

**Statement delivered by**  
**His Excellency Stefano Canti**  
**Minister for Territory and Environment, Agriculture, Civil Protection and Relations with the**  
**Autonomous Public Works State Corporation of the Republic of San Marino**  
**on the occasion of the**  
**42nd Session of the FAO Conference (14-18 June 2021)**  
**15 June 2021**

*Good morning,*  
*Mr Chairperson,*  
*Excellencies,*  
*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of San Marino, I would like first of all to commend the Director-General for adopting all the preventive measures for FAO staff well-being during the pandemic outbreak and for keeping our Missions updated. A special thanks goes to all FAO staff for their efficiency and commitment in facing the most difficult challenge in our modern history.

By way of derogation from its rules, FAO has adopted virtual format thus allowing all governing bodies including this 42nd FAO Conference to carry out their works and member countries to participate in an inclusive way, while many of them are still facing challenges in this global fight.

We commend the Italian Government for all measures taken to prevent and contain the pandemic since 2020.

We need to unite by carrying out global vaccination, overcoming economic and geo-political interests in this global challenge.

Only together can we prevent escalation to a protracted humanitarian and food security catastrophe as the economic and social disruption caused by the pandemic.

San Marino has been severely affected by the pandemic and suffered one of the highest rates of infections, with a high loss of human lives and strong economic impact.

My Government firmly believes that this is the time for global solidarity and support. We have co-sponsored several UN resolutions and the UNGA Resolutions on Global Solidarity to Fight COVID-19 and on International Cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19, thus highlighting the importance of international cooperation and equitable access to health products as a global priority.

The Republic of San Marino praises FAO for its important role in assessing and preventing global food emergency during and after the COVID-19 pandemic through the “COVID-19 Comprehensive Response and Recovery Program”.

We welcome the lead taken by the Director-General in promoting agricultural innovation through integrated innovative approaches and digital technologies in FAO core business in the International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture.

Digital technologies are rapidly transforming people, business and governments in contributing to achieving the 2030 Agenda goals and the SDGs. However, digital technologies may also raise economic, social and ethical concerns in particular with respect to privacy and security.

One of the initiatives approved by FAO is the Strategy for Private Sector Engagement to include all stakeholders in accordance with FAO’s rules to prevent all forms of reputational risk for the Organization.

The 2030 Agenda is fundamental for the construction of healthy, resilient and peaceful societies for our future generations.

Last May, my Government adopted national strategies based on the 2030 Agenda goals. Food security and sustainable agriculture are being implemented through organic farming by encouraging multifunctional agriculture, certifying and enhancing local food and wine production, raising social awareness on eating habits and combating food loss and waste. In addition, support instruments were introduced to fight poverty. This needs an integrated approach from farm to fork.

In 2019 together with Andorra we sponsored the UNGA Resolution on the *International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste*, to raise awareness on the importance of food access and use.

Initiatives were taken at international level for the International Bees day focusing on the importance of bees and other pollinators for biodiversity, food security, nutrition and livelihoods.

As a Member of the Alliance for the promotion of the Mediterranean Diet, launched by Italy, San Marino shares the principles of the Mediterranean Diet, recognized by UNESCO as “Intangible Cultural Heritage”, as a powerful means to achieve the 2030 Agenda goals.

We support all healthy diets as an inclusive cultural and social promotion model of healthy nutrition and lifestyle.

In accordance with these principles we are strongly committed in the Pre-Summit on Food Systems, which will take place in July under the G20 Italian Presidency. The recommendations of this Pre-Summit must be taken into account by the UN Food Systems Summit, as an important FAO contribution and a unique opportunity to rethink how to improve access to healthy diets and increase income for small producers as well as reduce food loss and waste.

We are looking forward to taking part in it. Strong multilateralism and commitment are essential to build sustainable development.

Last but not least, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Independent Chairperson Mehboob for his excellent work during his mandate, his diplomatic ability in guiding Members through important negotiations, and I do hope that the new ICC will guide Members during constructive negotiations and consensus building, by bearing in mind our moral duty to not leave anyone behind.

Thank you for your attention.