

**Your Excellency Mr. Luis Planas Puchades, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of the Kingdom of Spain,
Honorable Ministers,
Mr. Jaime Lillo, Executive Director of the International Olive Council,
Distinguished Delegates,
Esteemed Participants,**

It is a great honor and pleasure to address you today in the beautiful and historic city of Córdoba, on the occasion of World Olive Day.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Minister Luis Planas Puchades for his kind invitation and hospitality. I also wish to thank Mr. Jaime Lillo and the International Olive Council for their leadership and commitment to strengthening global cooperation in the olive sector.

Today, we gather not only to celebrate one of the world's oldest and most treasured agricultural heritages, but also to reaffirm our shared commitment to the values of sustainability, partnership, and resilience that the olive tree has symbolized across centuries and civilizations.

In Türkiye, the olive tree holds a truly special place. It is deeply rooted in our history, our geography, and our way of life. From the Aegean to the Mediterranean, olive groves have shaped our culture and nourished our people for thousands of years. As a universal emblem of peace, resilience, and prosperity, the olive branch reflects the spirit of our nation—steadfast, generous, and deeply connected to the land.

The olive and olive oil sector is not only part of our cultural heritage but also a significant component of our national economy and trade. Türkiye is among the world's leading producers and exporters of olives and olive oil. We take pride in continuously improving the quality, traceability, and sustainability of our production. We invest in innovation, training, and green transformation to ensure that every stage—from cultivation to export—meets the highest international standards and contributes to the global value chain.

At the international level, we attach great importance to the role of the International Olive Council as a unifying platform that strengthens cooperation between producer and consumer countries, advances scientific and technical knowledge, and supports fair and transparent trade. The IOC plays a vital role in ensuring that the olive sector continues to grow responsibly and that the excellence of olive products is recognized worldwide.

As our societies face new challenges—from global climate change to market volatility and shifting consumer expectations—our response must be collective. The olive sector is a vivid example of how shared heritage can inspire shared solutions. Through joint research, technology transfer, and knowledge exchange, we can make the olive value chain more sustainable, competitive, and inclusive.

On World Olive Day, let us renew our common commitment to:

- Promoting sustainable production and climate-friendly agriculture,
- Strengthening international trade based on quality and transparency,

- Supporting innovation and education as drivers of sectoral progress, and
- Upholding the values of dialogue and cooperation that unite our countries.

Esteemed Participants,

With its deep roots and enduring strength, the olive tree reminds us that true growth stems from patience, resilience, and unity. May this tree continue to guide our efforts to build a greener, fairer, and more prosperous future for all.

Once again, I extend my gratitude to the Government of Spain and the International Olive Council for their hospitality. I hope that our discussions in Córdoba will inspire stronger partnerships and meaningful progress for the olive world.

Thank you.