

**Thesis to the speech of the Deputy
Minister of Agricultural Policy of
Ukraine at the High-level Conference
on Food Safety: Challenges of Climate
Change and Bioenergy
(June 3-5, 2008, Rome, Italy)**

Dear Heads of the States!

Dear Secretary General of the United Nations Organization!

**Dear Director-General of the Food and Agricultural Organization of
the United Nations!**

Dear Chairman!

Dear sirs and madams - participants of the Conference!

I have the honour on behalf of the President of Ukraine and the Government of Ukraine to greet all the participants of the Conference and to support the initiative of the FAO Director-General Doctor Jacque Diouf to organize this international meeting with the aim to discuss on the high level the issues related to the food price increase and food security.

Proceeding the goals of the Millennium Declaration that envisages integration of the international community efforts with the purpose of global poverty overcoming, the issue of global cooperation development for food safety become an extremely actual.

I hope that all of you will agree with me that human right to food is the greatest fundamental value on which should be the bases the international relations in the 21st century.

For Ukraine that in 20th century has gone through one of the most tragic pages of its history – the Manmade Great Famine of 1932-33 – Holodomor – which took lives of millions of Ukrainians – these are not just mere words!

Ukraine supports the measures taken by the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system under the leadership of Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, embodied in the outcome of the Berne meeting of the United Nations System Chief Executive Board for Coordination and the subsequent establishment of the United Nations Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis.

We consider our today's forum to be an important step in the process of the elaboration of coordinated, comprehensive plan of actions directed on crisis overcoming. It will undoubtedly become the important stage of the process of decision making; it will add new elements to the discussions conducted during the recent session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, Special Meeting of the UN Economic and Social Council on Global Food Crisis. This process will be continued during the Session of the ECOSOC in July and High-level event of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals in September.

Speaking about Ukraine I would like to assure you that our country will strongly support the UN initiatives directed on fighting global poverty and famine, increasing the food production capacities.

I would like to emphasize that our domestic production completely satisfies demand in our food market.

We constantly increase agricultural export potential of our country. Last year food export increased comparing with the 2006 year more than for 30% and accounted above 6 billion USD. The trading balance is positive during the last years and it accounted about 2,2 billion USD in 2007.

Productive land resources of Ukraine gives us an opportunity to produce up to 100 million tons of grain annually.

Today agricultural sector of Ukraine provides up to 2% of world grain production, up to 7% of sugar beet, up to 2,2% of milk and up to 1% of world production of eggs, vegetables, melons and gourds.

One of the most favorable factors assisting further agricultural development in Ukraine is complete concentration of agricultural production and its means, including land, in private sector. Taking into account the fact that next year agricultural land market will work at the full power it will give practically unlimited investment prospects for agricultural development.

Raising of the global volumes of **biofuel production** also gives a chance to Ukraine for maximum realization of its agricultural potential. According to the *Programme of Biodiesel Production Development until 2010 year* adopted by the Ukrainian Government at the end of 2006 year, at least 520 thousand tons of all kinds of biofuel will be produced and consumed in Ukraine.

I would like to emphasize that food security of our country is not threatened by the programs of the development of biofuel production.

With regard to the **phenomenon of climate change**, I have to admit that unfortunately it has global character and Ukraine also feels its consequences.

I should note that for the last years in Ukraine temperature rate contrast and intensity of the spontaneous weather phenomena - droughts, strong frosts, extremely high and low air temperatures, downpours etc. has increased considerably.

Due to some estimations the temperature in Ukraine can rise compared with 1900 year for 2-2, 2 Celsius degrees if modern climate change dynamics will be kept up to 2030 – 2040 years.

It, undoubtedly, will affect agro-industrial complex of Ukraine, particularly, the area of guaranteed cultivation of a winter wheat can decrease to certain degree, and the area of cultivation of fodder cultures will increase which will assist the development of cattle breeding, especially meat production, in steppe areas.

As a whole in short-term prospect, according to the evaluation of our experts, such situation will not have negative effects onto Ukrainian agriculture, on the contrary, following modern technologies, particularly in plant growing, there is an opportunity to increase grain crops productivity up to 20%, and also essentially increase the volume of milk and meat production.

At the same time, we take into account possible scenarios of climate change at realization of national strategy of agricultural development and we hope, that deepening of international cooperation on resistance to negative influent of climate change within the framework of the United Nations, particularly regarding actions of the Frame Convention on Climate Changes, Kioto Protocol, and relevant items of the Declaration of present Conference will maximally assist to the global food safety.

To our opinion, the possible way of solving this issue is strengthening of international community actions on food production development in the world on the basis of innovative technologies, optimization of mechanisms of the assistance to the poorest countries of the world, providing fair and equal agricultural trade as it is envisaged by the draft Conference Declaration.

From our side, I want to assure you, Ukraine is not going to impose restrictions for food movement which could be contrary to the norms and principles of the World Trade Organization whose member Ukraine recently became. But we expect for the understanding and for the adequate actions form our partners.

At the same time we consider that developed countries of the world, including leading food producers, in such situation should not follow the conditions of the rigid market, using only conditions of global food market favorable for growth of sectoral economy segments.

We are convinced that we should work at all levels, including within the UN framework, to develop the mechanisms of coordinated actions aimed at reducing the hunger and poverty in the world.

Therefore, supporting in general the contents of the actions stated in the Conference Declaration, I am confident that further deepening of our cooperation on food security will be extremely effective on our way of achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Thank you for your attention.