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**Statement submitted by Africa Faith and Justice Network
in consultative status with the Economic and Social
Council***

The Secretary-General has received the following statements, which are being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

Statement

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Madam President, reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises requires a midterm evaluation of the emerging threats to food security resulting from large scale food production. Transnational land acquisitions, also known as land grabbing, have become a pressing policy concern in Africa. Since the launch of the SDGs, land grabbing in Africa by predatory multinational organizations has more than doubled. Foreign nations, companies, and individuals are purchasing or leasing vast tracts of land at extremely low prices for agricultural production. This practice is now widely regarded by many as a new form of colonization in Africa.

Driven by the misconception of abundant land, foreign investors continue to focus on Africa to scale up food production for developed countries, exacerbating hunger in host nations. This has severely disrupted progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The land grabbing crisis in Africa undermines the fundamental principle of 'Leaving no one behind,' which is central to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Despite collective progress in many key indicators madam President, we have made trade-offs in critical areas.

The Africa Faith and Justice Network believes that we cannot eradicate poverty by dispossessing people of their land in the name of global food production. AFJN therefore urges leaders to adopt a whole-of-society approach to the SDGs by recognizing the devastating consequences of land grabbing in Africa. We ask for an adoption of an integrated and mutually reinforcing strategy, that acknowledges that progress in one area is interdependent with progress in others. AFJN urges world leaders to take the threat of land grabbing in Africa seriously and take action to minimize the threat posed by this predatory practice.

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