

**Statement delivered by**  
**His Excellency Stefano CANTI**  
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**on the occasion of the 43rd Session of the FAO Conference (1-7 July 2023)**  
**3 July 2023**

President of the Conference,  
Director-General,  
Ministers.

First of all, I would like to congratulate the Director-General on his re-election to a second mandate. Now, as has been underlined already as the President of the Regional Group and also the representative of San Marino, we would like to express our desire to continue to work with FAO, which is ever more effective, transparent and dynamic, when it can be up to the challenge of meeting the world's crises and challenges.

Now, FAO in line with Agenda 2030 and SDGs which will contribute to the transformation of the food system meaning thereby the different challenges which are before us including climate change. Now, we know that we're seeing problems linked to this - migratory flows, destruction of biodiversity and a lack and waste of water - water an essential right of each and every human.

Today, more than 3 million people are living in rural areas which are affected by droughts, lack of potable water, and more and ever frequent flooding, so we've got to do something, we've got to face this problem. We are at a crossroads. We need national policies, we need national governance, which can put this issue at the very heart of the international Agenda, it is so related to food security.

Now, floods and droughts, we recently had one in Emilia-Romagna, unprecedented in terms of a destruction of culture and crops and also people and their suffering. The droughts and floods are two sides of the same coin. Members of the FAO have then adopted a strategy to fight climate change at the heart of its science and innovative efforts. Now, digitalization of agriculture can help, it can make our agriculture more resistant.

Yesterday, the speaker at the McDougall Lecture said very good things about this; we have got to take action. Perhaps the July Summit will be a good time. San Marino will be in attendance there, we can assess the progress made as we try to transform the processes and systems to improve food security. Agriculture and its impact on resource uses, has to improve its training and development, has to help young people, help women in agriculture and livestock raising.

San Marino has promised via the UN Resolution to try and do what it can to try and fight food waste, and then also naming the day of 29 September as the day to celebrate that issue. Also, we have ratified the Kyoto Protocol, the Paris agreements, and also been involved in the setting up of an international body on achieving the SDGs. All of this has been developed in accordance with Agenda 2030 with the involvement of civil society.

Now, the proper use of resources will require us to also pay attention to the role of cities, that's why we have argued for discussions between experts and international architects. Now in 2022, the San Marino Declaration was the fruit of that effort under the guidance of the architect, Norman Foster, for a more holistic urbanisation, better use of resources, including water, plastic and pollution reduction. In

September, we will be hosting the UN FAO Conference on forests and the impact that they can have on ecosystems.

I would like to conclude Madam Chair, by renewing our commitment as the country of San Marino to helping FAO meet its four goals here for the four Bs to try and improve and ensure a better future.