

*Check against delivery*

**STATEMENT**  
**of Head of the Russian delegation,**  
**Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to FAO**  
**and Other International Organizations in Rome**  
**Mr. V.VASILIEV**  
**on agenda item 11: “Prioritization of country and regional needs”**  
**of FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific**  
**(Dhaka, Bangladesh, March 8-11, 2022)**

Dear Mr Chairperson,

Dear colleagues,

Russia is an integral part of the Asia-Pacific region. We have longstanding relationship of equal and mutually beneficial partnership with most countries in the region. We believe that the influence of the Asia-Pacific Region, where more than a half of the population of the planet live today and where a significant amount of agricultural raw materials and food is produced, will only increase in the foreseeable future.

Russia is interested in and supports the targeted efforts of the Asia-Pacific countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, including SDG-2 (fight against hunger and all forms of malnutrition). At the same time, we see that the international agenda is also subject to transformation.

Climate change and the pandemic are some of the most pressing challenges.

We proceed from the fact that fight against climate change should not turn into an additional burden for agricultural producers, especially for small and medium-sized farms that prevail in the Asia-Pacific countries.

It is obvious that the coronavirus pandemic continues to have a negative impact on the production of agricultural raw materials and food in the Asia-Pacific region. We support the measures taken by countries to preserve supply

chains, keep foreign trade channels open, and prevent the introduction of unreasonable limitations and restrictions in trade. It helps to mitigate the impact of the coronavirus on food security in the region. At the same time, we call on the Asia-Pacific countries to pay attention to the need to resist the spread of dangerous animal and plant diseases. First of all, we are talking about the spread of the African swine fever virus. It is important that the countries of the region, despite the ongoing difficulties, integrate the concept of "One Health" into the system of national and regional measures.

We also want to draw attention to the unfavorable situation in the global market of fertilizers. For many Asia-Pacific countries, this can be a serious challenge. It would make sense to consider in advance the measures that would ensure the necessary minimum level of supply of qualitative fertilizers to developing countries. Russia consistently supports FAO's activities in terms of ensuring the preservation and improvement of soil fertility, protecting plant health through the organization of appropriate trainings on the use of fertilizers, as well as assessing their quality and impact on crop yields.

We would also like to dwell on the issues of fisheries and aquaculture in the Asia-Pacific region. The countries of the region have significant potential in this sphere, however, it is necessary to modernize and develop fishing capacities along with the creation of a system to combat illegal unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU fishing). Without taking the necessary measures, it will be difficult to achieve sustainable management of fish stocks in the regions, guarantee their timely replenishment and, accordingly, economic returns. If we talk about aquaculture, then the main attention, in our opinion, should be given to the quality of the feedstock and the safety of cultivated products.

At the end of 2020 the Russian Federation ratified the Agreement on port state measures to combat IUU fishing and puts right the national mechanism to ensure the fulfilment of its obligations. It fully applies to the activities in the Asia-Pacific region.

We urge the Asia-Pacific countries to pay considerable attention to the conservation and restoration of forest resources. We believe that the policy of countries in the field of sustainable use of forest resources should be taken into account in national obligations in the framework of combating climate change.

Dear colleagues,

The Russian Federation intends to continue to maintain a broad open dialogue with the countries of the region on the issues of sustainable development of agriculture, forest management, extraction and use of aquatic biological resources. Our country is both an exporter and importer of agricultural products from the Asia-Pacific region. Active and mutually beneficial cooperation is in the interests of all Asia-Pacific countries. We believe that the results of our joint work during this conference will serve as a significant contribution to FAO's activities to ensure fair, non-discriminatory and sustainable development of agriculture, including taking into account the recommendations of the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit.

Thank you for attention.