

Statement delivered by
Mr Ahmed Al-Bakri
Undersecretary for Agriculture of Oman
on the occasion of the 43rd Session of the FAO Conference (1-7 July 2023)
4 July 2023

Thank you Chairperson,
Distinguished Director-General of FAO,
Excellencies,
Heads of the Delegations,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
May the peace of God be upon you all.

First of all I would like to convey to you the greetings of the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries and Water Resources in Sultanate of Oman and it is my great pleasure to take part in the 43rd FAO Conference through the virtual platform, and I would like also to congratulate the Dr QU Dongyu, Director-General, on his election for a second term and we wish him the best of success.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We gather today on the occasion of this Conference to exchange our ideas about important themes and Items listed on our Agenda which includes many good ideas and visions which the Sultanate of Oman deem important. We believe that our discussion will contribute to addressing many issues of water, agriculture and production of food and nutrition all over the world.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our Ministry, over the past two years has implemented and created an investment centre for food security which focuses on short and medium term programmes and projects. We have drafted an investment plan for more than 147 projects including investment opportunities in water and food insecurity.

The overall cost of this plan is about 1.3 billion Omani Rial (OMR) and we have started the implementation of these projects according to the key performance indicators of Oman Vision 2030. The investment in the water sector is one of the priorities of our Government in partnership with the private sector. We aim at preserving water resources and addressing the depletion or pollution in a way that guarantees the sustainability of resources for future generations. We have also been working on defining policies and legislations to create more job opportunities for Oman youth.

We can summarize the achievements of Oman in terms of water management and development of water resources as follows. Firstly, the construction 181 dams to recharge aquifers and enhances services storage. Secondly, development of an integrated monitoring system of water resources to obtain precise water data in various governorates of Oman. The Oman Ministry supervises the functioning and the maintenance of hydrometric monitoring network that includes 3 475 monitoring stations.

Thirdly, the implementation of a cloud seeding project. This national project started in 2013 and it aims at increasing the levels of precipitation and increasing the level of ground water. Fourthly, increasing the volume of desalinated water from 196 million cubic metres in 2011 to 473 million cubic metre in 2021.

Fifthly, expanding and increasing sewage treatment plants that have reached 66 plants to date and they produce about 104 million cubic metre annually producing treating water at three stages. This water is used to mainly in agricultural sector.

The Ministry also conducts research and studies in the field of food and water security as well as other projects and development efforts with the aim to increase productivity of cubic metres of water in the context of integrated water resources management and to achieve the sustainability of water resources in order to achieve SDG 6.

In conclusion I would like to express our thanks to FAO for the excellent organization of the Conference. I also thank the Chairperson of the meeting and I thank all the participants.

May the peace of God be upon you all.

Thank you.