

In the name of God
The Merciful, The Compassionate
Statement delivered by HE Dr Khalilian
Minister of Jihad-e- Agriculture
Thirty-eighth FAO Conference
15-22 June 2013
FAO Headquarters, Rome

Mr. Chairman,
Mr. Director General,
Chair of the Council.Mr
Excellencies,
Ladies & Gentlemen,

On behalf of the government of the I.R Iran, I should express my thanks to Mr. Da Silva, FAO Director General and his colleagues for successful holding of the 38th FAO conference.

Excellencies,
The 38th FAO conference is started in a situation in which FAO has adopted the agenda with the new approach of considering the strategic thinking process initiated by Director General to determine the future priorities of the Organization and strategy and programmes .

Since its establishment, FAO has carried out extensive efforts for the materialization of its objectives and has cooperated with its member states. These efforts have been done for the enhancement of food security in the world.

In addition, various challenges have been raised during consecutive years. The FAO's domain of activities covers areas such as standards, rural development, climate change, and environmental sustainability.

During recent years, we have witnessed severe fluctuations in the prices of agricultural products and they have created great challenges. Nevertheless the world has once again realized that any ignorance of the agricultural sector can have destructive consequences and this sector should always be

considered as a vitally important sector of the economy. Therefore, FAO is required to redefine its strategic objectives at local, national, and global levels.

Dear audience,

Based on this argument, the Islamic Republic of Iran expresses its support to the efforts and initiatives of the FAO Director General and his mid- term Programs for the FAO for 2014-2017

At the national level, too, the I.R of Iran has signed the first CPF with FAO in 2012 which clarifies the framework of cooperation between Iran and FAO for a four – year period of time. This document has been prepared after extensive consultations with concerned organization at national and international levels. Currently, FAO and I.R of Iran are preparing jointly for implementing this document.

Mr. Chairman,

The CPF was signed in a situation in which the I.R of Iran, due to its spectacular climatic and biodiversity conditions and the extensive efforts of the government, has been able to enhance its self- sufficiency in the agriculture sector during recent years.

For instance, we have increased our production of agricultural products from 86 million tons in 2004 to 118 million tons in 2012.

A great portion of this increase in the production of agricultural products is rooted in the use of Knowledge-based and modern technologies and adoption of comprehensive policies and strategies.

Within the context of agricultural development in Iran , great attention has been paid to modern irrigation systems.

As a result, some 1.3 million ha of Iranian farm lands are irrigated through modern dripping irrigation methods. In addition, the government has , during the past year, allocated more than 3 billion dollars of low-rate banking credits for the development of investment and provision of liquidity for

production units in the agricultural sector . This procedure will be continued in the next year as well.

Last year, the export of agricultural products had a 23- percent increase. It is predicted that production of cereals and oil seeds increased 10 and 40 percent, respectively.

Distinguished delegates,

I am pleased that the 31st FAO Regional conference for the Near East emphasized on important initiatives for the enhancement of food security. In this conference, which was held in May 2012 in Rome and I had the honor of being a participant in it, there was a great emphasis on formulation of a regional strategy for the enhancement of food security and an action plan for the operationalization of this strategy based on the mechanisms for standing against price fluctuations, investments, establishment of strategic storage facilities for cereals, and development of the information regarding the food security.

We welcome partnership with civil society and private sector in global and at the country level as one pillar of the Strategic Thinking process initiated by the Director-General

We wish to emphasize the role of South-South Cooperation in the exchange of knowledge and experience among the countries in different regions.

We also commend Director Generals efforts on reduction of unnecessary bureaucracy and efficiency increase in FAO for improving technical and operational capacity where it was most needed

We congratulate FAO and the Director General for successful implementation of IPA under leadership of Prof Noori and we support the decentralization with giving more authority to country offices.

Mr. Chairman,

Realizing the importance of this issue and in order to further coordinate the activities for enhancement of food security in the Near East, the I.R Iran is prepared to contribute and help FAO for formulating “the program for food security in the Near East” and preparing its operationalization plans.

Excellencies,

At the end I should once again express my heartfelt thanks to FAO Director General and his colleagues. I wish this conference to be as fruitfull and effective as possible.

Thank you!