

Checked against delivery

**Statement delivered by
Her Excellency Sandra BORCH
Minister for Agriculture and Food of Norway
on the occasion of the 43rd Session of the FAO Conference (1-7 July 2023)
3 July 2023**

Chairpersons, excellences, guests, ladies and gentlemen, this is a time of rising insecurity, food system are greatly affected by climate change, conflicts, loss of biodiversity, pollution and diseases. The poor and the vulnerable suffer the most. Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has caused a humanitarian crisis and worsened the global food crisis. Norway strongly condemns Russia's unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine.

The complex challenge means that FAO is needed more than ever to be fit for purpose and working closely with the wider UN system. We call on FAO to build on its corporate competitive advantage as a normative knowledge organization with a mandate to ensure future food security and nutrition and sustainable management of natural resources within agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture. Chair, Norway welcomes the report on integrated water resources management.

We urge FAO to take a right based approach to water management and to promote sustainable landscape approaches. Security of natural resources means that all countries must make use of its available resources for food production. In Norway, only 3% of the land is arable land and therefore is a scarce resource we need to protect. Family farming is a key to ensure a sustainable solution for agriculture and we have put women and youth among main priorities for the coming years.

In Norway, where I come from my family runs a small farm; even though winters are long and the growing season is short for us, it is important to have food production in the whole country. This is food security in practice. We encourage FAO to scale up sustainable practices supporting family farming, in particular, agro ecological, approaches.

Chair, Norway wishes to underline the need for ambition follow up of FAO's climate strategy. Agriculture relies on biodiversity and is the key to help worsening biodiversity loss. FAO's role in the implementation of the convention of biological diversity will be even more important in the future. See the diversity is fundamental to global food security. This year marks the 15th anniversary of the Svalbard global seed vault. The seed vault now houses more than 1.2 million seed samples from gene banks all around the world.

Furthermore, Chair, we need to realise the ocean's potential and make sure that the fisheries and aquaculture is a central part of the future food security. Norway will also stress FAO's vital role in providing global statistics and information on forest resources, as well as capacity building for sustainable forest management. As a final point, Norway will stress the need of combat AMR - this requires global action with One Health approach.

We call on FAO to contribute actively to the One Health Partnership. The goal must be prudent and responsible use of antibiotics in order to minimise the threat of AMR. Good animal health build security is fundamental. We must end all the use of antibiotics as growth promoters in animal food production. Finally, Chair, let me affirm Norway's commitment to FAO's work, we look forward to continuing our work with FAO and its Member States.

Thank you.