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STATEMENT OF THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA, ON BEHALF OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM). 4th SESSION OPEN-ENDED INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP ON A UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF PEASANTS AND OTHER PEOPLE WORKING IN RURAL AREAS

Geneva, May 15, 2017

I have the honor to make this statement on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement member states.

On the occasion of the Fourth Session of the Working Group on the Rights of Peasants and other People Working in Rural Areas, we would like to welcome the negotiations on the Draft Declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas.

Poverty eradication is the greatest global challenge facing the world today. Both poverty and hunger are still predominantly rural, and it is the rural population, those who produce food, who suffer disproportionately from these issues.

We are alarmed that 80 per cent of people suffering from hunger live in rural areas, particularly in developing countries, and 50 per cent are small-scale and traditional farm holders, as well as subsistence farmers, and that these people are especially vulnerable to food insecurity, malnutrition, discrimination and exploitation.



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Food security and nutrition are essential aspects of sustainable development and we are concerned that developing countries are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change further threatening food security. The attainment of food security and the move towards sustainable agriculture, including increased food production and agricultural investment, enhanced productive capacities and improved agricultural management and development and support for family farming and smallholder farmers in developing countries, are crucial issues for developing countries.

We express our deep concern at the high volatility in global food prices which directly challenges the fundamental human right to food. The resulting and ongoing food crisis poses a serious challenge to the fight against poverty and hunger. Structural problems continue to sustain the widespread hunger, food insecurity and nutrition and poverty. The continuing international economic and financial crisis further put serious hindrances in the global effort to fight against hunger as it reverberates throughout the global system through trade, aid and financial links.

It is necessary to improve transparency, information sharing, as appropriate, and financial regulations, with a view to contributing to markets stability and minimizing excessive price volatility and to prevent speculative investment in food markets by considering food supply chain to be accessible.

Excellencies,

Our Heads of State or Government at the 17th Summit of Heads of State and Government held in Isla Margarita underlined the need to



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address the economic, social and environmental challenges to sustainable agriculture, and emphasized that achieving food security would require strengthening and revitalizing the agriculture sector in developing countries, including through the empowerment of small and medium scale local farmers and fishers, developing of appropriate technologies, providing technical and financial cooperation, providing access to and transfer of technology, strengthening weather-forecasting, enhancing investment in postharvest technology and infrastructure including food processing capacity building and exchange of data, information and experience as well as infrastructure development.

The NAM reiterates its long-standing position in support of the achievement of the right to food, and our commitment to fight hunger and malnutrition.

We wish a successful fourth session of the Open Ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Rights of Peasants and other People Working in Rural Areas and welcome the efforts carried by the Chairperson Rapporteur in this direction.

Thank you.

