

(Transcription)

His Excellency Ilya Shestakov

Deputy Minister for Agriculture the Russian Federation

Distinguished Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen. Hunger and malnutrition are among the main challenges today facing humanity. The global community is forced to devote increasing attention to the matter of food security.

Over the past years we have seen progress. We have seen reduced reduction in the number of people suffering from hunger and malnutrition but the situation remains worrying.

We call for an enhanced role for FAO as the main forum for discussing food security including the post-2015 Development Agenda. This endeavor is inextrinsically linked with sustainable food systems. We welcome the Report prepared by the Secretariat in this connection. We believe that the measures taken to improve the effectiveness of this Organization and the quest for new approaches deserve support.

The purpose of the Global Food System and the Global Food Market provides the population affordable quality and safe food in today's globalized world where we are seeing the influence of technology on the agricultural sector. It is quite a complex situation. We need to insure that the industrialization of agriculture does not lead to reduction in the quality of food; therefore, we need to enhance the standard setting function of FAO.

We wish to see the work of CODEX directed at protecting consumers. We also support the principles in agriculture. This will enhance sustainability. The world agricultural sector also makes contribution to energy advance. It is important to avoid increased demand for fuel. We need to also look at the issue of biofuels in terms of organic agriculture.

The Russian Federation has major natural resources. We intend to increase our production of organic food products and thereby to make a contribution to global food security in 2014. The Russian Federation will take over the Chairmanship of the G8. We will continue to attach great importance and focus on the fight against hunger, food security and also sustainable agricultural development in Africa and other regions.

The Russian Federation will support initiatives of FAO aimed at promoting agricultural development. We look forward to cooperating with FAO. Thank you.