

Statement delivered by

**Mr Toby Parker, Minister Counsellor, Chargé d'affaires, Deputy Permanent Representative to
FAO**

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2 July 2025

Excellencies, Chairperson, FAO's role in advancing the sustainable transformation of global and national food systems has never been more important. Shared norms and standards, and effective stewardship of an increasingly complex global food system masses to us all. Institutions like Codex Alimentarius Commission (CODEX) and the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) protect food safety and plant health, ensuring trust in international trade and resilience in food systems.

The same is true of the Agricultural Market Information System and the Integrated Phase Classification System and other platforms and partnerships. Data functions must be protected in programme of work and budget discussions, as should FAO's work on gender equality and inclusion. FAO's work on One Health, including in the quadripartite and through the Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases, must also be considered core to its mandate, as it is critical in tackling threats to human, animal and environmental health. And I am pleased that the Conference will consider a resolution on antimicrobial resistance, which the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK) has led with our friends from Kenya.

Chair, Excellencies, the UN Ocean Conference highlighted our shared reliance on the ocean and urgent need for sustainable fisheries. FAO must continue to play a central role in facilitating effective fisheries management which delivers for coastal communities, ocean systems and food security. FAO's *Review of the state of the world fishery resources* provides essential evidence to inform decision making. Similarly, the United Kingdom looks forward to the publication of FAO's Global Forest Resources Assessment later in the year.

Forests and nature are essential to fight climate change and help agriculture adapt, stabilising watersheds and supporting healthy soils and pollinators. However, how we advance our agriculture and food systems has a critical impact on those forests and natural resources. That is why the UK is backing the shift to more sustainable deforestation free agriculture.

Turning to the UK's domestic efforts, the Agricultural Transition Plan for England is replacing direct area-based payments with over GBP 2.7 billion per year for sustainable food production and environmental action. By 2028 we aim for a productive, profitable, an environmentally responsible sector without area-based subsidies. We are also backing innovation and technology boosting profitability through our Farming Profitability Review, launching a national conversation on land use and strengthening bio security through our new National Bio Security Centre.

This year we will publish a Food Strategy and Farming 2050 Road Map, setting out a long-term vision for a resilient, nature positive food system supporting sustainable food production, public health and rural prosperity. We will take these lessons to the food system summit stocktake in Addis and COP 30 in Belém. The UK is proud to be working to support Brazil's Conference of the Parties (COP) 30 priorities on agriculture, forests, fertilisers, and land restoration we. Most grateful for Brazil's leadership of the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty, rallying attention to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1 and 2 while seeking results through fast-track country action plans.

Colleagues, finally, conflict remains devastating driver of hunger, compounding climate change and economic stress. Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine continues to disrupt food exports, the humanitarian

crisis in Gaza worsens and violence in Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Haiti is leaving millions food insecure and malnourished. Famine risk is higher than it has been in a generation.

That is why multilateral cooperation matters more than ever. It is a system we all rely on. FAO must contribute fully to the UN Secretary General's UN80 Reform initiative with greater ambition on how to achieve more with less. Because, Excellencies, this is the key opportunity to deliver a strong and efficient UN and FAO. One that is modernised, streamlined, prioritised and able to deliver on the promise of the SDGs for those who need them most.

Thank you.