

In the Name of the Most High

**Statement by H.E. Dr. Zand,
Hon. Deputy Minister of Jihad-e-Agriculture and Head of Agricultural Research,
Education and Extension Organization
and head of delegation of Islamic Republic of Iran
addressing
The 2nd International Conference on Nutrition**

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Mr. Chairman, Hon Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the organizers of the second International Conference on Nutrition which is a unique opportunity to exchange the experiences and success stories pertaining to food security issues that have emerged in the last twenty years and to further linkages between sectors to improve food and nutrition security in the world. Food and nutrition security is a key factor in national and international development. Over the past two decades, nutrition transition can be seen in both developing and developed countries. In this situation, multiple types of malnutrition with an increasing incidence of diet-related non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are imposing challenges to human health in this century.

Hon Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

I am greatly honored to inform you that I.R Iran has placed food and nutrition security as one of the priorities topping the administration agenda. The government has officially initiated the food aids program for 7.5 million deprived people.

In the shadow of instable natural conditions and successive droughts, caused by climate change, the main measures that the Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture have been taken to provide food security includes improvement of crop yield, increase crop water use efficiency and minimizing chemical residues. The endeavors to establish food security is being complemented by constant transfer of applied research findings to beneficiaries.

Distinguished delegates

In Iran during the past 10 years, country's nutrition and food security system has developed, so that at least 50% reduction in malnutrition, 45% reduction in iron deficiency anemia of less than five year's old children have been achieved. Trans fatty acids content of solid oils has also been reduced from about 30% in the beginning years of 2000s, to less than 10% in 2007. Also, in 2014, it was approved that trans fatty acids had to be reduced to less than 2% and saturated fatty acid had to be reduced to less than 25%. In order to reduce saturated fatty acid, palm oil import was reduced to 30%.

There has also been a great achievement in eliminating Iodine deficiency disorders by enriching table salt with Iodine.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished delegates

Islamic Republic of Iran actively participated in the process of preparation of Rome Declaration on Nutrition and framework for action and thanks FAO and WHO for supporting and facilitating the preparation. Islamic Republic of Iran fully support and endorse the Declaration on Nutrition and Framework for Action. We also express our commitment for implementation of recommendations outlined in frame work for action to promote food security and nutrition inside our country and also our region. We encourage FAO and WHO in promoting and facilitating South-South cooperation, for improving food security and nutrition.

While political commitment should be made by all countries to overcome the issues of food and nutrition, WHO and FAO may also play a critical role in technical support and capacity building based on the local and regional potentialities particularly in developing countries to improve their food securities. In this regard, both WHO and FAO are requested to support governments in efficiently develop their strategies that incorporate a comprehensive food and nutrition policy as well as establish surveillance and early warning systems and controlling climate change impacts. Cross functional approaches and high political commitment are very important to combat all forms of malnutrition.

Thank you for your kind attention and I wish you all the best of success.