

Statement of Kazakhstan on behalf of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries at the briefing of FAO/OHRLLS on COVID-19 Impacts on Food Security in LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS

New York, 7 May 2020

Madam Under-Secretary-General,
Distinguished panelists and delegates,

Without further ado, I would like to thank the previous speakers for their detailed and thought-provoking interventions on where we are and where we could end up due to the numerous negative challenges of COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath. This crisis, as it was also pointed out by the Secretary-General, besides posing a dramatic health emergency, is going to have a huge socio-economic impact at global level. It also risks to become a human crisis, attacking societies at their core. It took decades to build the US food industry into an intricate system that matches supply with demand. It took only weeks for the COVID-19 pandemic to flip that on its head - just as unemployment and food insecurity are skyrocketing among many families. No country is spared from such a global crisis.

This week, FAO and other international stakeholders reminded us during the special briefing in Rome that care must be

Many LLDCs lack the capacity to adapt new technologies to mitigate the impact of climate change and therefore technology transfer, capacity building and experience sharing are fundamental.

According to WTO there is an increase in the use of new export prohibitions and restrictions and these cover medical supplies, pharmaceuticals and medical equipment as well as foodstuffs.

Thus, LLDCs require a holistic approach to support them which involves both humanitarian and development interventions. To achieve this in the face of COVID-19 disruption we will require innovation, resources, and new levels of regional and global collaboration and information sharing. In this vein, the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit will be a unique opportunity to come together to achieve this fundamental objective.

Dear colleagues,

The speed of change is faster than our response. The COVID-19 pandemic places LLDCs, as well as other vulnerable countries in special situation under higher risks of being left behind in these international efforts.

In this respect, we are interested, what will be the FAO's and WFP's priority areas to focus while assisting vulnerable countries to overcome the negative impact of the pandemic? Will these efforts include regional efforts or best practices?

Secondly, our delegation sees the coming two-three years as well as the Decade of Action itself as the high time to undertake necessary collective and inclusive actions to help vulnerable countries. In this regards, we are interested to learn if such international efforts will include any concrete mechanisms of assistance to increase labour productivity in the agricultural sector for the countries in need?

Thank you!
