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Statement by Heads of Delegations of the Republic of Korea

Thank you, Chair, for giving me the floor.

The double burden of malnutrition is a major issue that all member states face. Although many countries are exerting efforts to combat malnutrition, not all policies and programmes have been successful. Considering that nutritional surveillance requires lots of scientific evidence and knowhow, it is important that member states make active contributions to promote information sharing and cooperation to address malnutrition. In this regard, Korea commends the FAO and WHO for their mediating role and efforts in developing evidence-based policies and programmes and providing technical support.

Identifying the unique nutritional problems and nutritionally vulnerable groups in each country may be a good starting point to combat malnutrition given that diet is closely associated with culture and local environment. Korea, for instance, has a surveillance system, the Korea Health and Nutrition

Examination Survey, to monitor health and nutritional status in Korea. According to the survey, one out of every three adults in Korea is obese or overweight and sodium intake is more than double the recommended level of FAO and WHO. On the other hand, we need to come up with support measures to cope with low nutrition problems among elderly with chronic diseases, which are growing with the increasing size of elderly population, and to help tackle micronutrient deficiency and obesity in low income group.

Against this backdrop, the Korean government has legislated laws concerning nutritional policies such as the National Nutritional Management Act, the Support of Dietary Education Act, and the Special Act on Safety Management of Children's Dietary Life. Moreover, the government endeavors to reduce the intake of sodium, sugars, and fats, especially trans fat by promoting the nutritional support programme (NutriPlus), nutrition labeling, education and campaigns. All of these programmes were harmonized in the National Planning of Nutrition Management.

In terms of food system, Korea is shifting its focus from quantity to quality. The government is moving away from striving to supply sufficient amount of food to promoting a new paradigm that focuses on improving diet and nutrition, quality control of food and safety management. This shift is in

line with the Framework for Action to end all forms of malnutrition suggested by FAO and WHO.

Member states need to recognize malnutrition problem as a social issue and take a comprehensive approach considering that various factors, such as nutrition, education, food production, culture, and environment, influence people's diet. Moreover, it is important to realize that it takes not only relevant government ministries but also relevant businesses, researchers, and civil society to overcome malnutrition. We also need to secure abundant amount of scientific evidence and technology that is necessary to reach consensus among stakeholders with different views. The consensus reached among stakeholders will allow us to legislate relevant rules and regulations with a clear policy direction and take a whole-of-government approach.

The FAO and WHO can help such efforts of member states by promoting nutrition as an important global agenda and providing scientific and technical support. The Korean government will do its part by sharing its policy experiences and providing evidences based on the surveillance system.

Thank you.