

Statement by the Head of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Delegation at the 39th Session of the FAO Conference

Mr. Chairman,

Mr. Director-General,

At outset, I would like to join other delegations in extending congratulations to Mr. José Graziano Da Silva on his reelection of the FAO Director-General. Ever high support to your reelection shows the trusts and expectations placed in you by member states.

Allow me to extend congratulations on behalf of the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to you, Mr. Le Mamea Ropati Mualia, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Agriculture Store Corporation of Samoa, upon your election as the President of the 39th FAO Conference. I am sure that this Conference will be successful under your able leadership.

My appreciation also goes to the Secretariat of 39th session of FAO Conference for its preparation and Italian Government for the warm hospitality given to the delegations.

Mr. Chairman,

FAO, since its foundation, has been making efforts to eradicate hunger and poverty as well as to achieve the global food security for 70 years in keeping with its mandate.

In particular, during the past two years, FAO has taken various measures to ensure the food security and nutrition in rural areas while strengthening its capacity building to increase the agricultural production worldwide.

The FAO decentralization policy makes it possible to give more authority to its regional and field offices resulting in technical cooperation in the agriculture, fishery and forestry and enhancing the effectiveness of the projects. This is of great contribution to the agricultural development in its Member States.

Ensuring global food security and nutrition, FAO has formulated a new Medium Term Plan actively involving all Member States, scientific research institutions and social organizations in the MTP implementation. This clearly shows the FAO's determination in its efforts to increasing the agricultural production.

The DPRK delegation supports the Programme of Work and Budget for 2016-2017, recognizing that the document is well formulated in providing effective assistance to the Member States in their efforts to ensure food security and agricultural development.

My delegation welcomes the increased budget for TCP compared to the last one, which will help Member States in their efforts to eradicate hunger, increase agricultural production, preventing damages by pests and providing mitigation for natural disasters.

Mr. Chairman,

The joint efforts of FAO and its Member States to achieve the MDGs and the goal of the World Food Summit have contributed to the increase of agricultural production amidst the global economic and financial crisis.

However, the agricultural production of each country is still not at a satisfactory level and the food supply is still not in proper place. This is resulting in about 800 million people suffering from food shortage, hunger and under-nutrition.

In this respect, the DPRK delegation supports the theme of this Session "Breaking the Cycle of Rural Poverty and Hunger by Strengthening Rural Resilience: Social Protection and Sustainable Agricultural Development" proposed by its Secretariat and believes that due attention should be paid to the following points.

First, it is important for each country to formulate agricultural policy to suit its specific conditions and increase agricultural production on its own.

Member States should increase government's budget for agricultural and rural development and take practical steps to enhance scientific capabilities in the areas of seed improvement, effective use of land and water resources, proper management of crops, prevention of damages by pests and reduction of post-harvest losses, etc.

Second, it is necessary to provide satisfactory socio-economic conditions on a global scale through which Member States can benefit from their agricultural production.

What is important in this regard is to establish a new global trade system of agricultural products based on the principles of equality and mutual benefit to avoid negative impacts on the agricultural production in developing countries.

Developed countries should not turn a blind eye to the reality, but be faithful to their commitments to give financial support to the developing countries as they made in the international conferences such as the World Food Summit. Developing countries should further develop the South-South cooperation in the agricultural sector.

Third, it is important to enhance the mandates of FAO.

As it is well-known, FAO is the authentic specialized UN Agency in the field of agriculture to outline common policies and promote cooperation in the efforts of overcoming the challenges against the global food security. Therefore, FAO should provide enhanced technical cooperation to the developing countries for agriculture, fishery, etc., focusing on the *Breeding the Cycle of Rural Poverty and Hunger by Strengthening Rural Resilience: Social Protection and Sustainable Agricultural Development*.

Mr. Chairman,

The DPRK is currently being engaged in a dynamic campaign to build a strong economy and improve the living standard of the people under the wise leadership of the dear respected **KIM JONG UN**.

The DPRK Government is focusing on resolving the food problem of the people and improving their dietary life on a higher level with agricultural production, animal husbandry and fishing as the main thrusts.

It also concentrates and mobilizes all its efforts to farming, prioritizing seed revolution, double-cropping, potatoes and soybean farming. It is now taking practical measures to increase the grain yield per hectare in both flat and mountainous areas by actively introducing highly intensified and scientific farming methods.

Water-saving farming and other scientific methods are being applied and stockbreeding and aquaculture, greenhouses and mushroom production bases across the country are stepping up the efforts to put the production on a regular footing. People have turned out in the campaign of afforesting, landscaping the whole country and turning them into orchards.

The DPRK Government, on the basis of her external policy, principles of independence, peace and friendship, will continue to strengthen the cooperation with FAO and its member states and make positive contribution to the efforts for sustainable agricultural development and eradication of poverty.

Thank you.