

Statement delivered by
His Excellency Ignas HOFMANAS
Minister for Agriculture of Lithuania
on the occasion of the 44th session of the FAO Conference (28 June – 4 July 2025)
30 June 2025

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates.

We fully align with the statement delivered by the European Union and its Member States. I would like to offer a few national reflections.

A previous 2024 State of Food Agriculture report underscores the urgency of transforming our agrifood system in the face of the persistent and overarching crises. One crisis such of direct consequence to Lithuania and our region, is the ongoing war of aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine.

This unjustified war has devastated Ukraine's agricultural sector, disrupted global supply chains, and driven up food prices worldwide. It is a man-made shock with far-reaching implications for global food security, especially for the world's most vulnerable.

Lithuania remains its unwavering support for Ukraine politically, economically, and through concrete cooperation in the agriculture domain.

We also express our grave concern at the growing acute hunger and food insecurity in other regions affected by escalating conflicts and humanitarian crisis from Gaza and Sudan to the Democratic Republic of Congo, from Yemen to Afghanistan and Haiti. These crises reinforce the urgent need for resilience, inclusive food systems, and coordinated global responses. In this context, we welcome FAO's focus on innovation as a driver of transformation.

In Lithuania, we are investing in precision agriculture, digital tools, renewable energy, and sustainable practices that make our food systems more resilient and future ready. Innovation must also be inclusive, empowering smallholders, women and youth, bridging with digital and knowledge divides.

We commend FAO's efforts to promote through cost accounting and to strengthen science policy interfaces.

Understanding the hidden cost of our food system is key to designing effective and sustainable solutions. Lithuania stands ready to collaborate through FAO's regional initiatives, including the Hand-in-Hand initiative. We see value in enhancing support for Central and Eastern European countries to scale up innovative solutions, share expertise, and engage strategically with the private sector.

Let me conclude by affirming Lithuania's commitment to FAO and to multilateral cooperation that delivers real, lasting resilience for global food security, sustainability, and peace.

Thank you. Thank you for your attention.