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STATEMENT BY

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OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**

AT

**THE 40TH SESSION OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
CONFERENCE**

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**Honorable Chairperson,
Honorable Ministers and Heads of Delegations,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is indeed a great honor and a privilege to have the opportunity to address the 40th Conference of the FAO.

I would like to take this opportunity to comment on the critical issue of ensuring food security for the global population. Although we have taken serious efforts, the challenges for food security in the world, especially in the FAO least-developed and developing member countries, remain significant and even increased, due in particular to the impact of climate change. Though the challenges vary among our respective countries, we all generally have those in common, such as insufficient infrastructure and facilities, limited innovation and technology, supply chain mismanagement, and inappropriate policies.

It is well understood that climate change is a pressing issue for the international community, including Indonesia. The international community realized the importance of Paris Climate Agreement to keep temperature increase below 2°C (2 degrees Celsius) due to its irreversibility and likelihood to cause terrible disasters toward human lives. Indonesia has committed, through its NDC (Nationally Determined Contribution), to reduce emission by 29% under the Business as Usual scheme by 2030, while an emission reduction of 41% is expected with international support. With this commitment, Indonesia will follow a low carbon development action.

Indonesia is a witness on how carefully-designed policies can mitigate the impact of climate change to food security. Aimed at reducing the risk of crop failure due to

climate change-related natural disasters, we devised a planting calendar policy, which guides farmers on the best time and place to farm their crops.

Honorable Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to take this opportunity to also share Indonesia's experience in addressing the critical challenge of meeting the staple food needs for around 250 million Indonesians, which approximately amounts to 33 million tons of rice.

In order to address this major challenge, a holistic program was launched. This program included changing the existing policies, developing agricultural infrastructure and down-streaming industries, managing the supply chain, and empowering farmers and rural communities.

The policy changes have been diverse. Those included, most notably, the restructuring of procurement system of farming inputs, prioritizing assistance to sub optimal agricultural land, establishing production targets and streamlining processes of investment.

Improving agricultural stability would have been impossible without first prioritizing water management systems. To date nearly 3 million hectares of tertiary irrigation systems have been revitalized.

The infrastructure development goes hand in hand with the adoption of modernized agriculture. In order to further empower farmers, an education and mentoring program was launched. This program has promoted sustainable agricultural practices.

Improvements on supply chain management have also empowered farmers and benefitted consumers. The shortening of this once long supply chain has made our products more competitive, and accordingly improved farmer's income and overall rural welfare.

Last but not least, we also have renewed focus on research and innovation as we believe they are vital in boosting food production. As a result of our renewed focus on R&D high-yielding varieties of rice.

Through this Special Program, Indonesia has managed to boost the country's agriculture production. In 2016, the production of rice was 79.1 million tons of ready-to-mill grain, an increase of 4.97 percent from 2015 and 11.7 percent from 2014. This figure is the highest in the last ten years. Although El Nino's devastating impact destroyed vast agricultural areas in our country, we still managed to secure our domestic supply of rice, and even succeeded to increase rice export volume.

Our efforts to increase our food production does not stop there, Indonesia still seeks alternative technology to achieve this goal. One alternative technology that we are currently looking at is Conservation Technology in the rain-fed land, where the FAO supports the leverage model in eastern part of the country. This year, Indonesia will

scale up the model into other challenging rain-fed lands to generate more evidence of such model.

The one that makes all these efforts “priceless” is the improved welfare of farmers, indicated by the increasing trend of exchange rate of agriculture business by 2.88% in the last 2 years. Moreover, Gini-ratio and the number of poor are in decline. Indonesia Food Security Index Is also showing a good progress.

The challenge of feeding our population, as the fourth largest in the world, lies not only in developing rural farming, but also mainstreaming food security and nutrition objective into our human policy development.

In the agricultural sector, we have implemented a nutrition-sensitive measure through promotion of Sustainable Home-Yard Food Garden (SHFG), which now has been largely adopted throughout the country. SHFG approach mainly promotes the empowerment of women to optimize the use of their home-yard as food and nutrition source with the potential to improve their income.

Furthermore, as part of an effort to enhance sustainable livelihood and well-being, Indonesia, as a Mega-biodiversity country, is continuously strengthening its policy actions to mainstream biodiversity into planning and implementation of national development programmes including in the Forestry, Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture.

To conclude, on behalf of the Government and the People of the Republic of Indonesia, we underline the need for global concerted efforts to address the challenges of climate change, agriculture, and food security. We hope that close collaboration between the FAO and its member countries will have greater impact for the community through establishment of a resilient agriculture, enhancement of food diversification, and improvement of farmer welfare.

Indonesia always stands ready to work with all members to ensure food security for our people.

I thank you Mr. Chairperson.