

**Statement delivered by**  
**His Excellency István Nagy, Minister for Agriculture**  
**On the occasion of the 44th Session of the FAO Conference (28 June – 4 July 2025)**  
**30 June 2025**

Distinguished Director-General,

Esteemed Colleagues,

Today, cooperation and partnership are more important than ever. Our world faces multiple crises: armed conflicts, climate change and economic downturn. We are constantly facing new challenges, while many of the previous ones have not yet been resolved. The FAO report on the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World paints a bleak picture. Hunger remains above pre-pandemic levels, with around 733 million people chronically undernourished, and approximately 2.33 billion people experiencing food insecurity.

In this context, international organizations – including FAO, which celebrates its 80th anniversary this year – have a particularly important role to play. FAO's 80-year history has shown that expertise, technical assistance and institutional capacity-building are essential to guarantee food security. FAO also plays a pivotal role in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals. However, time is running out: we have less than five years to meet those 2030 goals.

In Hungary, we apply a multi-faceted approach to transforming the food system. We are constantly striving to create coherence between agriculture, health, and environmental protection, while ensuring that sustainability, innovation and inclusivity remain at the core of our policies. We place special emphasis on enhancing agricultural resilience, promoting sustainable food production, and fostering responsible consumption.

We have integrated food systems-related elements into several of our national strategies.

The Hungarian National Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 aims to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change and enhance ecosystem resilience. To achieve this, it promotes nature-based solutions, habitat restoration, and climate adaptation measures.

Furthermore, to enhance agricultural resilience, we have prioritized climate adaptation measures, recognizing that climate change poses one of the greatest threats to food security. We have implemented advanced water management strategies, supported by precise irrigation technologies, to mitigate the effects of droughts and erratic weather patterns. In addition, we promote regenerative agricultural practices that enhance soil health, biodiversity, and carbon sequestration, ensuring long-term sustainability for our farming communities.

Hungary is committed to increasing organic farming and food production, enhancing circular economy, reducing the environmental footprint of agriculture, and supporting local food chains. We encourage agro-ecological practices and sustainable livestock management, helping to balance productivity with environmental responsibility.

Finally, I would like to emphasize the importance of innovation, as modern technology, data-driven production, precision farming, digitalization, robotics and climate-resilient production are now integral parts of agriculture and the food industry. Science, innovation and competitiveness are interlinked and mutually reinforcing values, and the digitalization of our agriculture plays a crucial role in optimizing resources and improving efficiency.

The FAO's 80th anniversary is not only an occasion for celebration, but also an opportunity to take stock and look to the future. The challenges are not diminishing, but the tools, knowledge and cooperation mechanisms at our disposal have never been more advanced.

I invite you to continue the work we have started! I am confident that together we can build a sustainable, resilient and equitable agrifood system. In this spirit, I wish you all a successful and forward-looking Conference!