

[Transcription from Chinese]

**Statement delivered by His Excellency Niu Dun, Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to FAO, at the 39th Session of the FAO Conference,
Rome, 6-13 June 2015**

Mr. Chairman,
Your Excellency the Director-General of FAO,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon. It gives me great pleasure to attend the 39th FAO Conference with the Chinese Delegation. I came to Rome merely ten days ago to take up the Office of the Ambassador of the Permanent Representation of the People's Republic of China to FAO. I desire to intensify communication with all of you. I long to become your good friend in life and your trustworthy partner at work. I wish to work together with all of you to facilitate FAO to contribute more to the Global Food Security.

In recent years, the world has seen bumper harvests in food production, relatively stable consumption demands, and a relaxed food supply and demand balance. However, we who are committed to food and agriculture shall not relax ourselves. The International Food Market, it's still in a state of fragile and tight balance. Regional shortage still exists. The World Food Security Status is hardly a rosy picture. Today, 200 days away from the deadline of the MDG, there are still 780 million hungry people in the world. Whether the said goals can be achieved or not is a source of concern. The general debate of the Conference this year is themed on breaking the cycle of rural poverty and hunger by strengthening rural resilience, social protection, and a sustainable agriculture environment. I believe it's a good thing. 2015 is a year for the new Global Development Goals to be established. What we are debating today are exactly the critical issues at the top of the next Development Agenda.

Among the nearly 800 million hungry people, three-quarters live in the rural areas, and the majority of them suffer from chronic and recurrent poverty and hunger. There are many causes to this lingering problem - natural resource constraints and disasters, as well as wars, conflicts and social governance. Its eradication needs lasting economic growth in a country, especially fair and inclusive growth. And agriculture development shall be taken as the priority to ensure food supply. Many measures shall be adopted, including to increase investment in agriculture and develop social protection to assist vulnerable rural groups get out of hunger and poverty.

Mr Chairperson, dear Delegates,

The Chinese Government attaches great importance to agriculture development and food security regarding poverty alleviation and development as the top priority tasks when addressing issues relating to farming farmers and the farming community in poverty-stricken areas. We are persistent in coordinating urban-rural development by mobilizing resources from industry and cities to support growth in agriculture in the countryside. We have been increasing policy support to agriculture, farmers and rural areas to strengthen the role of agriculture as the foundation of the economy and to protect the farmers' initiatives. With these efforts, we have gained a steady rise in grain production and sound development in public welfare in rural areas, thus laying the basis for social and economic growth throughout the country.

From 2004, grain protection and farmers' income kept rising for eleven consecutive years. Food and livelihood security are effectively ensured.

To pursue further development and ensure food security, the Chinese Government has changed the goal for agricultural development to ensuring multi-win results from production, living in the environment. Efforts have been taken to explore the road of Chinese characteristics to achieve sustainability and address the resource and environment challenges facing agriculture.

In March this year, the Government released the National Plan on Sustainable Agricultural Development, which lists five tasks to be pursued: i) improved geographical distribution for production; ii) farmland protection; iii) water saving and efficient use; iv) pollution treatment; and v) ecosystem restoration.

Actions have been taken to transform the development patterns and promote resource efficient and environmentally friendly agriculture.

For vulnerable rural areas and population groups, one thing the Chinese Government does is to improve peoples' livelihood. It works hard to ensure equal access to public services so that the safety net covers every corner of the society by improving minimum living allowance systems, healthcare, social endowment insurance, and social assistance in rural areas.

Another thing it does is targeted poverty relief to improve the blood making ability. Tailored policies are adopted to stop poverty being passed down from generation to generation. In this year's report on the work of the Government, the Chinese Government reaffirmed its people-centered policy and declared to reduce rural poverty population by at least another ten million in 2015.

Mr Chair, dear Delegates,

Agricultural sustainability, food security, and poverty reduction are key to the wellbeing of all peoples as well as prosperity and stability of all countries. All nations should join hands and work together. Please allow me to take this opportunity and make the following proposals.

First take food security as a core development goal. The international community is developing the Post-2015 Development Goals. No matter what framework we will have, food security and agricultural development should both be on top at the centre of the global agenda, as food security is a basic human right and agriculture a fundamental sector to the economy. Countries should stay committed to agriculture and food issues, push for consensus in the international community, and work together to eradicate hunger and poverty.

Second, create enabling environments for agricultural investment. Inadequate input in agriculture has been a main factor for food insecurity. We should reverse the trend and increase investment, focusing on infrastructure, disaster preparedness and technology. We should also create favourable policies and market conditions by building new mechanisms and expanding opportunities for agricultural investment so as to nurture vigorous development in rural areas.

Third, conduct international cooperation in food and agricultural. We should carry out active south-north and south-south agricultural cooperation to strengthen policy communication, expand knowledge sharing and technology transfer, and reinforce assistance and support to developing countries. We should oppose trade protectionism, accelerate the Doha round of negotiations, and foster a fair, sustainable and stable order of agricultural trade.

Mr Chair, dear Delegates,

The Chinese Government stands ready to work together with all countries and make its best contribution to global food security and to the world's lasting prosperity and stability.

Thank you.