



GROUP OF FIFTEEN
The Summit Level Group of Developing Countries

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Distribution: General

Speaker: Hon. Duminda Dissanayake, Minister of Agriculture of Sri Lanka

G-15 Joint Statement

At the 40th Session of the FAO Conference
Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations

Rome- Italy, 3-8 July 2017

The Director General
Excellencies
Honourable Ministers
Distinguished Delegates

1. Let me at the outset extend my sincere appreciation and that of the Group of Fifteen (G-15) to the Director General of the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and his team for organizing this very important Conference and for the opportunity to make this Joint Statement on behalf of the G-15.
2. The Group of Fifteen is a Group of Developing Countries representing Asia, Africa and Latin America established to promote and sustain fruitful South-South cooperation and policy cohesion on areas of mutual interest with a view of achieving economic progress, stability and sustainable development.
3. The Group appreciates the profound and commendable roles played by the UN Food and Agricultural Organization to address the issues of eradicating hunger and extreme poverty, food insecurity while building resilience and catalysing agriculture and rural development.
4. The G-15 views the 40th Session of the conference of the FAO as auspicious and timely, considering that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

Development has now entered its implementation phase since its adoption in September 2015. The G-15 views the 2030 Agenda as a plan of action for the 'people, planet and prosperity' built on the three pillars of social, economic and environment of the SDGs. The Foreign Ministers of the Group of Fifteen have identified the 2030 Agenda as a key global process for the G-15 to be involved and contribute to its implementation as a niche Group of the Global South.

5. With the adverse impacts of climate change on agriculture and people whose livelihood depends on agriculture, particularly small-scale farmers, there is a need to enhance research and empower institutions that will assist the most vulnerable segments of the world population and make them the focus of development and technology transfer.

6. The realisation of the 2030 global target to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition and extreme poverty demands multi-faceted approach in complementing economic growth and productive capacities; strengthening rural resilience through social protection and sustainable agricultural development. In this respect the G-15 is committed to enhancing capacities among its member countries through robust South-South cooperation initiatives and also seeks opportunities for collaboration with international organisations, including the FAO.

I thank you.
