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Mr. Chair, the President of Niger told me last year, when I visited his country, that drought used to come every 10 years, then every 5 years, but that now due to climate change, it hits every two years. We must end hunger and malnutrition and I will quote from M. Graziano da Silva's intervention earlier on today: "Hunger does not mean that there is too little food in the world, just that the people starving do not have access to it or the means to produce it". These are wise words in my opinion.

If we are to succeed, we need to simultaneously increase the availability of sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet the needs of a population of nine billion by 2050.

Then, we need to respond to a change in climate in the same way we manage agriculture, fisheries and forestry.

We also need to promote strong food systems based on a sustainable intensification of production and increased productivity.

Finally, we need to reduce income inequality and persistent social inequalities within countries so that all citizens - women, men, girls and boys - have access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food, and that equal access to productive resources is secured.

Addressing the structural causes of poverty is at the core of these challenges. Democratic institutions are fundamental for the promotion of social equity and a fair distribution of wealth. The Norwegian Government is committed to include equality and inclusive growth as key components in its international cooperation and I will say in the Development Agenda and the new Development Goals that we are going to make.

How can FAO contribute to this? Firstly, food security and nutrition based on the human right to food is a prerequisite for development. Hungry people are denied the most basic human needs and the ability to ensure their own well-being.

Empowerment of small scale producers is key. They are the main investors in agricultural development and need access to secure and predictable tenure, economic resources and other production inputs and training because access to knowledge of climate robust production methods is key to increased productivity.

Recently, in Zambia, I met with a farmer. Her name was Anastasia. She had adopted more climate robust agricultural methods. She had doubled her harvest and, at the same time, needed to work less. This had enabled her to save extra money she could invest in additional agricultural equipment and thereby increased her productivity. She had increased her food security and experienced the happiness felt by all those who see improvements in their own and their families' lives.

Rural institutions must promote inclusive growth, they need producers' organizations, and cooperatives have important roles to play through knowledge sharing and access to capital as well as to give voice to farmers. FAO should continue to promote favorable conditions for inclusive producers' organizations and cooperatives.

Gender equality is essential for development and for the fight to end hunger and malnutrition. This is one of many good reasons why achieving full gender equality and empowerment of women is at the top of Norway's political priorities. Gender equality and empowerment of women need to be a core theme in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

The FAO has brought ample evidence on how the lack of gender equality hampers agricultural productivity and negatively affects food security and the livelihood of rural population. It is therefore time that we move from asking “Why gender equality and women's empowerment?” to “How can it be achieved?”. In this respect, we commend FAO for its Gender Policy and for its intention to mainstream gender equality and women's empowerment in each of the Strategic Objectives. However, we do miss clearer evidence of FAO's ability to implement the policy. We do encourage FAO to compensate for this in the action plans and results frameworks that are to be developed.

Last, but not least, climate change and degradation of the natural resources base pose unprecedented challenges to food security. Natural resources are under severe pressure due to unsustainable management practices, climate change and growing demand. FAO must promote a sustainable management of natural resources.

A good example of this is the ongoing work for the development of the International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries and the fight to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. FAO also has a crucial role in shaping global forest policies and must continue its vital work for the development of sustainable forest management.

FAO's work on genetic resources for food security is crucial too and I would encourage all to support the work of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. FAO and the other Rome-based Agencies have a very important role to play in these endeavors.

As a conclusion, I would like to say that a world free of hunger is not a vision that we should talk about over swelling dinner tables. It is the demanding cry from those without a voice, living in the harsh reality of the hungry poor. Let us side with them for the dignity of a life where a father knows he can feed his daughter today, tomorrow and the day after.

Thank you.