

**Statement delivered by**  
**His Excellency Sayed Altayeb Ahmed**  
**Ambassador of the Republic of Sudan to Italy**  
**on the occasion of the 43rd Session of the FAO Conference (1-7 July 2023)**  
**3 July 2023**

Your Excellencies,  
delegations,  
ladies and gentlemen.

Sudan would like to congratulate the Director-General on his re-election. It is a reflection of the trust that our Organization has and that is why he has been voted for a second term. We were very convinced by the reforms which have been undertaken to make the management of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations more flexible and to better meet the challenges before us.

We would like to confirm our support to his efforts and indeed the efforts of the Organization to try and achieve food security, particularly when it comes to our region. Your Excellencies, it is my pleasure to take the floor today in this context, this the 43rd Session of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Conference.

The theme today is water and the management of water resources. Now, we see important difficulties in the world and problems affecting farming and food production in general. We need to better coordinate, we need to better work together as nations and in multilateral Organizations. We need to create true partnerships for a transformation of the food production sector as we face a number of different challenges. We need to make certain that our food production is sustainable and this as we see food security under threat.

Now I would like to mention some of the measures which have been taken in Sudan, measures which are currently... The country is in a difficult situation, food production and food security is affected. Now, Sudan has been suffering armed conflict since the 15th of April 2022.

This has had an important impact of food production; we have seen that harvests are down, animal production is also down, particularly in the areas affected by the conflict. That said, national production was already under pressure; poor infrastructure firstly, transportation problems, lack of investment, limited production, lack of subsidy; all of that meant that harvests were under pressure before as were trade flows, which were not up at traditional levels. So, harvests are down and food security will also be down, that will pose a threat to the population, particularly in certain regions.

Now, the near east and north Africa as a region are also having problems linked to a shortage of water and conflicts making that worse, as is climate change and economic downturns. The water crisis at present is a threat to stability in the region, particularly to human development and sustainable development in general.

All the countries in the region are really worn out, or rather are seeing that their ground water resources are fully exploited. That is having an impact of agriculture and agriculture is now having to compete with other sectors in trying to obtain sufficient water resources.

Now, you may also know that developing countries, particularly the countries that are really underdeveloped are having a great deal of difficulty in trying to adapt to situations; Sudan is one of those countries. We have a system which reflects a lack of resources to try and deal with climate change. We cannot fight these changes alone. Sudan needs help, we need capacity building, we need to strengthen our agrifood systems, we need to deal with drought impact.

We hope that measures will be taken to try and improve the transfer of technologies to ensure that we do make the best use of our water resources as they are available, and also to help us deal with drought but we need resilience.