

Ministerial Statement for Cambodia
by
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Head of Cambodian Delegation to the Pre Food System Summit

Mr António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations
Dr Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations
Mr Mario Draghi, Prime Minister of Italy

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my great pleasure and honour to represent the Royal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia at this Pre-Summit.

I would like to share in brief outline, our proposed national commitment and roadmap for achieving sustainable food system by 2030.

Our vision is that:

*By 2030, all Cambodians will have **access to healthy diets and safe food**, with an initial focus on women and children to break the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition and attention to the nutrition transition.*

*Food systems will **nourish** Cambodia's population, strengthen local production and distribution, offer **equitable livelihoods**, be **resilient** to vulnerabilities, shocks and stresses, **steward the environment**, and help mitigate the effects of **climate change** by shifting the system towards **green growth**.*

This vision will be achieved by **expanding access to health and nutrition services, social assistance and education**, and ensuring that **agriculture and food value chains are productive, sustainable, support healthy diets and provide job opportunities** for the poor and vulnerable.

A major driver for advancing agricultural production and food systems in Cambodia lies in **innovation**, and investments for **digitization and modern technologies** across the food system.

Four specific priorities have emerged from the National Food Systems Dialogues:

1. **Healthy diets for all:** Cambodia will work across key sectors to ensure that healthy diets and safe foods are accessible to all. Achieving this objective requires multi-sectoral action to address all forms of malnutrition - including through the expansion of access to health and nutrition services; consumer awareness and education; diverse, inclusive and

competitive food value chains; healthy food environments and food safety; clean water, sanitation and good hygiene; and the provision of social assistance.

2. **Youth empowerment and social transformation:** Cambodia will work towards the creation of **job opportunities for youth** in food systems, aiming for **gender equality, decent employment, the elimination of child labour and equipping youth to become agents of change.**
3. **Resilient livelihoods and food systems:** Cambodia will address chronic and compounding vulnerabilities to strengthen resilience to shocks and stresses, and to **adapt to and mitigate** climate change, natural disasters or extreme events.
4. **Governance for a more inclusive food system:** Cambodia will continue to open the door for multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral collaboration, to make planning and implementation processes more **inclusive and participatory** at both **national and sub-national level.**

There is a need for continuing dialogue to deepen the understandings and discuss the trade-offs that have surfaced. In addition to some gaps, there are also opportunities to go further with the pursuit of common and strategic interests. We are moving forward in accordance with the instructions of the Deputy Prime Minister, H.E. **Yim Chhay Ly**, Chairman of the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development and H.E. **Veng Sakhon**, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to continue with the dialogues, to finalise the roadmap and to provide the technical assistance and support to implement the roadmap.

We look forward to the outcomes of this Pre-Summit and to the Summit itself, in progressing coalitions of interest, such as with ASEAN and other trading partners, and for the management of cross-border issues and common interests.

We must work in an inclusive and participatory manner, across stakeholders, sectors, and at national and sub-national levels, for the elimination of hunger, poverty reduction and sustainable development, ensuring that no one is left behind.

Thank you!