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**High-level roundtable on “Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions
through promoting sustainable development, expanding opportunities and
addressing related challenges”**

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Mr Elyasi

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

***Thank you
Mr. Chairman;
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,***

SDGs 2 emphasize on end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. In this regard, agriculture development and food security are essential elements for eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development and express concern that developing countries are vulnerable to, among others, the adverse impacts of climate change, and food security threats.

Food insecurity not only threatens existence of millions of poor people, but also endangers access to high quality food which is a must for active and healthy life for all of world's population.

Achieving food security would require strengthening the agriculture sector in developing countries, including through the empowerment rural communities, small scale farmers and fishermen, providing technical and financial assistance, access to, and transfer of technology, capacity building and exchange of knowledge and experience.

Now it's urgent to undertake actions needed, by international community, to reduce barriers to food security resulting from climate and ecological changes.

With regard to ecological challenges, lack of water resources, desertification and dust storms are among the key challenges that have negative impacts on agricultural production, particularly in arid areas..

Comment [1کیارش]: بیان زایی؛ توسعه بیانها

Comment [2کیارش]: خشک / Dry

Mr. Chairman;

Needless to emphasize that **major achievements in science and technology** has provided unique opportunities for the human being to protect the environment and advance its intentions for development and well-being.

To this end, the Iranian government supports technology development in the agricultural sector to fulfill national food security goals and protect environment.

The government of Iran offers a wide range of subsidies and grants for improvements in production methods, diffusion and promotion of advanced technologies. These technologies include the use of environment friendly and efficient fertilizers and pesticides, modern irrigation facilities, Internet of Things (IOT) projects in agriculture and etc.

One recent example of government initiatives for improving local technological is "Development of knowledge-based production in agricultural sector". In this initiative after careful studying of agriculture sector, value chains and local capabilities, we have identified 485 technology-based firms which are tasked with 96 projects in the strategic fields to ensure food security. These firms were supported in different ways by access to R&D infrastructure,

grants, minimum guaranty of purchase to be able to sell their final products or services in competitive local and international markets.

Also, Iran believes in finding a resolve for global challenges such as eradication of poverty and food security, must be pursued through focusing on a more **pro-poor enabling environment and making huge efforts for improving innovation ecosystem in this field. This ecosystem would encourage entrepreneurs and innovators to act in favor of social benefits** by using bottom-up approach. The ultimate objective of a such ecosystem is to create income for the rural poor (e.g. local food value chains) via new business models in off-farm employment and new localized education models and training.

In this regard, several actions have been done by both public and private sector to promote social entrepreneurship and empowerment of poor people and rural development with the help of grassroots & inclusive innovation approach.

For example, Hamnet-roosta (roosta means village) as an Entrepreneurship Event to support the development of rural areas. The essence of this local model of rural entrepreneurship is based on the rural abilities, experiences, and capital to support poor people by innovation and entrepreneurship.

Also, one of the important aspects of UN food security goal by 2030 is designing and implementing a policy intelligence framework. Another experience of Iran is **national foresight program**.

Systematic **foresight program** which helps policymakers to formulate precise policies and concrete agenda based on Key drivers of change in

global food security is considered a good example of mentioned policy intelligence framework.

To conclude, we believe that concrete measures are needed to overcome challenges the whole world confronts today on food security. Furthermore, if we want to achieve UN 2030 vision which has set a significant reduction in the number of those not properly fed and guarantee food security, following measures could be considered in regional, National and International Levels:

1. Rural development through social innovation and creating an enabling environment in rural areas
2. Technologies such as ICT, renewable energies, high-tech machinery along with biotech and advanced irrigation systems must be diffused more and more in agriculture sector. In this regards, exchange of knowledge, information, experiences and best practices in farming, food production and consumption is vital. International communities and specially UNCTAD could play an important role through facilitating technology transfer and capacity building in developing countries.
3. Supporting and preserving traditional and environment-friendly farming and irrigation systems, such as Qanat, particularly in dry areas;
4. Pursuing precautionary approach in utilization of biotechnology, which may impose harms to the human health and environment; invest at the same time on research and development and

technology assessment projects to get a better understanding of the of utilizing biotechnology on health and environment.

Iran welcomes collaboration with national and international communities on food security policy initiatives and sharing the experiences.

Thank you very much

