

**His Excellency Kosim Kosimov**  
**Minister for Agriculture of Tajikistan**

Distinguished Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, first of all allow me to express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity of speaking to you at this FAO Conference which is a well-established forum for discussing priority issues to deal with the agrarian sector and combating hunger.

Taking this advantage I would like to also congratulate my colleagues and my closer colleague the Minister of Agriculture of Afghanistan Mr. Mohammad Asif Rahimi on the occasion of his election to the Chair of this Conference.

This Conference is called in order to take stock of the activity and cooperation of the FAO with the Member States of the Organization and to also define the priority areas for the next couple of years. In the light of what the Secretary-General of FAO Mr. da Silva said, I should also like to share with you some of our thoughts about the future of agriculture. Tajikistan is an agrarian country with limited land resources to boost food production and to strengthen the economy of the country. In addition to that, we have to remember that serious natural disasters prompted by climate change have had very negative effects on the agriculture of the country.

The losses to agriculture in Tajikistan because of such disasters have come to an average of more than 25% for cereals, 28% for coal and 25% for cotton; and the country's agrarian production amounts to 25% of the GDP.

In order to react to these challenges, the Government of the country has set in place a policy of improved system of national administration and a self-management of natural resources. As an illustration of that, in 2008 we passed a National Program on food security and in 2010 a law on food security in accordance with which, as from 2011, we have a Council on food security led by the Prime Minister.

To solve the current problems in the agrarian sector and also to meet these new challenges, FAO plays a particular part as a very solid partner of Tajikistan in trying to overcome the local problems.

Tajikistan's position on these issues is also on a regional and sub-regional level and they play a very important part in our region. Speaking at the 28th Regional Conference of the FAO for Europe and Central Asia in April last year, I noted the role of the Organization in working out a reformed program of the agrarian sector of Tajikistan. It also plans to open a country office.

Today, I am delighted to inform you that the government of Tajikistan has endorsed the Program for Agrarian Reform which foresees working out several strategies including investment projects to take us up through the next 10 years, which will allow us not only to solve the problem of food security radically in our country, but also to provide essential help to countries in the region as a whole.

Together with that, the Tajikistan FAO office has worked in very close cooperation with the specialists of the Organization to elaborate a country CPF where we have defined the priority areas for cooperation between Tajikistan and the FAO. This program is aimed at strengthening food security and also promoting the development of the agricultural sector through the long-term sustainable use and management of natural resources.

These include village development and particularly, the infrastructure, improvement of agricultural diversification, support of small holdings and cooperation of modern agricultural methods and a plant protection, strengthening and improving seed production, promoting inventorization and the assessment of the state of the forests in the Republic, the development of a commercial forestry and timber

processing, effective methods, modern methods for the use of land and water resources, adapting to climate change, improving the system of monitoring of animal diseases, the event of aqua-culture, and also effective methods for feed production and support of setting up a system for identifying animal registration.

Some of these points require a regional approach. To that we do endorse our support with FAO and we would like to state the following that FAO should help us perhaps in developing and improving personnel capabilities. Secondly, preparing projects and attracting investment. Thirdly, strengthening the country office of FAO in Tajikistan and the speedy appointment of a permanent representative.

Lastly, the Republic of Tajikistan as from the 2nd of March 2013 joined the WTO and became a full member thereof. It is quite clear I think that in order to fulfill the commitments of the WTO, we have to improve and harmonize the legislative and normative base and we also hope that technical support here will be given by FAO.

In conclusion, allow me once again to express my sincere gratitude for this splendid organization of this Conference and the welcome provided to the participants of the FAO Conference, the close and productive cooperation which we have enjoyed, and also express the hope that in the next days we will be able to work out and to endorse decisions which will be able to promote and help the stable development of the agrarian sector and to solve the problem of food security.

Thank you very much.