

Dear Colleagues,

Let me present my compliments on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Today Kazakhstan may announce itself as one of the important participants at the world food market. The agricultural sector of our country has huge potential and large reserves. The area of Kazakhstan owns the ninth ranking in the world and it composes more than 2.7 mln. square kilometers.

The total area of the agricultural land exceeds 90 mln. hectares including 25 mln. hectares of arable land and 61 mln. hectares of pasture.

Kazakhstan is a big regional producer and exporter of the food.

In 2013 Kazakhstan has exported food for total amount of 2 751.4 mln. USD to various parts of the globe, including wheat for 1 294.0 mln. USD, flour — 575.0 mln. USD, seed of oil-yielding crops — 122.1 mln. USD, cotton-fiber — 114.0 mln. USD, fishy products — 66.0 mln. USD., etc.

As you are aware, in 2011, during chairmanship at the OIC Kazakhstan has initiated establishment of the Fund of Mutual Food Aid among member countries of this organization. This initiative had been supported by all OIC members. And in December 2013 at the 40th session of the OIC Foreign Ministers Council 19 countries (*Djibouti, Sudan, Somali, the Union of Comoros islands, Palestine, Mauritania, Uganda, Burkina-Faso, Sierra Leone, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Afghanistan, Iran, Turkey, Suriname, Kazakhstan*) had signed the Statute of the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS).

The document is currently under ratification procedure by OIC member states, whilst the preparatory works to hold the inaugural session of its highest authority — the General Assembly in 2015 in Astana commenced. Adoption of the organizations' internal regulations will be one of the key points at the agenda.

Main purpose of the newly established organization is to provide the food security of OIC member countries. Objectives are composed of evaluation and monitoring of the situation in the food security, establishment of regional food reserves and rapid notification to potential threats of food shortage in OIC member-countries.

The most key aspect in activities of the organization is establishment of regional food reserves. Taking into consideration the geography of OIC member-states, it appears to be expedient to establish reserves in the Middle East, East Africa, South Asia, also in the Central Asia. Later on it is possible to establish food reserves in the West Africa and South-East Asia. The repletion of reserves will be performed based on best competitive prices and considering requirements of logistics.

In the perspective the net of food reserves, alongside with measures on development of agriculture and rural development, will ensure the food security in all OIC member-states. The complex of measures within mandate of the IOFS allows increasing the capacity of the agriculture, improving the standard of living in the countryside, eradicating the hunger and reducing the poverty.

In the capacity of the country-initiator of the IOFS establishment, we consider as rational the establishment of comprehensive partnership relations between the IOFS and international organizations on food security. Existing expert knowledge, analytical base of the UN FAO, also the existing infrastructure on logistics and large operational experience of the UN WFP, having efforts joined, will cause the invaluable effect to achieve the common goal on ensuring the food security in the world.

Through implementation of the integration potential the cooperation would allow to model the situation of the food security for the nearest perspective and to take appropriate measures opportunely.