

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

**Respected Chairperson,
Esteemed Director General,
Distinguished Members of the FAO Council,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good morning.

It is a great pleasure for me to attend today's session on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

Afghanistan appreciates and welcomes the FAO's analysis in the document CL 169/3 and the technical briefing on the "The impact of COVID-19 and the current Ukraine-Russia conflict on Food Security and Nutrition", which was announced on March 25th, 2022.

Afghanistan also welcomes the FAO's continued support to members and requests that FAO closely monitor the effect of the current Ukraine-Russian conflict on food security and commodity markets. Additionally, it is imperative to report the implications of the current situation and take all necessary measures under FAO's mandate to minimize the risk of food supply chain disruption, including the best ways and means of humanitarian assistance delivery to the most vulnerable, displaced people, and migrants.

The current Ukraine-Russian conflict has already sent shock waves through commodities markets, pushing up prices of cereals, fuel, and fertilizers. Together, Ukraine and Russia account for 30 percent of wheat supply and Russia exports most of the world's fertilizer. This conflict is also expected to hit harvests and yields, not only in Ukraine, where grain planting this year could be cut by half, but in countries that have relied on Russian fertilizer to boost their own output.

Moreover, the impact of this conflict goes beyond Ukraine and Russia, even affecting vulnerable countries such as Afghanistan, where millions of people are short of food and babies are dying of malnutrition. Other vulnerable countries can also expect serious ramifications at least for the coming year, possibly longer.

**Mr. Chairperson,
Distinguished Colleagues,**

In conclusion, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in line with its foreign policy of neutrality calls both on Ukraine and Russia to put an end to this current conflict. We also encourage constructive dialogue between Member Nations at FAO without politicizing but prioritizing our work in this regard.

Thank you.