

Statement delivered by
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Under-Secretary for Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of the Sudan
on the occasion of the
42nd Session of the FAO Conference (14-18 June 2021)
15 June 2021

*Madam Vice Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen.*

May God's peace be upon you.

It is a great pleasure for me to greet you today on behalf of the Government of Sudan on the occasion of the 42nd Session of FAO Conference. Now, we would like to support all Member States in order to reach the strategic goals of the Organization in cooperation with international, regional organizations and together with governments, civil society and private sector organizations, as well as with other development partners in order to achieve efficient results.

Madam Vice Chairperson,

We greatly appreciate the role played by FAO in order to create a world free of hunger and malnutrition so that we can also improve and raise the living standards, especially in the poorest countries, and do this in a sustainable manner, economically, socially and environmentally speaking.

We endorse the efforts of the Organization to develop the agricultural sector using various mechanisms, also through approved initiatives, such as the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, in order to fight poverty and hunger efficiently while focusing on accelerating agricultural transformation and rural development.

Excellencies,

The Organization has helped my country as well as other many developing countries to help reach the SDGs and to face the major challenges that we are suffering from in Africa. Indeed the Regional Conference for Africa stressed the importance of the challenges faced by the continent such as climate change, cross-border illness and pests, and the desert locust.

We have stressed the importance of climate change, which has led to great flooding. We have also focused on the importance of investing in the blue economy, in cooperation and in partnerships, in order to establish a resilience and capacity-building approach and to do this through social security plans.

Madam Vice Chairperson,

In recent years, we have been facing very challenging times: a fragile economy, the enormous impact due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which was aggravated by flooding that we have suffered from. Five million hectares have been damaged and the number of people who have suffered from food insecurity in 2020 reached 9 600 000 people.

The most affected were the internally displaced people, as well as people who have suffered from conflicts like migrants from Ethiopia and the South of Sudan, and other impoverished people from rural and agricultural communities in the East, West and South. In fact, their living standards and livestock have suffered from the economic situation and droughts. Interventions were organized and indeed USD 70 million have been provided in order to establish a number of projects.

Excellencies,

It is thanks to the support provided by the Organization that we were able to implement a number of important projects over recent years, which helped us improve nutritional and food security, and living standards as well. We did this by applying sustainable production strategies in the agricultural sector to provide for nutritional and food security so that we could reduce poverty in rural areas and safeguard natural resources while ensuring gender equality.

We have worked to develop the capacities of stakeholders. We have also benefited from the technical support of the Organization to build our national capacities, in Sudan, in order to achieve tangible results in the agricultural sector and improve livelihoods.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To develop the strategic guidelines and approaches of the Organization, Sudan has adopted a very strict and tangible approach. The achievement of specific and tangible results, and the deliverables, was possible thanks to FAO's support and to the boosting of national capacities in facing these enormous challenges that we have had to grapple with.

In conclusion, we reiterate the commitment of Sudan to implement projects and plans together with FAO and we promise to continue to endeavour cooperating with all stakeholders, in order to fully benefit from the expertise and lessons learned provided by the Organization.

Once again, thank you very much for your efforts and for the continued support you have provided us with. We thank all the countries present at this Conference. We should also like to work hand-in-hand for sustainable development so that every citizen, man and woman, is able to have sufficient and nutritious food, and every single person can fully enjoy life.

Thank you very much, may the peace of God be upon you.