

OECD MEETING OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS | THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2022
REMARKS FROM MR. NONAKA ATSUSHI, STATE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND
FISHERIES OF JAPAN

Thank you, Co-Chairs,

Good morning, everyone.

I am NONAKA Atsushi, the State Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan. I am very honored to be a part of the important meeting today.

I express my sincere appreciation for the Co-chairs, Minister Bibeau of Canada and Minister O'Conner of New Zealand, and all the staff of the OECD Secretariat led by the Secretary-General Cormann, for all the efforts and dedication to hold this meeting.

Currently, we are facing enormous challenges, notably, continuing increase in global population, climate change and natural disasters, and COVID-19 pandemic.

The Russia's aggression to Ukraine, in the midst of these challenges, brings further confusion in production and trade of food and inputs, including fertilizer, leading to price hike of those products and exacerbating global food crisis. Japan condemns Russia in the strongest terms.

In addition, Japan strongly desires that the Black Sea Grain Initiative continues to be operated without any disruption, based on four parties' agreement.

We, Ministers gathering here today need not only to overcome the crisis, but also to be responsible in the long-term perspective to provide more food necessary to feed the increasing global population, together with reduced environmental burden.

To achieve this, Japan considers it important; to maintain smooth trade flow by enhancing rules on export restrictions; to utilize agricultural resources existing in each country including farmland and human capital in a sustainable manner; to promote robust analysis on food market.

Our common policy challenges for ensuring future global food security is on how to achieve productivity growth and sustainability at the same time.

Let's discuss and debate to pave the way for this global challenge, here in the Ministerial meeting, which is held for the first time in six years.

Last but not least, Japan will assume the G7 presidency next year. In the Agricultural Ministers'

Meeting planned in April, we will explore further contribution to achieve global food security, building on the outcome of this Ministerial Meeting.

Thank you for your kind attention.