

His Excellency Fuad bin Ja'afar bin Mohammed Al-Sajwani
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Mr. President, Mr. Director-General of FAO, Your Excellencies, Honorables, Heads of Delegation, Ladies and Gentlemen, may the peace of God and his blessings and mercy be upon you all. It is my pleasure to express my thanks and appreciation to FAO for the preparation and the arrangements of this Session as well as for its effective role in terms of many areas among which the food security, combatting poverty, and the promotion of agriculture in the world. We applaud the Director-General's efforts in addressing the problems of poverty, disease, and hunger. I should like as well here to express my congratulation to the countries that have managed to achieve the goal of reducing the hungry people by half before 2015.

We highly appreciate the lecture by Professor Sen, the Nobel Prize laureate, where he said that hunger is not exclusive to the size of food production alone but should be accompanied by and requires policies to combat hunger and to have solutions to have access to food.

The Sultanate of Oman, since the Seventies, has adopted the strategies and a comprehensive strategy for development in order to diversify the income sources instead of depending solely on oil. Therefore, it has developed its agricultural and fisheries sectors. For this aim, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries adopted the policies and programs to improve the management of agricultural resources despite the shortage of agricultural resources and water. However, these two sectors have covered over a third of the national needs for the last four years.

The two sectors also reached good growth rates since it has contributed largely to the 8.5% of GDP growth. This reflects the efforts by the Government to promote these sectors. Due to the importance of the fisheries sector in this Sultanate, this year in 2013, we have allocated one billion three hundred million US dollars for the promotion of the sector until 2020. We hope that this increase amounting to 200% will lead to the increase of fish production from capture fisheries as well as aquaculture. The Sultanate has signed an agreement with FAO to prepare a comprehensive strategy for this sector up to the year 2040. The vision of the Sultanate of Oman is developing in view of the global changes.

In this regard, the food security has become a main pillar in our development efforts in order to provide food for the country. However, this lost crisis in terms of food prices has also been translated in food availability which deprived categories of societies to suffer from food shortages. The Sultanate is proud to host the meeting of the International Treaty for Genetic Resources in our country, in September. We should like to welcome you all to our country and we should also like to invite all people from the Arab world to take part in the meeting that will take place in the Sultanate on 21 September 2013. In this regard as well, allow me to give my thanks to FAO and to the Director-General for the good preparation of this session and we hope that our global efforts will all succeed in providing food for all. May the peace of God be with you.