PERMANENT MISSION OF MEXICO

Statement by the Delegation of Mexico in the formal introduction of Item 25 of the agenda of the Second Committee ("Agriculture development, food security and nutrition"), during the 68th Session of the General Assembly

Monday, October 28th, 2013

Thank you Mr Chair,

Mexico welcomes the submission of the report by the Secretary-General on agriculture development, food security and nutrition and the recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security.

We agree with the concerns reflected in this report on the enormous development challenges that the world continues to face concerning food and agriculture. Market fluctuations, environmental pressures and climate change pose significant challenges for the achievement of sustainable agricultural development and the enhancement of food security.

As noted by the Secretary General, an international consensus is being forged on the need for measures to ensure food security at all stages, including food production, access, trade and consumption. Mexico joins this broad agreement and supports all activities that promote coordination and cooperation, such as the Secretary General’s "Zero Hunger Challenge", the Movement for the Promotion of Nutrition, the New Partnership for Africa’s Development, the General Programme for the Development of Agriculture in Africa and the work of the said Committee on World Food Security.

We also agree with the Secretary-General that the current economic challenges should not displace or undercut the efforts of governments to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Mr. Chair,

Mexico considers that the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a strategic partner in the implementation of national policies in the fight against hunger and to ensure nutrition and access to food for the whole population.

In order to ensure stability and reduce price volatility, it is essential to strengthen financial market transparency and to support the creation of a more stable and open trading system that contributes to economic growth and poverty eradication.

The implementation of the Agricultural Market Information System (SIMA) and the Rapid Response Forum established under FAO are important steps towards this end. The second meeting of SIMA was held during the Mexican presidency of the G-20 in 2012, where once again it became apparent that the System has the capacity to respond and take action to prevent new food crises.
Mr. Chair,

Our experience demonstrates that, in order to achieve social inclusion, we must address all dimensions of poverty, including the central need to provide quality food, and ensure its sustainability.

For this reason, the Government of Mexico has established food security as a national priority, and has launched the National Campaign Against Hunger, a next generation strategy of inclusion and social welfare, which aims to benefit 7.4 million people living in extreme poverty with lack of food in 400 strategic municipalities.

The National Campaign Against Hunger seeks to improve nutrition, particularly in children, increase food production, improve the incomes of small farmers, minimize post-harvest losses and food waste and promote community participation to eradicate hunger, joining efforts and resources of all levels of government, together with the public, social and private sectors and international organizations.

Moreover, Mexico considers that the agricultural sector has the potential to become stronger, provided a strategy focused on productivity, profitability and competitiveness is implemented in the field and in the food industry. This is why we have been working to promote and enhance competition in the financial sector, through a comprehensive reform that strengthens it and makes it more stable.

By improving the system of guarantees and providing greater certainty in the regulatory framework, businesses with greater productive potential will receive more credit from domestic financial institutions. At the same time, we seek to promote financial inclusion, so that the benefits of the financial system can be extended to small food producers.

This reform works in tandem with the efforts to have an improved transport infrastructure and integrated mobility systems that reduce costs for economic activity and promote better connectivity for the benefit of farmers and consumers.

Mr. Chair,

Through the discussions at the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals it has become evident that agricultural development, food security and nutrition can't be achieved without addressing other critical drivers such as infrastructure development, social factors, such as increasing diversification of crops, improving land tenure and women empowerment and environmental drivers related to the sustainable and integral management of water, soil and forest ecosystems.

Mexico believes that the issues of agricultural development, food security and nutrition, should figure prominently in the post-2015 development agenda, through a holistic and multidimensional perspective that takes into account a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

To address this important challenge, it is also essential to strengthen international cooperation. We highlight the growing importance and enormous potential of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation as complements to traditional modalities of international cooperation, especially in technical cooperation and exchange of knowledge, experiences and best practices among nations that have faced similar challenges.

Thank you very much.