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**Statement delivered by
His Excellency Jan Krzysztof Ardanowski
Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development of the Republic of Poland
on the occasion of the
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Mr Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour for me to be able to participate in the plenary session of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, FAO. I wish to congratulate Dr Qu Dongyu on his election to the position of Director-General of this organisation.

My country declares full support for the achievement of the ambitious goals that are head of FAO. One of the most important goals of FAO is to prevent hunger and poverty. To a larger extent, we can do it by developing agriculture and boosting food production with respect to nature and with rational and sustainable use of the Earth's resources.

The world community when collaborating in harmony is able to counteract hunger and malnutrition on the global scale. Without food there is no freedom and no sovereignty. Poland, a country for decades has sufferance depression and dominance of its most powerful neighbours, is particularly well aware of what it means to be in bondage and to have no political independence.

Mr Chairman, our session is devoted to one of the key challenges of modern times, migration and to the attempts made by agriculture and rural areas to face this challenge. My country, Poland, and other countries of the European Union are aware of the importance of this issue. This was reflected, amongst others, in the communications from the European Commission of November 2017, The Future of Food and Farming, where we find a direct reference to the migration issues.

Fully recognising the significance of this matter, Poland other European Union countries believe that the solution to the phenomenon of migration should be through the elimination of the underlying causes of this phenomenon. We are convinced that the knowledge gains and the projects supported by the common agricultural policy should be used to develop employment opportunities and income generating activities in the regions of origin and transit of legal migrants, including with the use of the Union's external investment plan.

We recognize that greater emphasis should be placed on pilot projects related to the training of young farmers. Implemented with the participation of European Farmers' organizations as well as the European Union Africa Exchange Programs. We see the need and opportunities of deepening cooperation in the field of agricultural research and innovation using appropriate EU policies and instruments for this purpose. Therefore, the European Commission is deepening strategic cooperation and substantive dialogue with the African Union on the issues relating to agriculture and rural development. In this way, we help this geographical region to develop its own agri-food sector and thus we try to limit and eliminate the need for potential immigrants to leave their homelands.

Mr Chairman, one of the priority geographic areas of EU cooperation with developing countries, are the countries of the African Region. At the recent session of the European Union Agriculture and Fisheries Council in April 2019, a separate item was devoted to cooperation with Africa. Views about the report of the Task Force, Rural Africa, Africa Europe Agenda for Rural Transformation were exchanged at the Council meeting. The assumption of the report is that the short and long-term recommendations should be adjusted to reflect the national and regional economic, social and political conditions of individual

African countries. Poland considers this cooperation to be very purposeful and wants to act towards an active and mutually beneficial and partner dialogue between the European Union and the African Union.

As an active member of the European Union, Poland wants to develop mutually beneficial scientific, academic and expert cooperation, aiming at the exchange of knowledge in the fields of European policies seeking such CAP instrument which will prove effective in African conditions among others, by support for the financing of knowledge transfer, and help improve the quality of life and increase employment in rural areas.

Poland absolutely wishes to stress that development aid for developing countries must not use poverty instrumentally. That the assistance cannot be made dependent on the adoption of ideas, such as the philosophy of gender abortion or forced sterilisation unacceptable to those nations and contradicting their local traditions. Poland is ready to support the activities of African countries amongst others with expert knowledge gained in the area of rural development programs such as 'Leader' as well as the implementation of agricultural reforms including development of a strategy, framing of legislation in the agricultural sector, in particular with regard to support for the development of entrepreneurship and implementation of innovations, as well as creating conditions for joint investments and eliminating barriers to market access, such as military conflicts, violence and corruption.

Mr Chair, Poland, similarly to our partners from the European Union fully recognises the need to cooperate with developing partner countries from both the African Continent and other geographical areas within the broadly understood agricultural sector. We intend to use our mutual and growing experiencing in formulating the next multi-annual development cooperation program for the new period so that it forms part of the assumptions and provisions of ambitious and universal 2030 Development Agenda.

Thank you for your attention.