

**Your Excellencies,
Mr. Chair of the International Olive Council,
Executive Director of the International Olive Council,
Heads of Delegations,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is my honor to convey to you the warm greetings of the Minister of Agriculture of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, **Dr. Sa'eb A. Khresat** along with his deep appreciation for this important international gathering, which brings us together in celebration of the olive tree — a universal symbol of peace and a cornerstone of agricultural identity across our nations. I also wish to express our gratitude to the Kingdom of Spain for its generous hosting of this event, and to the International Olive Council for its dedicated efforts in advancing this vital sector and strengthening cooperation among member states.

Today's celebration of World Olive Day reaffirms the cultural, environmental, and human significance of this blessed tree, recognized by UNESCO as a symbol of peace and a shared heritage of humanity. It is also aligned with the *Declaration of Córdoba*, which emphasizes sustainability, climate resilience, biodiversity conservation, and the vital role of the olive sector in supporting rural livelihoods and global food security.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The olive sector in Jordan represents a major pillar of food security, economic resilience, and rural development. Olive trees cover approximately 72% of the total area cultivated with fruit

trees in the Kingdom — more than two-thirds of this area — and provide income to thousands of rural families. This reflects a deeply rooted connection between people and their land, and a long-standing agricultural heritage.

Over recent years, the Government of Jordan has made significant progress in modernizing olive mills, improving production lines, strengthening technical oversight, and expanding marketing programs that enhance the quality and competitiveness of Jordanian olive oil in domestic and international markets. Jordan has also advanced training programs in sensory analysis, chemistry, and quality assurance, in close partnership with the International Olive Council, contributing to stronger national capacities across the entire production chain.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Jordan strongly supports the principles of the *Declaration of Córdoba*, particularly those related to **climate change**, which poses increasing challenges to olive-producing countries. Rising temperatures, irregular rainfall, drought, and extreme weather events directly affect olive yields, tree health, and overall sustainability. Jordan is therefore committed to strengthening adaptive measures, such as improving water-use efficiency, promoting resilient cultivars, expanding research and innovation, and supporting farmers in adopting sustainable agricultural practices that protect biodiversity and ensure long-term productivity.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As Jordan participates in this ministerial gathering, it reiterates its full commitment to the International Agreement on Olive Oil and Table Olives of 2015, which provides a unified framework for harmonizing standards, regulating trade, safeguarding product quality, and protecting consumers. Jordan continues to work closely with the International Olive Council to implement the Agreement's provisions related to scientific cooperation, data exchange, training programs, and the promotion of sustainability across the olive value chain.

Jordan also values the IOC's leadership in developing international standards, advancing scientific knowledge, supporting promotional activities, and strengthening cooperation between member states for the benefit of the global olive sector.

In conclusion, Jordan is proud of its active membership in the International Olive Council and looks forward to deepening cooperation with all member countries to promote sustainability, increase production efficiency, strengthen value chains, and expand international trade in olive products — thereby improving rural livelihoods, supporting farmers, and contributing to global food security.

Thank you.