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Statement delivered by

**His Excellency Alexey Bogdanov, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Food of the
Republic of Belarus**

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Good morning Madame Chair,

Director-General,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of the Republic of Belarus, I would like to thank the FAO Secretariat for the opportunity to speak at this 42nd Session of the FAO Conference.

In the Republic of Belarus the sustainable development of food systems is a priority of the State's socio-economic and agricultural policy. For our country, agriculture is a core sector that provides the people with the food they need and we have a high export potential. Every year the agricultural sector generates around 7 percent of the country's GDP.

The national market is full of high quality domestic produce, and over 30 percent of agri-food products are exported. 2020, which was characterised by external and domestic challenges, showed the high level of efficiency of the food system in Belarus. In the global food security ranking of countries, Belarus has significantly improved its position, leaping from 36th place in 2019, to 23rd place today.

In 2015 the Republic of Belarus endorsed the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and we expressed our support for its implementation. The country is implementing large scale measures to modernise production logistics, promote cooperation and integration in industries, improve human resources, and build social infrastructure in rural areas.

All of this makes a significant contribution to the formation of sustainable food systems, creating favourable conditions for improving people's quality of life. Noting the work done and outcomes achieved, our country continues to work actively in this area. For the period 2021 to 2025, Belarus adopted a State Agri-business Programme, thus providing for the development of environmentally friendly agriculture. It also ensures adequate nutrition and healthy lifestyles.

As regards new areas of work, the transition to precision farming is underway. This allows for greater use of data from satellite communication and navigation systems, automated information collection systems, and process management. Particular attention is paid to the development of organic farming. In 2018 a law on the production and handling of organic produce was passed in Belarus, and bodies have been established to certify organic products and production processes.

The Republic of Belarus has joined the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Belarus is implementing its domestic policies and is implementing measures aimed at reducing anthropogenic impacts on the climate. Climate change has required Belarussian farmers to develop new technologies and improve existing ones.

Currently, in order to adapt crops to climate conditions which have been changing, scientific research is constantly being conducted to increase the number of varieties and hybrids, and improve the soil cultivation system. In order to meet the needs of the livestock sector, the structure of cultivated crops is being changed, along with the fodder supply, and we are optimising our grain supplies.

Our country appreciates the many years of fruitful collaboration and cooperation with FAO. Important projects are underway to strengthen the capacity of phytosanitary services, market research, and rural development. Training seminars and webinars are also being held. Belarus is interested in continuing to strengthen its cooperation with FAO and with other countries, sharing experiences and implementing joint projects to form a highly efficient agro-industry, and develop entrepreneurship in agriculture.

In conclusion, Republic of Belarus, as a fully fledged Member of FAO, supports the proposals on the programme of the 42nd Session of the FAO Conference, to scale up efforts to transform agri-food systems and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

I thank you Chair.