

**Statement at CSD16 Ministerial Roundtable on “Inter-linkages
among the Thematic Issues, including Adaptation to Climate
Change”**

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Respectable Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The thematic issues of agriculture, rural development, land, draught and desertification, which are interlinked and have a bearing on the well-being and sustainable development of human beings, have attracted extensive attention. I am very willing to exchange views with my colleagues on issues of common concern with a view to reaching consensus. Now I propose the following three standpoints:

First, food security must be ensured. We notice that the food price hike imposes new challenges to the world food security in spite of the fact that there are still 850 million people hardly getting enough to eat. The food security is important not only for ensuring people’s basic rights, but also for

the harmony and stability of the world. To face up to those challenges, we need to make efforts from the following four aspects: First, the overall food production capacity need to be stabilized and enhanced to increase food supply. Various countries should keep the area sown to grain stable, increase the per unit area yield of grain in accordance with their national circumstances and promote grain production by putting in place relevant policies and improving measures for implementation. Second, the demand-side management should be strengthened by advocating food conservation, rationally guiding consumption and controlling the conversion of food to energy. Third, the efforts to build a new international trade order should be intensified. The international community, in particular the developed countries need to take forceful measures to reduce distortion of agricultural trade, better trading terms with developing countries so as to bring into full play the comparative advantages and facilitate agricultural development of those developing countries. Fourth, developed countries should enhance their aid to developing countries, in particular the least developing ones in terms of capital, technology and food.

Second, efforts should be made to realize the sustainable utilization of land and water resources. The status of land resources depends on how human beings use land and water. The reduction and degradation of cultivated land

bring great negative impact on agricultural production, farmers' income and rural development. Countries should control the utilization of cultivated land for other purposes, apply fertilizers, utilize and protect water and soil resources in a rational manner and try to improve the resource utilization efficiency, laying a solid foundation for agriculture sustainable development in the world.

Third, the international cooperation on addressing drought, controlling desertification and adapting to climate change should be stepped up. In today's world, there are 2 billion people under the draught ecological environment, 90% of which come from developing countries. With poor infrastructure and vulnerable ecosystem, developing countries are most vulnerable to the adverse effect of draught, desertification and climate change. The international community should urge developed countries to fully fulfill their responsibilities and commitments in accordance with the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities" and help developing countries improve their capacity of addressing drought, controlling desertification and adapting to climate change, in particular, the capacity of disaster prevention and reduction, disaster early warning and management , so as to mitigate the adverse impact of climate change through intensified international communication and collaboration.

Thank you all!