



November 2025

The Córdoba Declaration

World Olive Day 2025

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At the invitation of H.E. Mr Luis Planas, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of the Kingdom of Spain, and Mr Jaime Lillo, Executive Director of the International Olive Council (IOC), Ministers, representatives of ministers and international organisations, met in Córdoba on 20 November 2025, on the occasion of the celebration of World Olive Day, to discuss the main challenges and opportunities facing the olive sector and expressed their support for, and commitment to, olive cultivation and its products.

Ministers and their representatives

Recalling that:

- In addition to its agricultural value, the olive tree (*Olea europaea*) is a symbol of peace, wisdom and civilisation, passed down from antiquity to the present day, embodying universal values that transcend borders.
- With more than six thousand years of history, this emblematic crop has spread from the Mediterranean basin to all five continents, and its products are increasingly appreciated around the world.
- Since its establishment in 1959 under the auspices of the United Nations, the International Olive Council (IOC) has promoted intergovernmental cooperation to foster the sustainable cultivation of olive trees and to support the quality and trade of olive oil and table olives.
- World Olive Day was proclaimed at the 40th session of the UNESCO General Conference in 2019.

Recognising that:

- The olive sector makes a significant contribution to food security, community well-being and healthy diets for a growing global population.
- Sustainable olive cultivation contributes to soil conservation, desertification prevention, biodiversity preservation and climate change mitigation.
- The olive sector drives the economic and social development of rural areas, promoting economic growth, job creation and new opportunities that strengthen the local productive fabric.
- International trade in olive products continues to grow steadily, enabled by the adoption of harmonised national and international standards grounded in scientific knowledge.
- International cooperation must be encouraged to promote technical and scientific collaboration through the exchange of experience and knowledge, to strengthen sustainable development in the olive sector with efficient management of natural resources—paying particular attention to water—and the necessary adaptation to the effects of climate change.
- Technological innovation and the adoption of smart technologies are advancing the development of the olive sector.
- International technical cooperation in the conservation and management of olive genetic resources is part of the response to the current and future challenges of sustainable olive cultivation.
- Olive farming has evolved toward technologically advanced models that coexist with traditional systems, shaping rural landscapes, cultural identity and the local economies of many regions and territories.
- Olive groves absorb atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) and store it in the soil and plant biomass in a stable and lasting way through sustainable agronomic practices, thereby contributing—via carbon sequestration—to climate change mitigation strategies.
- Olive oil and table olives are globally recognised for their nutritional properties, culinary versatility and contribution to healthy diets, such as the Mediterranean diet, declared Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO in 2010, which helps reduce disease risk, improves overall health and increases life expectancy.
- Olive oil is a rich source of monounsaturated fats, especially oleic acid, with proven health benefits. Virgin olive oil, which requires no refining or industrial processing, contains antioxidants such as vitamin E and polyphenols, with anti-inflammatory and protective effects against cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, high blood pressure, obesity, cognitive decline and other conditions.
- Consumption of food outside the home continues to accelerate, increasing the influence of chefs and restaurateurs in shaping consumer opinion about olive oil. Therefore, strategies aimed at improving chefs' and restaurateurs' knowledge of olive oil quality, its nutritional and organoleptic properties, and its innovative culinary applications deserve growing attention.

Declare

The strategic importance of the olive sector, and support to:

- Encourage the quality of olive products and facilitate their international trade through the harmonisation of national and international standards that remove trade barriers and protect consumer rights.
- Promote the consumption of olive products and the expansion of international trade in olive oil and table olives.
- Promote public policies that recognise and strengthen the olive sector as a food system that contributes to human health, the sustainability of the planet and the well-being of rural communities.
- To ensure the preservation and protection of the olive tree — an emblematic tree and symbol of peace — against all natural or human threats that may endanger its survival, and to encourage its recovery and regeneration wherever it is affected.
- Promote technical cooperation, research, development and innovation—both nationally and internationally— in collaboration with universities and other research centres to support the sustainable development of the olive sector and its adaptation to climate change.
- Recognise and value the environmental role of olive groves, by promoting scientific research and agricultural practices that maximise their capacity to absorb and store CO₂ and contribute to climate change mitigation.
- Support international and regional activities that
 - o Disseminate general scientific information on the nutritional, health and other beneficial properties of olive oil and table olives, improving the information provided to consumers,
 - o Integrate olive oil into public health and nutrition strategies, recognising its value as a functional food in the prevention of cardiovascular, metabolic and neurodegenerative diseases,
 - o Promote collaboration with chefs and restaurateurs to educate consumers about olive oil and table olives, focusing on quality standards, varietal diversity and production origins, its nutritional properties, flavour profiles and culinary applications.

Invite

the International Olive Council to consider these recommendations within the framework of the International Agreement on Olive Oil and Table Olives, 2015.

Express their support to The Córdoba Declaration

On 20 November 2025

MINISTERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF MINISTERS

Federative Republic of Brazil	Portuguese Republic
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	Republic of Albania
Hellenic Republic	Republic of Iraq
Islamic Republic of Iran	Republic of Peru
Islamic Republic of Pakistan	Republic of Tunisia
Italian Republic	Republic of Türkiye
Kingdom of Morocco	Republic of Uzbekistan
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	State of Palestine
Kingdom of Spain	Syrian Arab Republic

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Centre For Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM)
International Dates Council

DELEGATIONS OF MEMBER COUNTRIES

Arab Republic of Egypt	State of Libya
Republic of Azerbaijan	Lebanese Republic
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria	Georgia
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Montenegro
State of Israel	Oriental Republic of Uruguay

