

Prerecorded VideoStatement

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Secretary-General [Antonio] Guterres,

(Secretary-General of the United Nations)

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(UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy to the Food Systems Summit)

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I. Introduction: Relevance of the UN Food Systems Summit

- I would like to send greetings to Rome from the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture in Berlin.
- We are here to tackle one of the **key challenges** faced by the international community:
- the **transformation of the world's food systems**
- for **more sustainability, resilience and cooperation.**
- Even **before the pandemic**, we knew that our food systems were at risk:
- poverty, **climate change, loss of biodiversity and fertile agricultural land, exploitation of natural resources** and conflicts –
- these are all factors that **endanger the reliability** of our food systems.

- At the same time, these are challenges that we can only meet hand in hand – as **one global alliance**.
- The **United Nation’s 2030 Agenda with its Sustainable Development Goals** is showing all of us the way to a **better world**.
- To a world in which the **human right to adequate food** can be realised and in which our **natural resources can be protected** at the same time.
- This is why the UN Food Systems Summit in September is of **paramount importance** to our Federal Government:
- It will **raise global awareness** of the fight against all types of malnutrition and poverty.
- We want to develop a joint **international vision** for sustainable and viable food systems.
- And we will determine what we all can and should contribute **to sustainable food systems**.
- We have to **walk the talk**.
- We have done **important groundwork** at our national dialogue.
- The UN Food Systems Summit is a chance to present these **activities** and **experiences** to an **international audience**.
- As an example, we are supporting the **World Food Programme’s school feeding coalition**.
- As a member of the **High-Level Steering Committee**, I am delighted to support healthy and sustainable school nutrition.

II. Prerequisites for future-proof and sustainable food systems

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- Germany welcomes a global transition to sustainable food systems.
- Through our **National Sustainability Strategy**, Germany is making an important contribution to the transformation of the agri-food industry.
- During Germany's Presidency of the Council of the European Union, we negotiated a **realignment of the Common Agricultural Policy**.
- This means that there will be a **system change**
- towards **better environmental protection and climate stewardship** – in **all** European Member States.
- In general, the food systems of the future should clearly identify **weaknesses** and **challenges** of the existing systems–
- including **poverty**, the noticeable **impact of climate change** and especially the **exploitation of natural resources**.
- It is essential that the pending transformation process **takes all stakeholders into consideration**.
- **Science-based findings** must become the basis of political decisions.
- **Food safety** must be guaranteed through **international standards**.
- **Public health** must be ensured by implementing the One Health approach.

- **Sustainable and healthy diets** must be promoted by means of **improved consumer information** and through **access to healthy diets**.
- **Lifelong learning** for all stakeholders must be promoted through a **systemic approach to education**.
- To achieve this, we are supporting the summit through our **EU Council conclusions**.

III. Concluding remarks

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- Germany **strongly advocates the demands** made by the **United Nations Food Systems Summit**.
- We have to
- **firstly, identify concrete measures** for the development of sustainable food systems,
- **secondly, form partnerships**, multi-stakeholder formats and coalitions for action,
- and **thirdly, establish an effective follow-up mechanism** in order to consolidate our concerted efforts.
- We must also ensure that we build on **tried and tested structures** on an international level.
- Examples of this include our support of the work done by the **Committee on World Food Security**.

- The United Nations Food Systems Summit will **be a key driver for realigning the global food system.**
- I firmly believe that this pre-summit is the right forum for the **necessary groundwork.**
- In this spirit, I wish you and all of us every success!
- Thank you very much!