

## **Draft Agenda**

### **“Russian – Arab Webinar on Cooperation in Food Security: Opportunities for Trade & Investment”**

**November 18, 2020**

In continuation of their unbending efforts that enormously contributed to creating additional opportunities in the interest of promoting business cooperation between Russia and the Arab world, the Russian-Arab Business Council and the Union of Arab Chambers are organizing a 3:00 hrs. Webinar on **“Russian-Arab Cooperation in Food Security & Opportunities for Trade & Investment”** that is scheduled to take place on November 18, 2020. The event will host prominent figures and experts from Russia and the Arab world and is expected to be attended by decision makers and many business leaders and related trading partners.

The Russian-Arab Business Council and the Union of Arab Chambers are keen to bring their network members together to attend this meeting that will exchange ideas and practices in dealing with the repercussions of the pandemic on food security and identify new futuristic cooperation opportunities between the Arab and Russian companies for the way forward to serve their mutual development goals.

We would be delighted to welcome you to our online meeting and would appreciate your rapid response to:

**The Russian-Arab Business Council:**

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## **Proposed Agenda**

### **Moderators:**

H.E. Khaled Hanafy, Secretary General, Union of Arab Chambers.

Mrs. Tatiana Gvilava, Director of the Russian Arab Business Council.

**The webinar will begin at 12:00 PM (Moscow time) 11:00 AM Beirut time.**

### **12:00 – 12:10: Opening**

Jean-Marc Faurès, Regional Programme Leader, FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa, Egypt.

Oksana Luth, Deputy Minister of Agriculture of the Russian Federation.

### **Working Sessions (120 - 140 minutes):**

#### **12:10 – 12:40: 1<sup>st</sup> Session – FOOD SECURITY**

The state of food security reveals capability of agro-industrial complex not only to provide nutrition for population but also maintain sustainability and balance of domestic production and import of food. Development of agro-logistics and distribution infrastructure, organization of interregional and international cooperation in food sector are the key components of food security.

### **SPEAKERS:**

- H.E. Dr. Ali Moselhi, Minister of Supply & Internal Trade in Egypt.
- Sergey Levin, Deputy Minister of Agriculture of the Russian Federation.
- H.E. Eng. Abdel Qadir Turkawi, Minister of Agriculture & Natural Resources in Sudan.
- Vyacheslav Lashmankin, CEO of Association of Confectionary Manufacturers “ASKOND”.
- H.E. Mohamed Bin Obaid Al - Mazroui, Chairman, Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment & Development, UAE.
- Maxim Basov, CEO of Rusagro Group.

#### **12:40 – 12:50: Q&A**

## **12:50 – 13:20: 2<sup>nd</sup> Session – TRADE & ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES**

Russia has significantly developed its agri-food sector that has become one of the most steadily developing of the national economy. It is a top 10 in terms of export of crops and a world champion for export of wheat, while the Arab world imports around a quarter of the global wheat exports. The country exports livestock products and value-added food products, and the past 10 years have seen a significant progress in the food quality and safety. According to conventional indicators applied to food security, the country keeps a consistent place amongst the top three in the world. There are great opportunities to expand trade, especially that the Arab demand for food and food products is strong and will remain strong in the medium and long terms given the natural limitations of water and arable land. According to International Cooperation and Export National Project, Russia intends to increase non-resource and non-energy exports by 2024.

### **SPEAKERS:**

- Dr. Saad Nassar, Consultant of Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation in Egypt.
- Artyom Belov, CEO of National Dairy Producers Union, Russia.
- Dr. Haytham Jaffan, President of the Arab Federation for Food Industries, Syria.
- Evgeniy Gromyko, Advisor to the Chairman of the Board of Agricultural Complex n.a. N.I. Tkachev.
- Dr. Ahmed Al-Tijani Abdel Rahim Al-Mansouri, General Manager of Al-Rawabi Company, UAE.
- Veronika Nikishina, CEO of Russian Export Center JSC.

## **13:20 – 13:30: Q&A**

## **13:30 – 14:00: 3<sup>rd</sup> Session - LIFTING TRADE BARRIERS AS AN EFFICIENT TOOL FOR BOOSTING INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

Slowdown in global economic growth and deepening relations between commodity dependence and food security have a negative influence on sustainable food production. In the context of intensive globalization of the world community the significance of food security is becoming increasingly important. International trade facilitates economic growth. Lifting trade,

customs and domestic non-tariff restrictions will accelerate trade flows, contribute to building strategic alliances and ensure continuous supply chains for all.

**SPEAKERS:**

- H.E. Mohamad Ali Musabeh Al-Nuaimi, Chairman of Ras Al Khaimah Chamber of Commerce & Industry, UAE.
- Sergey Dankvert, Head of Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance of the Russian Federation.
- H.E. Al-Sharif Munzir Al-Harithi, President of Arab Beverages Association.
- Novoselskiy Alexey, General Director of LLC " Agroholding "STEPPE" Trading Company".
- Ahmed Al-Saqr, Vice President of Alexandria Chamber of Commerce in Egypt.
- Suren Vardanyan, Vice-President of the Moscow Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
- Munir Bin Fahd Al-Sahly, General Manager of the Saudi Agricultural Development Fund, KSA, represented by Mr. Sattam Al-Mazyad, head of Agricultural Investments Abroad.

**14:00 – 14:10: Q&A**

**14:10 – 14:30 – CLOSING SESSION & NETWORKING**