

**Written Statement by the Permanent Deputy Representative of the
Democratic People's Republic of Korea to FAO**

*(42nd Session of the FAO Conference
Rome, 14 to 18 May 2021)*

Mr. /Madame Chair,

At the outset, please allow me, on behalf of the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), to congratulate you on your election as the Chair of the current session. I hope that your able leadership will bring about excellent fruition.

I would also like to express my thanks to Dr. QU Dongyu, Director-General of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Secretariat for making sincere efforts for successful hosting of this session.

The 42nd session of the FAO Conference is being held under the theme of "*the State of Food Agriculture: Agricultural Food Systems Transformation: from Strategy to Action*" to address the vulnerability of the global agri-food systems due to the protracted pandemic.

I am confident that it will serve as a significant milestone that contributes to food security, poverty eradication, zero hunger within the umbrella framework of implementing the UN Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, overcoming various challenges.

Mr. Chair,

Today, the global health crisis, climate change, various conflicts, transboundary pests and diseases have triggered worldwide food and economic crises, which threaten to roll back hard-won development gains and complicate the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Under the theme of the 42th session, I would like to draw your attention to the following issues in meeting the increasing global food demand through timely transformation of agri-food systems.

First of all, it is essential for the member states to adjust and reinforce national management system for agriculture and introduce advanced farming methods, in order to minimize adverse effects on agricultural production and protection of ecological environment.

Agriculture uses about 40 percent of the Earth's land, consumes 70 percent of all fresh water on earth and emits more greenhouse gases than all cars, trucks, trains and airplanes combined.

And it causes approximately 80 percent of forest loss.

This requires all countries to put in place appropriate management systems that suit their actual circumstances.

Member states should formulate efficient national agricultural management strategy and apply it substantially in agricultural production.

Only then, they will be able to mitigate land degradation and waste, water scarcity, reduce greenhouse gas emission, protect forestation, and increase food production.

In this regard, I would like to appreciate that FAO's strategy to transform the journey of food from farm to table under the new vision of *four betters: better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life*.

Second, it is very important to help farmers take full advantage of new technologies such as digital agriculture.

Meeting the increasing global food demand with population growth requires technological and innovative solutions, among which digital technologies play a guiding role in raising the food production and solidifying material and technical foundation of agriculture in accordance with the requirements of evolving situation.

Member States should increase public investments in introducing digital and modern technologies in agricultural production and proving their substantial effects.

And FAO should put emphasis on fostering scientific and technological power and promoting its development in developing countries through the on-going Digital Village project and Hand-in Hand Initiatives.

Third, global cooperation should be further promoted under the principles of equality, mutual benefit, and respect for sovereignty to materialize the theme of this session.

Every Member State varies from one another in its level of agricultural development and the foundation and capacity to achieve the SDGs.

Transforming the present agri-food systems can ensure its efficiency only when all countries are involved.

In keeping with its mission to promote international cooperation in the fields of

food and nutrition, FAO should further encourage collaboration and exchange among countries to reduce the adverse effects of agricultural activities on environment, while increasing the global food production.

It is essential that the countries with advanced economy and great potential provide support other countries materially and technically, and share successes and experiences they have gained.

Member states should cooperate with each other under the principle of respecting national sovereignty, social and political systems, laws and cultural diversity.

In particular, it should by no means be allowed that a country uses aid to impose its will on the other or attach political strings to it.

Mr. Chair,

Today in our country, under the wise leadership of Comrade **Kim Jong Un**, President of the State Affairs of the DPRK, the agricultural sector is set as the major thrust area of the socialist economic construction, which draws focused state investment to realize self-sufficiency in food.

Last year witnessed newly built modern Sunchon Phosphatic Fertilizer Factory and successful completion of the gravity fed irrigation waterway in southern region, which extends nearly 80 km.

This year, two tideland reclamation projects were completed, which led to adding over 13,000 hectares of new land to the country's potential agricultural area.

Recently, the Agrobiology Institute, Plant Protection Institute, Agricultural Nano-technology Institute and Institute of Agro-chemicalization have been successfully inaugurated in the area of the Academy of Agricultural Science, which will serve as material and technical foundation for scientific research conducive to stable and sustained development of agricultural production.

In the campaign for seed revolution and scientific farming, various measures and timely steps have been taken to provide people with enough food by developing agricultural production, stockbreeding and fruit farming, and ensure safe growth of agricultural production, despite unfavorable weather conditions.

Under the leadership of Comrade **Kim Jong Un**, President of the State Affairs of the DPRK, and true to the ideals of believe-in-people-as-in-heaven, self-reliance and single-minded unity, the DPRK Government will overcome all challenges in its way to implement the 5-year plan and boost agricultural production, and continue to dynamically advance along the road of the Korean style socialism, mobilizing its own

resources, technology, and internal might.

We will also further strengthen exchanges and collaboration with other member states in the fields of food security, nutrition improvement and environmental protection, and thus positively contribute to the international efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals 2030.

Thank you.