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Statement delivered by
His Excellency Victor VASILIEV,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Russian Federation
on the occasion of the 43rd Session of the FAO Conference (1-7 July 2023)
3 July 2023

Thank you very much, Chairperson.

First of all, I would like to refer to you and the Secretariat of our Conference, and at the end of our particular Session, I would like to have the opportunity to respond to some of the issues that have been brought up in the course of the interventions that have been made by a number of different countries and the European Union.

Now, Madame Chair, Russia is seriously concerned by the acute deterioration of the situation on the food security front. We feel that it is imperative to put aside political differences and join forces in a concerted effort, under the leadership of the FAO of the United Nations, that plays a key role in the United Nations system of food and agricultural issues, calling for all to unite all efforts and above all, bring together the necessary political will to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Sustainable Development Goal #2 for the eradication of hunger and malnutrition.

The Russian Federation is one of the world's largest producers of cereals, principally wheat, sunflower, sunflower oil, sugar, milk, eggs, other agricultural products including fisheries, resources, minerals, fertilisers, logging forest products as well. Now as concerns our meeting today that involves water resources, I simply wanted to say that the Russian Federation is one of the main sources or places of fresh water.

Each year we spend huge amounts in order to manage these huge fresh water resources that we have, principally Lake Baikal. Now, irrespective of the various sanctions that have been imposed following the situation with Ukraine, we continue to be a committed and trustworthy partner for most countries in the world. Last year we provided agriculture products to over 160 countries in the world. One fifth of all wheat exported worldwide is Russian so, as you can understand, we continue to provide and provide for food security.

I would like to thank you very much for your attention and of course any further information would be available on our site. Thank you very much.