

**Statement by Mr. Edgars Kronbergs, Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of
Agriculture of Republic of Latvia**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, dear Colleagues,

This ministerial meeting is an excellent platform for exchanging views and prospects on the development of sustainable food system and promoting global food security. I would like to thank the OECD Secretariat and Co-chairs for organizing this event.

In a recent decade we have experienced the shocks induced by various sources and food systems facing ever greater uncertainty.

The unprovoked and unjustified aggression of Russia in Ukraine and its impact on food and input prices illustrate how vulnerable the agriculture and food systems can be to shocks in the supply of food products worldwide.

We must therefore foster the resilience of food supply chains, among others by diversifying the sources for the supply of inputs required for the production at both national and international level.

Delicate balance has to be found with the over-arching need for rules-based trade at international level.

We have to continue strengthening the cooperation at regional and international level to build solid foundations for the resilience of our agriculture and food systems. Thus, in the Baltic region, we closely cooperate with the other Baltic neighbouring countries, Nordic countries, and countries of Eastern Europe.

OECD should serve as a platform to exchange among like-minded developed countries on how to make policies best fit to crisis situations in three layers:

- First - build the resilience to crises,
- Second - management of crisis and mitigation of its negative impacts
- Third - rebuilding after the given crisis is over to have lessons learned for medium and long term.

All this work would have to take into account the following:

- need to minimize the overdependency on single supplier,
- need for rules based open trade and
- finding the best policy mix on promotion of sustainable growth at all levels.

We look forward to cooperating with all the OECD Members and partners to accomplish these challenging tasks in the future.

Thank you for your attention!