

“Delivered in Montenegrin - checked against English interpretation”

Statement at the 40<sup>th</sup> FAO Conference

His Excellency Milutin Simovic, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Policy and Financial System, and Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development of Montenegro

Dear Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished Director of the FAO Mr. Da Silva,  
Your excellences,  
Ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues

It is my great honor to address you on behalf of the Government of Montenegro. Let me stress the readiness and commitment of Montenegro to contribute to the achievements of the Agenda 2030 goals. Even though it is a small country, Montenegro is ready in cooperation with other members to help eradicate hunger as one of the key goals of the Agenda. Fulfilling the Agenda's goals has to be equally obligatory and requires joint responsibility of all member countries no matter their size. Only by doing so we can attain sustainability as an overall goal of the Agenda.

Sustainability in agriculture is under different influences and challenges. More often we are witnessing how the climate influence on sustainability in agriculture and reaching adequate and quality yields. High temperatures, droughts, fires, floods are just some of the challenges that are obliging us to think more responsible and to define adequate policies and innovative mechanisms as responses to them. These challenges are particularly demanding for small countries, and can have immense consequences on food production and survival of rural areas. Montenegro recognized the importance of sustainable management of the environment and adaptation to climate changes. Activities undertaken by the Government of Montenegro have a goal to utilize the natural potentials with adequate preservation of the environment.

Once again ladies and gentlemen I am urging for the principle of union and joint action. Global challenges require global responses. The nature do not recognize administrative borders. I will not go further then the region of Southeastern Europe in order to stress the need of stronger and tighter

cooperation. Last year in the region we had a common problem related to the animal diseases (Blue tongue disease and Lumpy skin disease). Livestock was endangered. Negative consequences were present and the existence of the numerous families that are working in the livestock sector was endangered. The epidemic was spreading around the borders and the common action was not timely. Something similar happened with floods in the Balkans. All this is a reminder that we need to manage the changes and that we have to work together on prevention rather than solving the consequences.

This ladies and gentlemen is of the roles of the FAO that, as an organization that gathers large number of countries has a responsibility to, with our individual efforts, channel individual needs and measures that are undertaken and group them so the final effect becomes better. From the perspective of the small country we have to work more on decentralization of the activities so that our national policies are more in line with global goals. Regarding that we are glad with the activities that brought to the fact that more countries are involved in working together and that Montenegro will also have the opportunity to chair European working group what presents the great honor, but also the responsibility, and we will make an effort to fulfill given expectations. We consider of extreme importance good coordination and cooperation among all agencies of the UN system involved in issues related to rural development and enhancement of agriculture settled in Rome. This is a precondition of reaching the goals from the 2030 Agenda. Only with better cooperation and coordination of joint activities it is possible to ensure better living conditions in our villages and adequate quantity of quality food.

On all these challenges we need to provide quick and efficient answers. The intensity of climate changes and effects they have on every day work are admonishing us that our activities need to be more intensive, effective and sustainable, because we owe that to the generations to come. Growth of the world population and the growing demand for food are directing us to the need for fast responses and importance of our joint action.

In the interest of what I am stressing once again that, even though it is a small country, Montenegro will on bilateral but also on multilateral and regional plan give its contribution to the joint answers on the challenges of the

climate change phenomenon and need for adequate adaptation and also eradication of hunger.

Dear Mr Chairman, let me thank you for the opportunity to address the Conference and I hope that during the work we will come to the conclusions that would be efficiently implemented on the field.

Thank you for your attention.