

**The Statement of the Delegation of the  
Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

September 2020

Mr. Chairman,

H.E. Director-General of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,

Distinguished Ministers and delegates,

First of all, on behalf of the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, I would like to extend my warm congratulations to you on your election as Chairman of the thirty-fifth session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and the government of the Kingdom of Bhutan for their sincere efforts for successful holding of the session. In the same vein, I am convinced that this session will provide a good opportunity for the countries in Asia-Pacific to exchange views and experiences on the challenges and solutions in agricultural production and food security in the region.

Mr. Chairman,

The FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific has achieved some successes in various sectors including crop production, livestock, fish farming, forestry, pest controls and biodiversity by focusing on technical cooperation programmes in line with the regional cooperation priorities which were adopted during the last session.

In particular, it directs efforts on minimizing the negative impacts of devastating consequences of global Covid-19 pandemic, African swine fever and locust swarms which are rampant in the region and ensuring food security and increasing income of rural people as well as improving their nutritional status.

It announced Covid-19 Umbrella Programme and has been actively waging its fund-raising campaign, based on the rapid

emergency assessment of the Covid-19's impacts on people's food security and nutrition conducted in more than 20 countries.

Highly appreciating these initiatives and efforts made by the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, I believe that they will certainly bring good results.

Mr. Chairman,

There are still a number of tasks to be done and obstacles to be overcome in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 such as ensuring regional food security and nutritional improvement and so on.

Successive natural disasters, water scarcity, pest and virulent infectious diseases are the main causes of deteriorating the regional food security and nutritional status.

In order to overcome these challenges and ensure sustainable food security, we consider that the following issues should be paid due attention.

First, it is most important to strengthen cooperation and collaboration between the regional countries to cope with the virulent global COVID-19 pandemic, African swine fever and locust swarms' effect.

While directing technical and financial resources to overcome the current crises, every country should share its successes and expertise with the regional countries and strengthen mutual support and collaboration also in securing necessary funds.

In this regard, I appreciate that Hand-in-Hand Initiative recently put forwarded by Mr. Director-General is an excellent idea to provide more efficient assistance to the countries which lack their own technical and financial resources, and thus encourage all countries to achieve the global Sustainable Development Goals. I think more practical measures for this initiative should be taken.

Second, technical and material assistance should be further strengthened in order to increase resilience of the regional countries to cope with natural disasters.

From 2017 to 2018, agricultural sector of the DPRK suffered from lots of damages due to droughts caused by decreased annual precipitation due to the effect of climate change and submergence of arable land caused by natural disasters such as typhoons and heavy rains.

More resources and efforts should be directed to FAO's assistance in order for the regional countries to minimize the damage from natural disasters and increase their resilience.

Third, the system and structure of the FAO office for Asia and the Pacific should be further perfected with a view to enhancing the efficiency of assistance to the regional countries.

There is a need to improve the functions of various divisions and the roles of technical officers who are involved in project implementations and to ensure timeliness and efficiency by simplifying the recruitment process of technical experts and consultants.

Mr. Chairman,

Today in our country under the wise leadership of Comrade **KIM JONG UN**, Chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK, a vigorous struggle is being carried on to break through head-on all the barriers and difficulties in the way of our advance.

The agricultural sector is the major thrust area in this campaign which draws focused state attention and investment. As a result, the modern Sunchon Phosphatic Fertilizer Factory has been built and the gravity fed irrigation waterway in South Hwanghae Province which extends nearly 80 km has been successfully completed.

Despite unfavorable weather conditions, we have achieved unprecedented successes in all sectors of agriculture including crops, livestock, fruit farming and fish farming by prioritizing scientific farming methods and researching and introducing advanced farming technologies and methods relying on our own technology and resources.

Recently, the DPRK suffered from severe damages including submergence of paddy and dry fields and dwelling houses due to heavy rain in several parts of the country. In this regard, the DPRK government is concentrating all resources to take every possible measure to overcome the flood damages as early as possible and stabilize the livelihood of the affected people.

The DPRK government will, in the future, too, positively contribute to the international efforts to ensure the regional food security and nutritional improvement and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 by further strengthening the exchanges and collaboration with the regional member countries under close cooperation with FAO.

Thank you.