

Statement delivered by

Mr Kimtai Harry

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Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives of the Republic of Kenya**

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Thank you Chairperson for giving me the floor. I am honoured to speak on behalf of our Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives of the Republic of Kenya, The Honourable Peter Munya. My name is Harry Kimtai, I am the Principal Secretary, State Department for Livestock.

*Excellencies,
Chairperson,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Kenya supports FAO's multi-pronged approach of putting knowledge into action, from digitalization and promotion of aquaculture to sustainable rural development and including the use of the Hand-in-Hand Initiative integrating actions towards agri-food systems transformation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you may know the region and Kenya have been adversely affected by Desert Locust invasions, and we thank FAO for the technical and budgetary support extended to us in controlling this menace. Without your strategic support the damage could have been devastating to food systems in the region.

Kenya developed the Agricultural Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy (ASTGS) to drive transformation of the sector over the next ten years. The ASTGS is anchored on three outcomes being: increasing small-scale farmer incomes, increasing agricultural output and value-addition, and boosting household food resilience; and it is based on a program implementation approach that follows functions rather than form, thus breaking down silos that currently exist across the supply chains.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Constitution of Kenya (2010) recognizes that "Every person has the right to be free from hunger, and to have adequate food of acceptable quality" therefore, agricultural transformation is critical to growing the economy, reducing the cost of food, alleviating poverty and delivering 100 percent food and nutrition security.

In the advent of the COVID -19 Pandemic in Kenya we fast-tracked the launch of a number of initiatives including the digital-for-agriculture (D4Ag) projects. One key programme was the e-Voucher that aims at targeting over 1.4 million farming households and 2 300 agro-dealers to supply farm inputs to growers by 2023. We recognize the need to harness the power of digital innovation for linking rural, small-scale producers to various value chain actors and particularly end consumers. As a key enabler for poverty alleviation and increased agricultural outcomes, Kenya wholly embraces agri-technology innovation in the sector.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In Kenya like many other Nations, we have also been affected by climate change, which has had negative impact on local and regional agri-food systems, food safety, and natural resources thus accelerating hunger and poverty in rural areas. Kenya is committed to increasing the implementation of climate smart agriculture practices across crops, livestock and fisheries activities in pursuit of meeting Food and Nutrition security in the country.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Whilst our country continues to seek technical and budgetary support from FAO in implementing key initiatives for transformation of the sector, the Kenyan Government has enacted the Public Finance Management Act. This has entrenched the use of programme-based budgeting as a tool for government planning and budgeting, thus enhancing transparency, openness, and efficient use of public resources. To that end, we look forward to working with FAO in shaping a more integrated, collaborative approach to support offered to Kenya.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In closing, Kenya's aspirations for 100 percent food and nutrition security as articulated in His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta's Big Four Agenda reaffirms our commitment to delivery of the 2030 Agenda; and we look forward to continued collaboration and support from FAO in achieving these aspirations.

Thank you very much, Madam Chair, and all the distinguished participants