

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Inam Karimov,
Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Azerbaijan
at the Pre-Summit of the UN Food Systems Summit
July, 2021**

***Distinguished Colleagues,
Dear participants,***

By gathering global community under one roof for the one common target the Food Systems Summit is an exceptional opportunity in delivering progress on all United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. As a member state Azerbaijan is actively involved to this fair global process.

Organized multi stakeholder dialogues in Azerbaijan encouraged a collaborative approach in definition of the challenges and priorities for national food system transformation by 2030.

Coherently, we are now in the finalization process of shaping our national pathway.

1) Entirely digitalized agri-food system 2) ensured food safety and healthy dietary 3) enhanced climate smart production chain 4) fostered food processing and cooperate activities 5) improved scientific approach 6) reconstruction and rehabilitation of the liberated territories of Azerbaijan and their integration into value chain - defined as key action tracks for national food systems transformation.

Close collaboration of stakeholders is essential to make the shifts beneficial and this involvement should lean on strong foundations of science, as well as sharing of best practices.

We already have some progress in our national food systems transformation. The main goal is to balance this conversion with environmental protection, food security, resilient livelihood and healthy nutritious.

Furthermore – **1)increased production by application of innovations, 2) formed competitive and liberated market, 3) provided extension services with leaving no one behind, 4) ensured easy access to finance 5) youth and women empowerment** - were the basis outcomes of our development reforms.

Moreover, considering that, we are now in the process of launching our digital agriculture system this driver will remain priority under the government strategy for sustainable transformation.

Azerbaijan now is entering a strategic phase in its new post-conflict period. The main goal of the overall development policy in the coming years will be the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the liberated territories of Azerbaijan. These territories are announced as Green Energy Zones and their integration of into value chain will be also based on Smart City and Smart Village concept implementation.

Dear Colleagues,

We should already to come up from strategy to action. Boosted constructive cooperation is the main tool to make our common vision to become true. Azerbaijan, distinguished as a reliable partner is always ready contribute to inception of any effective cooperation.

At the end I wish success to the work of the pre-summit and feel confident that our combined efforts will have substantial impact to global sustainable food systems.