

Delivered in Russian - checked against English interpretation

**Statement delivered by
His Excellency D. Alexey Gordeev
Vice Prime Minister of the Russian Federation
on the occasion of the
41st Session of the FAO Conference, Rome, Italy (22-29 June 2019)
24 June 2019**

Mr Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates,

I would like to thank the outgoing Director-General Mr José Graziano da Silva for his skillful leadership at this Organization and I would especially like to recall his contribution to the successful outcome of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe which was held in Voronezh in Russia last year, and I extend to the newly elected Director-General, Dr Qu Dongyu, my very best wishes for success in his leadership role of great responsibility, rest assured that you may count on the full support of the Russian Federation in addressing the challenges to come.

One of the main tasks before the international community today is achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, and its Sustainable Development Goals, the foremost of which in connection to FAOs mandate is SDG2, End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Promote Sustainable Agriculture. We believe that the inclusion of migration in the main theme of the conference is wholly justified. It is evident that food and security is one of the drivers of migration and that is exactly why accelerated development of the agricultural sector, rural areas is an effective approach to addressing this issue. FAOs expertise and technical capacity is more than ever needed here, especially in the context of the United Nations General Assembly's adoption of the Global Compact on Migration.

Since 2015, Russia has funded the implementation of an FAO project to strengthen food security in a number of Central Asian and Trans-Caucasian countries. One of its components is directly linked to migration and specifically, it consists in a streamlining of procedures for monetary remittances of migrants to the countries of the Eurasian Economic Community, which can stimulate economic growth and poverty and hunger reduction, especially for the population in rural areas.

Russia is the largest receiving country of migration in the Eurasian region, has set up an integrated system enabling organized and controlled migration, protecting the rights and decent working conditions for migrants in the territory of our country. We are not acting in isolation here, but jointly with our Eurasian Economic Community partners informing a shared labour market. We attach special attention to new forms of work with FAO in the humanitarian development nexus concept and a clear example of this is the allocation by the Russian Government of USD 3 million for the implementation of an FAO project to promote the recovery of agriculture in Syria.

We support the strength of any collaboration with FAO and stand ready to continue to provide financial and expert assistance to achieve sustainable agriculture and food security. Already in 2018 we contributed roughly USD 21 million as both assessed and voluntary contributions.

Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates,

I will briefly touch on the main priorities for the agricultural policy of the Russian Federation. Agriculture is one of the main levers for accelerated development of our country's economy as a whole. In a number of key food production areas Russia fully meets its own domestic needs. On our agenda today is the growth in terms of volume and geographical expansion of our exports. We have currently set ourselves an

ambition task, namely to increase the volume of exported agricultural production, practically two-fold by 2024, which means supplying foreign markets with food products worth USD 45 billion on an annual basis.

Our agriculture is ranked number 1 globally in terms of the volume of wheat export since 2016. Russia is also a leader in the exports of fish, sunflower oil, and we are opening up new foreign markets for poultry, dairy and confectionary production along with a range of other food commodities.

Today the Russian Government's agenda is for improving the quality of life in rural areas over the next few years. For this goal a special government program for the development of rural areas by 2025 has been adopted. It includes government monitoring and development of standards for the quality of life in rural areas, stepping up the building of housing and improving the level of welfare of households. Building modern, quality infrastructure in rural settlements.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Russia is interested in the experience of our foreign partners, and we look forward to mutually beneficial collaboration, including in the FAO platform.

Thank you for your attention.