

Statement delivered by

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on the occasion of the 43rd Session of the FAO Conference (1-7 July 2023)

4 July

Mr Zaid Al Ani (Iraq) (Original Language Arabic)

Ladies and gentlemen.

The environment, soil, and water are really essential for the life on our planet and in the universe. And in the last few decades, human activity has destabilized the environment. Climate Change has been aggravated recently and currently it is threatening the lives of human beings and the flora and fauna of the world.

Many countries are severely affected by climate change, including Iraq, owing to the heavy impact of climate change and the deep-set changes in the environment. Temperature is on the rise and new challenges are emerging, and of course, they include desertification, water scarcity, recurrent sandstorms, and this is precipitating rural exodus of farmers towards the towns and cities, which is aggravating food insecurity in our country.

Ladies and gentlemen, Iraq accords great importance to combating Climate Change and its impact, and especially the impact on water resources. We work together with neighbouring countries in the spirit of dialogue and fair sharing of water resources. And this is particularly true in the case of transboundary water resources. And there are some countries that are adopting policies that however, have an impact on the countries with which they should be sharing water resources. We hope that this Conference will also be the opportunity for us to explore the possibility of developing policies in which those countries that are uphill on the rivers course can help share the resource and ensure fair access to water resources, those water resources in particular that are transboundary. Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and Georgia have signed a memorandum of understanding, a quadripartite agreement on agriculture. And this is an initiative that aims at achieving fair access to water resources and agricultural production, and to deal with the impact of climate change on water resources. And we are hoping for a strength in agriculture in the area as well as boosting agricultural trade and for the benefit of the region as a whole promoting sustainable development. And this, of course, is very important also for maintaining peace. There is a relationship between climate change crisis and the humanitarian crisis in our area.

We now have enhanced awareness of the impact of climate change on water resources. And our people are now looking to the United Nations to help identify the appropriate solutions to ensure that our people can live a healthy and stable lives in a sustainable environment now and for the generations to come.

Thank you.