

**Statement by Her Excellency Alla Lomakina
Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Food of the
Republic of Belarus**

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Director-General, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I would like to convey the greetings of the Agriculture and Food Ministry of Belarus to this 40th Session of the FAO Conference. Food security remains one of the main pressing issues of the global and national levels. FAO's role in consolidating the efforts of Member States on this issue remains crucial.

The key to food security is sustainable rural development. Belarus has an active state socioeconomic and agricultural policy aimed at ensuring sustainable agriculture, food security, and improving the quality of life. It is fully in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Belarus is not only self-reliant in terms of food but also has significant export potential. National high quality produce provides food to the domestic market and over 30% of agro food products are exported. In terms of total production of the main types of agricultural produce, Belarus is one of the leaders among former Soviet states.

The level achieved in terms of production of agricultural raw materials and food allows us to guarantee peoples' access to food with necessary calories, eliminating hunger and malnutrition.

Consumption of food is not limited by our own production resources but Belarusian diets remain unbalanced. The nutritional content includes a lack of protein and carbohydrates associated with fats.

Belarus is playing an active role at the international level and is highly ranked internationally in terms of food production and trade.

According to FAO, Belarus is number twenty-five in the world in milk production and eighth in exports and is also one of the top twenty exporters of meat, sugar, grape seed oil, and flax fiber. In Belarus, much is being done to further develop agriculture in rural areas. We are modernizing the material and technical base for production, stepping up cooperation and integration in industries, human resourcing is being improved, and we are creating social infrastructure in rural areas.

All of this contributes greatly to increasing the sustainability of agricultural production to create a favorable environment to increase living standards in rural areas.

Undoubtedly, Belarus's agro food sector is facing new challenges and threats both external and domestic. They need to be tackled head on which is why we are putting in place a monitoring system. We have developed a targeted national strategy for legislation, institutional work, and scientific research. We currently have a draft new strategic document, the 2030 National Food Security Policy. This policy enshrines the goals and targets of the long-term government food security policy, guaranteeing high quality food for the population, demand for Belarussian produce in foreign markets, and integration into the global good market.

Belarus works actively on food security issues at the intergovernmental level as well. As a member of the Eurasian Economic Union, we are involved in the development of a policy for collective food security. Our systems and technologies for agricultural production are in line with the provisions of the Paris Climate Agreement in Europe and Central Asia.

Our country is experiencing a prolonged period of high temperatures which has a positive and also a negative impact on the sustainability of agricultural production.

This is why at the 71st Session of the General Assembly, Belarus was one of the first countries to provide the UN Secretary-General with documents on our accession to the Paris Climate Agreement.

Belarus is also one of the sixty countries which have officially undertaken international commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

With the joint efforts of international organizations and governments of Member States, the SDGs are attainable and food security can be guaranteed.

Thank you for your attention.