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40<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Conference

Statement by His Excellency Mr Abdulrahman bin Abdulmohsen Al-Fadhli, Minister  
for Environment, Water and Agriculture of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Excellencies, Ministers,  
Director-General of FAO,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to be with you. I would like to convey the best wishes and thanks of Saudi Arabia. Thank you to the Director-General of the FAO and his colleagues for the efforts made in preparing this Conference. We wish you full success in your work.

We welcome the role played in the last eight years, particularly in combating hunger and poverty and the efforts made to improve food security. We also welcome the efforts made by the Organization in the framework strategy to combat food insecurity.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to confirm the priority attached by Saudi Arabia to food security and sustainable development. Through a program of national transformation and fighting poverty and squandering of resources and also through strengthening competitively to better use natural resources and to contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Ladies and gentlemen, the growth of inhabitants of the planet require greater need for solidarity in agriculture to ensure that the current generations can continue and we need to take agricultural investments responsibly and help countries to use their resources in this area.

Climate change and conflicts have a huge effect on agriculture and this is why it will also have an impact on food security. So together we must take the measures needed to limit the impact of conflicts and climate change.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would lastly like to express my gratitude and recognition to the Director-General of the Organization and everybody who works in this Organization and the Italian government for their efforts made in organizing this conference.

Again, I wish you every success in achieving the goals that you seek.

And if I may, Chair, I would like to touch upon another issue which was in my colleague from Qatar's speech. There were some mistakes in that speech. Egypt, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and other countries have taken a position vis a vis Qatar which is a boycott position rather than a block and the ports and airports in Qatar are open.

And we would like to encourage our brothers from Qatar to put an end to their activities in the region but unfortunately the state of Qatar has not responded to our requests and therefore we must work to protect the interests of the countries concerned.

We ask Qatar to put an end to those activities and to respect the claims of the countries that have put these to them. Thank you.