

The Statement Made by Sri Lanka
On behalf of Asia Group
At the Special Session of Committee on Food Security
On 11th May 2012

Mr. Chairman,

I speak on behalf of the Asian Group, representing the Permanent Representative of Thailand, to FAO, the Chair of the group, who is not able to be here today.

Let me at the outset express our sincere appreciation for convening this special session for the very specific purpose.

As well know this special session has been convened following the successful conclusion of negotiations on the Voluntary Guidelines in March 2012, within a multi-stakeholder CFS Open Ended Working Group.

This process as all we know attracted a comprehensive participation by all stakeholders, hence it is a great achievement from the point of view of FAO. The negotiations were conducted in an environment of where everyone demonstrated a true spirit of collaboration.

There is a challenge before all of us that is to ensure that early implementation of the VGGT which will enable their immediate application, as well as commencement of related activities, such as the development of principles for reasonable agricultural investment that enhance food security and nutrition.

We are the members of the Asian group wish to reiterate their commitments for effective implementation of VGGT at national level. For this purpose, members in our region look forward to receiving the desired cooperation from FAO, IFAD, WFP and other involved UN agencies.

This is a remarkable achievement from the point of view of FAO members and we therefore take this opportunity to congratulate Director General of FAO and his team and you the chair of CFS and your Bureau for the work very well done.

We also wish to acknowledge the contribution made by your predecessor, Mr. Noel Luna, who came from our region, in achieving this valuable outcome.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.