



BELARUS

UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY
76th session
UN Food System Summit
New York, September, 23, 2021

**Statement by His Excellency Vladimir Makei,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus**

Excellencies,
Distinguished participants,

Ensuring food security, ending hunger, promoting sustainable agricultural development and enhancing its productive capacity are critical and represent top priorities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting slowdown in global economic growth have led to an increase in hunger, including in middle-income countries.

The presence of an explosive conflict potential in different parts of the world, threatening climate change exacerbate the food crisis and increase the vulnerability of national food systems, the resilience of which is one of the main elements on the way to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

In Belarus, national food security is fully ensured. In the global food security ranking of countries, Belarus has 23rd place today.

Belarus adopted a State Agri-business Programme, thus providing for the development of environmentally friendly agriculture. Particular attention is paid to the development of organic farming. In 2018 a law on the production and handling of organic produce was passed in Belarus, and relevant bodies have been established to certify organic products and production processes. It ensures adequate nutrition and healthy lifestyles for the population of the country.

Belarus has always made a significant contribution to ensuring global food security. Our country exports agriculture and food products to more than 100 countries of the world.

However, the thoughtless sanctions pressure of Western countries on Belarus endangers global food security. In the context of the coronavirus pandemic, results of the sanctions policy acquire far from bright prospects in the field of development and the fight against hunger in the world.

The absence of Belarusian potash fertilisers in the world market, which occupy 20% of the market, a priori leads to a significant decrease in agricultural yields. The shortage of potash fertilisers in the world market will predictably lead to an increase in their prices and, as a consequence, to an increase in food prices.

The exclusion of Belarusian potash fertilizers from the European market will also negatively affect the agricultural sector of the EU itself.

In the spirit of the World Food Security Summit Declaration, Belarus calls for abandoning the use of sanctions that not only contradict international obligations, including within the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, but also to the provisions of the UN Charter and UN General Assembly resolutions on unilateral coercive measures.

Given the fact that almost two billion people in the world are undernourished, it is unacceptable to use food and supply chains as a tool of political pressure and economic blackmail.

In conclusion, I would like to confirm that, despite existing challenges and risks, Belarus intends to maintain national achievements in the SDG "Zero Hunger" and implement the Agenda for Sustainable Development on time.

Thank you for the attention.