

His Excellency Chyngysbek Uzakbaev

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Director-General, Mr. Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen. I would like on behalf of the Delegation of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan to sincerely greet the participants of this session and to wish you all fruitful work and also to express deep gratitude to FAO management for the excellent organization of the Conference. In dispute of the main theme of the Conference as recommended by the 145th session of the FAO Council, sustainable food systems for food security and nutrition, it has emerged as one of the leading challenges of our time.

The risks and challenges that we face today such as population growth, financial crises, climate change, are such that we must step up our efforts to improve the food production effectiveness and also to expound our agricultural and food sanctuaries to meet the needs of our societies and economies. In my country, the food and agricultural sector is one of the priority sectors of the economy. It provides 18% of GDP and 13% of total employment in Kyrgyzstan.

For our 5.5 million population and for our export markets, well the main source of production is our one million acres of pasture land and 9 million acres of natural grazing land. In terms of food security, our country has identified nine commodity categories of vital food products, including cereals, potato, vegetables, fruit, and berries, meat, milk, sugar, eggs, and vegetable oil. Production volumes and access to these products are the focus of our particular attention.

Our country depends on imports for such main food products as bread products, sugar, and vegetable oil. So it is to address these and other matters that we are working to encourage the establishment of cooperative farms. We are also putting interest rates on loans and fostering conditions for exports of potato, dairy products, fruits, and vegetables. And all of these efforts alongside the implementation of the green economy principles and of integrated world resource management and surveying of livestock, enhancement of plant and animal genetic resources, increased mechanization of agriculture. All of this is enshrined in our natural sustainable development strategy for 2013-2017.

Agricultural production together with imports provides for the population's food needs. This is achieved thanks in part to FAO technical assistance programs targeting vulnerable households headed by women, and also through projects to enhance irrigation and improve veterinary services. I would like to express thanks to the Governments of Finland, Austria, Turkey, and also to the European Union which together with FAO have been supporting the development of fish farming and building food security and livestock rearing also.

We agree with the conclusion contained in the Director-General's annual State of Food and Agriculture report of 2013, his conclusion that although progress has been achieved in reducing hunger and malnutrition worldwide, we still face a long road ahead. Kyrgyzstan and other countries have succeeded in having the number of malnourished people from 686,000 people in 1990 to 1992 to 345,000 in 2010-2012. Despite the fact that Kyrgyzstan has achieved the World Food Summit goal, we will not rest here. The risks we currently face mean that we must step up our efforts to tackle the food challenges. A step forward in this connection came with the opening of a FAO country office in Kyrgyzstan with the support of the Member States. Clearly, the Organization's fully-fledged presence in our country will enhance the coordination of multi-sectional cooperation with FAO and with other interest multi-lateral bodies.

By way of conclusion, I would like to wish all of you every success in your activities and good health.

I thank you for your attention.