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CFS 46 Delegate Statement

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Statement:

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Mr. Chairperson,

First of all, I would like to extend my gratitude to the FAO Secretariat and its staff members for organizing this important meeting.

Today, we confront an undeniable challenge that the number of world's undernourished people has been increased during the last three consecutive years. The number increased by 10 million to about 820 million in 2018 which means that one out of nine people are suffering from malnutrition. The number of undernourished people across Africa keeps increasing. In Asia, about 500 million people, which are 12 percent of the world population, are suffering from malnutrition. It is truly a red light for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly goal number two, Zero Hunger by 2030.

Moreover, the increasing number of refugees and forced migrants due to regional conflicts and natural disasters bring negative impacts on the world food security.

Against this background, we all recognize that the international community's cooperation is more critical than ever before. In this regard, the Republic of Korea has joined the Food Assistance Convention (FAC) in January last year, and has been providing food to countries experiencing food crisis. We have donated 50,000 metric tons of Korean rice to four countries in the Middle East and Africa through the World Food Programme (WFP) last year and this year respectively. The rice provided by Korea has arrived in the recipient countries in July, and is being distributed to the refugees.

Moreover, through the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR), the Republic of Korea has donated 14,000 metric tons of rice to ASEAN countries impacted by severe natural disasters. The Korean government is making efforts to enhance the global and regional food security through various channels and to play a role as a responsible member of the international community.

Besides the emergency assistance, the Korean government is exerting efforts to improve agricultural productivity and promote rural development in developing countries. We have established several "Korea Program on International Agriculture (KOPIA)" Centers in Asia, Africa and Latin America to transfer Korea's experience of agricultural policies and technologies which we have obtained during the course of economic growth. Furthermore, in order to enhance agricultural infrastructure, we have been implementing rural development and irrigation projects in 12 countries in those regions as well. Through these projects, we are contributing to the improvement of agricultural productivity and income growth of rural households, and promoting the sustainability of agricultural system in developing countries.

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To systematically respond to the food crisis, each country's endeavor should be integrated as a holistic international framework. The government of the Republic of Korea will continue to provide support and cooperation in combating food crisis. I also would like to invite all the Rome-based agencies and other international organizations to work closely to assist developing countries in coping with the crisis.

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to particularly mention transboundary animal diseases regarding world food security. As you might have heard of, on September 16, we detected the first outbreak of African Swine Fever (ASF) in Korea and we are struggling to control additional outbreaks of the disease. Despite our utmost efforts on disease control, we still have some difficulties due to lack of information on the disease. I hope the international community would share their relevant information and experience of preventing the spread or eradicating the disease, and could also strengthen international cooperation including transparency.

In conclusion, even though our present situation is not bright, I would like to stress that the international community has many experiences in overcoming the crisis. If we combine our wisdom, endeavors and timely actions together, I believe that the number of undernourished population can be significantly reduced in the near future.

Thank you.

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