals in tackling the issues surrounding food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture and recognizing inherent interlinkages with poverty eradication, drought, desertification and land degradation. Mongolia supports with appreciation the need for a holistic, integrated and inclusive approach to sustainable development that promotes sustainable agriculture and food systems. We are hopeful that agenda for food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture be conceptualized within the sustainable development goals that is concise, universal in nature and applicable at the national level.

I thank you. Mr. Chairman.