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“Fostering Innovation for Food Security”

Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr.

Department of Agriculture
Republic of the Philippines

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Director---General Qu Dongyu, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mabuhay!

It is an honor to address this esteemed body on behalf of the Republic of the Philippines, and to reaffirm our nation’s unwavering commitment to the Food and Agriculture Organization. We share in the FAO’s vision of a food---secure and sustainable world.

The convergence of climate---related hazards, economic disruptions, and structural challenges has exposed the fragility of our food systems. In the Philippines—where agriculture and fisheries provide livelihoods for a quarter of our workforce—these vulnerabilities are linked to poverty, health, education, gender equity, and environmental sustainability.

Addressing these complexities requires more than incremental change. It calls for a bold, strategic shift that embraces a progressive and holistic food systems approach. Hence, we are going beyond merely increasing yields and are placing equal emphasis on poverty reduction, raising incomes of farmers and fisherfolks, and nutrition---sensitive production.

To this end, the Department of Agriculture has launched a four---year strategic plan anchored on two main goals: boosting domestic food production to reduce imports; and developing the agriculture and fisheries sector into financially rewarding industries that equitably benefit all actors along the value chain.

Excellencies, transformation is not just technological—it is also institutional and social. It is about empowering communities and building meaningful partnerships.

Today, we uphold our commitment to multilateral collaborations and knowledge---sharing. Together, we can make and transform our food systems into one that promote better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life for all.

“We call on all partners to work together in future---proofing our food systems, and to

uphold the right of every person to adequate food and nutrition. By aligning efforts and combining diverse perspectives and expertise, we can strengthen our collective ability to develop resilient, inclusive, viable and sustainable agriculture solutions”

Thank you very much.