

**Statement delivered by  
Mr Kaba Urgessa Dinssa  
Deputy Permanent Representative of Ethiopia  
on the occasion of the  
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Thank you Chairperson for the chance,

Excellences,

Invited guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all let me take this opportunity to thank FAO and the Secretariat for making the State of Food and Agriculture, with particular emphasis on integrated water resource management as an agenda on which we have to share our views.

Chairperson,

For my country Ethiopia agriculture is the base for our economy that provides 80 percent of employment to our population, 70 percent of export, 33 percent proportion in national gross domestic product and 70 percent input for agro-processing for which water either in the form of rain or irrigation is very essential.

Ethiopia recognizes that water is a foundational component of agrifood systems, that is facing increased challenges and water scarcity have resulted in repeated drought which has caused a heavy loss in the livelihood of our people specially in the low land areas.

Chairperson,

We do not only agree but practically encountered the impacts of drought and floods that undermine our efforts towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

We would like to also recognize that agriculture is increasingly required to “make its case” for its share of water to ensure food security and nutrition, for mitigating and adapting to floods, and for addressing agriculture-induced water pollution.

It is highly alarming to know that more than 3 billion people live in agricultural areas with very high or high levels of water shortages or water scarcity. Some 1.81 billion people are directly exposed to floods, which pose a significant risk to lives and livelihoods.

The impacts of climate change are expected to worsen this picture with repercussions for agri-food systems, the planet, human health and well-being around the world.

We do agree that, the key to all these entangled challenges is integrated water resources management that contributes to inclusive and effective water governance.

Chairperson,

Towards this end Ethiopia has initiated climate resilient green economy strategy, which focuses on soil and water conservation, Green Legacy, in which we have planted over 25 million seedlings over the last four years, and we are planning to do the same reaching 15 million over the coming years, and integrated

water management to facilitate continues supply of water for drinking and agriculture in the form of irrigation while still working on reduction of flood by managing our watersheds.

We have got an impressive result in doubling the production of wheat by using irrigation, which is an indication that if we work hard and manage and use our natural resources we will be able to ensure our food security in shorter time. We have also got impressive results in the areas of fruit and vegetables and working our level best in dairy, poultry and honey production.

As the amount of natural resource degradation in Ethiopia is enormous it will take some more years to fully cover our hills with green vegetation to reduce flood and protect our soil from erosion and at the same token capture and conserve the moisture that could be used for multiple uses.

We will continue to do so by employing new innovations in collaboration with FAO, IFAD, WFP, the World Bank and other partners to further implement our Climate Resilient Green Economy Strategy and improve our agricultural system so that it can contribute to our food and nutrition security.

Finally Chairperson,

Let me also use this opportunity to thank our partners who have supported us both financially and technically to develop and implement our Climate Resilient Green Economy Strategy.

Let me also reassure that the Ethiopia will continue to work with FAO, as it has been doing before, and let me also, once again, congratulate Dr QU Dongyu for his re-election as the Director-General of FAO.

Thank you very much.