



ECOSOC Special Meeting on the Global Food Crises
20 May 2008, New York

STATEMENT
on behalf of Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan

by
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I have the honor to make this statement on behalf Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

The issue of combating hunger is not a new item on the agenda of the UN and UN special agencies. The Resolution adopted by the World Food Summit in Rome in 1996 stated that the government of each state was obliged to undertake measures aimed at increasing production of food and its fair distribution.

Despite the fact that more than ten years have passed, the situation has been deteriorating. As a result of the global climate change, decrease of agricultural lands, increased prices for energy and fertilizers, inequitable system of international trade of food the entire countries and regions are not only faced with a threat of hunger, they find themselves confronting actual hunger.

According to the UNESCO report on the global state of agriculture, the food prices, dependable on the price of energy resources, will continue growing as a result of increased demand, biofuel proliferation and "increased speculations" in agriculture. As it was correctly noted by the UN Secretary-General at the session of the Conference on Trade and Development held in Ghana, a dramatic increase in food prices and the food crises associated with it could bring about a multi-faceted crisis that would impact trade, development and even social and political security in the world.

We must spare no efforts to avoid a global disaster, and to develop specific projects in order to find the way out of this crisis.

It is essential to take urgent measures, both at the national level and within the UN and WTO, in order to render humanitarian assistance to the countries affected by the crisis, and address the fundamental cause of the crisis.

We call on the governments of the donor countries, private sector and individuals of the developed countries to enhance their support of the programs for assistance to the developing countries, which have been implemented within the World Food Program. In this regard, we support the initiative to establish the UN High Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crises in charge of development of measures for immediate response to the food crisis caused by the drastic increase in food prices. We believe that it will increase the efficiency of efforts undertaken by the existing agencies, inter alia, through mobilization of additional sources of funding.

At the Doha negotiations round a decision should be made on cancellation by the developing countries the measures restricting food import and subsidizing their own agriculture production. At the same time, it is expedient that the developing countries would reserve the right to introduce such restrictions over the period sufficient for achieving sustainable development of their agricultural and industrial complex.

It is necessary to increase grain crops production and stabilize the situation at the grain-crops markets. I would like to note that we do have enough capacity for achieving this. In particular, many countries possess an enormous, for our time, wealth that is large areas of fertile agricultural land.

It is also necessary to take measures aimed at minimizing negative impact of human activities on environment, and at stimulating development of agricultural land and fertile soils.

We also should provide more selective approach towards development of alternative energy sources, taking into account not only national interests but also the interests of the entire international community. I believe that advanced technologies will enable us not only to jointly develop ultimate options for producing sustainable biofuel that would help to avoid negative impact on food markets, but also develop entirely new renewable energy sources, which would not disrupt life on our planet.

According to the experts, the current level of available technologies (even excluding transgenic ones) allows to supply with food the amount of people twice as much as the current population of Earth. It is essential to enhance the activities, within FAO, aimed at transferring of advanced technologies to developing countries, supplying them with seeds and rendering them financial and technical assistance.

We do hope that this meeting will become an effective step forward towards addressing the issue of global food security. Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are prepared to actively participate in this work.