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Declaration by Mr Md Kaikobad Hossain
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Honorable Chairperson,
Distinguished guests, participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamualaikum and Good Afternoon.

This is indeed a great pleasure for me to present in the 40th session of the FAO Conference. On behalf of our Honorable Prime Minister, her Excellency Sheikh Hasina, government and people of Bangladesh, I extend the heartiest greetings to all of you. We hope that the session will have a successful discussion on the Review of State of Food and Agriculture to improve food and nutrition security of the world.

Mr Chairperson, just after the post Millennium Development Goal era, the world has initiated to begin the implementation of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development Goals. Bangladesh - having achieved most of the MDG targets - has already started the SDG goals implementation.

Distinguished participants, Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in food production. In 1971, during our Liberation War, we produced 10 million tons of food grain, whereas in 2016 we produced 37 million food grains. In that gap of time, the population has doubled. Sustainable Development Goal, which aims to “end hunger, food insecurity, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture”, addresses directly the mandate of achieving food and nutrition security.

Given the growing importance of food security and nutrition in our country, the Ministry of Food in collaboration with other food security and nutrition relevant sectors are working towards minimizing the duplication of efforts and fragmentation of policy, monitoring, and instrumental frameworks.

Dear participants, we would like to stress on the 60 recommendations adopted through the Rome Declaration during the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) in 2014. The government of Bangladesh has embedded most of the ICN2 recommendations in our National Plan of Action on Nutrition (NPAN) and our policy development framework has taken cognizance of the ICN2 recommendation. Our government has established the Bangladesh Food Safety Authority (BFSA) and a Food Planning and Monitoring Unit (FPMU) through the food security authority. An integrated approach has been implemented to enhance food security across all private sources of production, such as fish, animal and crops.

The Food Planning and Monitoring Unit (FPMU) aims to update the strategic policy planning, policy frameworks, and prepare the Second Country Investment Plan (CIP2). This is one of the first steps we have taken towards the SDG goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. FPMU will play a key role in formulating, monitoring, and evaluating sustainable policy strategies.

Mr Chairperson, we know that there are about 800 million hungry people in the world. So

many issues have aggravated the hunger situation like war, conflict, displacement, climate change, natural and man-made disasters, etc. Resources constraint is also another big issue to address this challenge. In my conclusion, no country can solve the problem individually. The global food security and nutrition objective can only be achieved through a multi-sectoral collaboration approach, multi-sectoral financing, and technical assistance for the farmers.

FAO is the right forum to provide guidance and technical assistance to address the climate change issues in agriculture production and involvement of the youth in agriculture.

The development assistance - on the basis of the FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF), Rural Financing Programmes of IFAD, and the recently approved Country Strategic Plan of WFP - will enhance the food and nutrition security in Bangladesh.

Above all, the political will is the most effective instrument in achieving food and nutrition security. Our government, under the able leadership of Prime Minister, Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina, is working very hard to achieve food and nutrition security. It is my understanding that this session will provide further guidance and support to achieve food security and nutrition objectives.

Finally, I would like to extend my heartiest thanks to all participants for their valuable contribution in reviewing world food security.

Thank you Mr Chairperson and thank you all.