

Statement delivered by

**His Excellency Rasoul Zare, Ambassador Permanent Representative to FAO on behalf of the
Honorable Minister of Agriculture, Jihad (IRI) H.E. Gholamreza Nouri**

on the occasion of the 44th Session of the FAO Conference (28 June-4 July 2025)

1 July 2025

Mr Chairperson, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I extend our sincere gratitude to FAO for organizing this 44th Conference. We appreciate the Director-General, and all involved in planning this important gathering. We also take this opportunity to warmly congratulate FAO in the occasion of its 80th anniversary, celebrating decades of dedicated efforts in advancing global food security and sustainable agriculture. (listen)

Excellencies,

Today, many regions, particularly West Asia, the Near East, and North Africa, face severe consequences from conflicts, climate change, economic shocks, and growing inequalities. These challenges hinder our progress towards sustainable development goals, especially "Zero Hunger."

The 2024 *State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World* report is stark: in 2023, approximately 733 million people, equaling 9.1 percent of the global population suffered from undernourishment. Food insecurity is increasing, exacerbated by rising food prices and tragic situations.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is deeply committed to ensuring sustained food security. We have implemented diverse programmes, including:

- "Villages as Production Hubs"
- "Strengthening Climate Adaptation"
- "Special Emphasis on the Blue Economy and Maritime Development"

Given our arid climate, enhancing water productivity is a national priority. We aim for one third of our agricultural growth over the next four years to come from increased productivity, driven by knowledge, innovation and technology.

Mr Chairperson,

Despite collective efforts, major challenges persist in eradicating hunger and malnutrition, including meeting the needs of a growing population, combating climate impacts, and addressing resource degradation.

In Iran, we are strengthening our agricultural and food systems through strategies such as:

- Implementing loss and waste management.
- Reforming agricultural financing to attract investment.
- Establishing food system traceability and modernizing data.
- Improving fair trade and aligning standards with international norms.
- Increasing the participation of women and youth.
- Promoting "One Health" and developing the blue economy.

Excellencies,

With our rich history and indigenous knowledge, Iran proudly holds six FAO-registered Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS), ranking fourth globally.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Now is the time to unite our efforts for *better production, better nutrition, better environment, and better life*. The Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to collaborate with all Members, leveraging our strengths and fostering mutual cooperation in areas such as stakeholder engagement, experience exchange, scientific collaboration, supporting agroecology, addressing climate change, embracing innovation and enhancing productivity.

Iran supports proposals that increase the role of Members in FAO governance to enhance agility, participation and inclusiveness.

Excellencies, Mr Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Over the past two weeks, we have witnessed an illegitimate, unjustified, and unlawful military assault carried out by the United States and Israel against the Islamic Republic of Iran. This aggression has resulted in numerous casualties, including a significant number of women and children. The Islamic Republic of Iran firmly condemns these inhumane actions, which not only jeopardize regional peace and stability but also endanger the lives of innocent civilians.

In closing, as I pray for peace and tranquility worldwide, especially for the women and children from Tehran to Gaza, I hope this Conference's positive outcomes will soon benefit all Members.

Thank you very much.