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Statement delivered by
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on the occasion of the 43rd Session of the FAO Conference (1-7 July 2023)
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Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Vice-Chairperson of the Conference,

At the outset allow me to express our delight in being able to participate in this 43rd FAO Conference. This offers us a very important opportunity to exchange ideas, discuss mechanisms, recommendations and initiatives that will contribute to improving the state of agriculture and food as well as efficient water resources management across the world as we endeavour to bring about the Four Betters: production, nutrition, environment and life.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Qatar appreciates the key role played by FAO, which is to compliment the efforts being undertaken within countries to achieve the SDGs in Agenda 2030 particularly SDG 2, the eradication of hunger and achievement of food security as well as improved nutrition and promotion of sustainable agriculture. We reiterate our attachment to fruitful cooperation and coordination with FAO as well as with all other stakeholders to enable the implementation of sustainable food systems that will in turn enable the SDGs to be achieved.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Qatar attaches particular importance to food and food security. This is a sector of crucial importance and key to our national security. For the first time within the Middle East, Qatar will be hosting between 2 October 2023 and 28 March 2024 the Expo 2024 entitled *A Green Desert, A Better Environment*. This is part and parcel of our resolute efforts to combat desertification with sustainable initiatives to bring an end to this phenomenon of desertification.

In organizing and hosting this Expo we will be attaching particular importance to market gardening and horticulture and in view of the challenges faced by our region. I take this opportunity to invite all stakeholders, government's, organizations and specialists to participate in this event, which will offer an excellent opportunity to exchange innovative ideas and practices, and bluesky thinking. We are delighted that many stakeholders from around the world have already confirmed that they will be participating at this major event which speaks to the needs to plant trees and to green arid areas and deserts.

This Expo will be taking place in Doha and it is part of Qatar's efforts to adopt agricultural practices that are efficient and unconventional as we endeavour to address arid conditions for example, vertical agriculture, making use of up-to-the-minute technology. We support all endeavours to ensure agricultural self-sufficiency in Qatar. Further, we have adopted a national food security policy for the period 2018 to 2024 and this has enabled us to put in place a food security safety net for our country.

It enables us to protect ourselves and has for example enabled us to see the blow of the COVID-19 pandemic cushioned in our country, bearing in mind the closure of maritime and air routes, for example,

as well as the temporary cessation of import and production chains internationally in the course of the pandemic period.

As part of our strategy we will be rolling out a future strategy for the period 2024-2030. This will come to an end in 2030 coinciding with the culmination of our national vision, Qatar 2030. This will be focused on sustainability in terms of natural resources enabling us to safeguard the achievements of previous strategies, bolstering local capacity in terms of supply chains and production as well as distribution of food.

It will also enable us to diversify our sources of production and food, diversifying logistical services as well with foreign investment and development of trade links. This will be a three pillar strategy, local production and markets, followed by alert systems and strategic reserves and development of foreign investment and trade.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We reiterate here today our willingness to cooperate with FAO and all Member States in order to further and strengthen our collected efforts to address shared challenges particularly in terms of shortage of water and climate change as we endeavour to find the best possible solutions.

In conclusion we wish this Conference every success and hope to be able to adopt the mechanisms that will enable us to achieve the goals we have set for ourselves because we come together here united by common interests.

I thank you.