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It is a great opportunity to discuss this very important challenge of global food security. We are very fortunate to have a distinguished group of government, business and civil society leaders with us today. They came from different corners of the world: the United States, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Brazil, Morocco and some other countries. Mr. Delgado will have a long presentation to introduce global food security and the main issues connected with it. I want to introduce the speakers briefly.

Ms. Jane Karuku is the president of AGRA, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, an Africa-based organisation working in partnership with governments, agricultural research organisations, farmers, the private sector and civil society to improve the productivity and incomes of poor farmers. Mr. Mahama Zoungrana is the Minister of Agriculture and Food Security of Burkina Faso in Western Africa. He was appointed Minister last January, and before that he had 20 years' experience managing development projects in his country and at regional level. He has been working for years in Burkina Faso as the director of the forecasting and standards department of the Ministry of Agriculture, and before he was appointed Minister last January, he was responsible for the agricultural portfolio of the Netherlands Development Organisation.

Mr. Christopher Delgado is currently Senior Fellow of the World Resources Institute. During his fantastic career, he has been strategy and policy adviser in the World Bank's agriculture and rural development department. He coordinated the secretariat of the Bank's Global Food Crisis Response programme, and was programme manager of the Global Agricultural and Food Security Programme, a mutual funding mechanism requested by the World Bank at the G20 summit in September 2009.

Mr. Marcos Jank is from Brazil, and is currently the director of Global Public and Government Affairs of Brasil Foods, one of the largest food companies in the world. He is the former president and CEO of the Brazilian Sugarcane Industry Association, and for years he has been the manager of a very important think tank called ICONE, the Institute for International Trade Negotiations. He also has an academic career, but I will not get into details. Our last speaker is Brent Habig, who is the regional director for West and Southern Africa of TechnoServe, a non-profit organisation that develops business solutions to poverty by linking people to information, capital and markets. He is responsible in this capacity for leading the organisation's strategy and operations for more than ten countries in West and Southern Africa. We are very happy to have all of them here and to benefit from their expertise this afternoon.