

STATEMENT OF BRAZIL
Permanent Representative of Brazil to FAO
Ambassador Maria Laura da Rocha

GENERAL DEBATE

Item 10: The State of Food and Agriculture

“Breaking the Cycle of Rural Poverty and Hunger by Strengthening Rural Resilience: Social Protection and Sustainable Agricultural Development”

Mr. Chairperson,
Excellences,
Dear colleagues,

I wish to seize this opportunity to express our gratitude for the support of Member States to the re-elected Director-General, José Graziano da Silva. Today we can say Brazil has defeated hunger, reducing to less than 2% the prevalence of undernourishment and lifting around 40 million people out of poverty.

We need to recognize the achievements made; but most importantly, we have to redouble our efforts respond to the challenges that remain in ensuring food sovereignty and the right to food for all human beings. To Break the Cycle of Rural Poverty and Hunger, Brazil believes there is no way other than promoting integrated policies, with social participation and supported by a sustained political and financial commitment. We need comprehensive economic and social policies that address the root causes of food insecurity and malnutrition.

In Brazil, the Zero Hunger Programme further enhanced by the programme Brazil Without Extreme Poverty, launched in 2011, was pivotal for the fight against hunger. Based on a human-rights approach and on an active social participation, these programmes combine conditional cash-transfers, public food procurement from family farmers, school meals to over 40 million students daily, and support to family farming.

Particularly in rural areas, where the incidence of poverty is higher, Brazil has set up the National Plan for a Sustainable and Solidary Rural Development, integrating policies in support of family farming, infrastructure for health services, education, housing and other public services. It also comprises policies to empower rural women, the rural youth and the diversity of peoples and traditional communities to foster inclusive rural development.

In this context, the International Year of Family Farming represented an important occasion to recognize the key role of family farming to food security and sustainable agriculture and to gather political support for policies at all levels.

Mr. Chairperson,

In the regional level, within the MERCOSUR, the Specialized Meeting on Family Farming (REAF) was consolidated as a democratic forum, in which Governments and civil society join

hands to formulate guidelines and strategies for public policies in support of family farming in the region.

The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) has also enhanced our commitment, at the highest political level, to work together to eradicate hunger in our countries by 2025, with the support of FAO.

Moreover, within the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries, we have established a multi-stakeholder platform to promote cross-sectorial and participatory policies and programmes for food and nutrition security.

Also in Africa, we collaborate with FAO in development projects to foster cross-sectorial programmes, linking social protection schemes to agricultural policies. The Purchase from Africans for Africa Programme is a model of cooperation and collaboration among country-partners, FAO and WFP that has achieved concrete results on the increased productivity of local farmers, also benefiting almost 130,000 students through healthy and locally sourced school meals.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Brazilian Government is fully engaged in the promotion of sustainable practices in family farming as well as in large-scale agriculture production. Practices regarding the recovery of degraded areas, soil conservation, water management, and agriculture-livestock-forestry-aquaculture integrated systems are successful experiences in this field. The adoption of a National Plan on agro-ecology and organic production associated with rural credit, technical assistance and rural extension activities, is another example of Brazil's commitment to a rural development model that encompasses sustainable agriculture, communities and ecosystems resilience, and the overcoming of rural poverty, hunger and malnutrition. Brazil will host an FAO regional meeting on agro-ecology for Latin America and the Caribbean in Brasilia next 25 and 26 June.

Finally, Mr Chairperson, Brazil wishes to recognize the valuable support of FAO to address rural poverty and hunger by strengthening rural resilience. We strongly believe FAO is well positioned to coordinate international efforts and to promote integrated approaches, linking social protection to productive support, at all levels.

FAO can provide technical support and capacity building for more comprehensive, inclusive and effective policies to fight hunger and extreme poverty, as well as to promote sustainable agriculture.

Thank you.