

**Message from H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, Permanent Representative  
of the State of Qatar to the United Nations and Chairman of the G77  
on the Observance of World Food Day**

The annual observance of World Food Day provides us with a momentous opportunity to reflect on the magnitude of hunger and its impact on our world, and to look for ways in which to solve this horrendous problem.

Hunger ranks high among the many challenges that has plagued humanity in recent times, problems such as war, poverty, disease, pestilence and drought. Today, with more than 800 million people who are victims of hunger, the international community is faced with a situation that warrants timely intervention.

In this context, on this World Food Day, the theme of which is “Biodiversity for Food Security”, we are reminded of the important role that biodiversity can play in assuring food security and sustainable livelihoods. The protection and preservation of our rich and diverse ecosystem will guarantee a world in which humanity can live in equilibrium with all species, a world where biodiversity for agricultural development can lead towards an effective solution to end hunger and poverty. Therefore, we must, each day, make sound choices to embrace and protect biodiversity in our daily or face the strong possibility of failure. The proper management of biodiversity can, indeed, increase food production, feed the world and ensure sustainable development.

Therefore, the Millennium Development Goals to halve poverty and the proportion of persons living in hunger-by 2015 can be attained with the appropriated political will and the implementation of viable approaches such as “Biodiversity for Food Security”.

I, therefore, urge that all efforts be combined to eradicate these enemies, poverty and hunger, by the protection and reinforcement of biodiversity as a pillar for a world without hunger.