

Your Excellency Sergio Mattarella - President of Italy and Host of this Pre-Summit,

UN General Secretary,
Excellencies,
All Key Players in the Global Food Systems,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Greetings to you all.

It gives me great pleasure to connect with you all in this virtual format to share with you Kiribati pathways that will lead us into the next 10 years - in transforming the way we produce, process, transport and consume food.

In the spirit of the ambitious UN Development goals and the Kiribati Vision for the next 20 years (KV20); Kiribati's one-week Food Systems National Dialogue was conducted where we managed to come together for the first time from Government - as policy, technical and financial advisors and advocates - from the Farmers and Fishermen Associations, the Private Sector and Traders, Food Vendors, Non-Governmental Organisations, and Faith-Based Groups - to share our stories, our experiences, our views, data and evidences of our respective engagements in the food system. This event also provided an opportune time for us all to articulate together pathways that can work in Kiribati to transform the Food Systems.

For the first time, we all begin to see the gaps in various aspects of the complex food system. The I-Kiribati wellbeing is right at the core of the KV20 and the SDG. This wellbeing, as we now see in light of the gaps identified during the Dialogue, appeared to take its own course outside the aspirations expressed in the KV20 and UN-SDGs. This therefore draws unanimous agreement to take immediate whole of nation action.

The National Feedback on this National Dialogue have been published on the UN Food Summit website and clearly show the gaps and our concerted pathways for the next 10 years. To capture the key findings of the event the following are presented in a continuum order of priority:

The Task Force specifically for the National Food Systems is to be set up and with the following responsibilities:

- Firstly** - To setup outreach to communities, schools and faith-based groups on the healthy lifestyle, the protection and conservation of the environment and natural resources through school curriculum review, church activities and enforcement of relevant laws;
- Secondly** - Sustainable local production of green and blue foods to receive the right level of climate smart technology and technical and financial support to be provided to farmers, fishermen, the private sector, and traders;
- Thirdly** - support to Research & Development in the areas of food processing and marine products value-adding, support to improve the local food market structure,

and interventions to make local and nutritious foods more available and accessible to the population;

And Lastly - Continuous monitoring of performance in all areas from nutrition and NCD reports, increased local production of green and blue foods, decrease in import of foods that can be locally provided, and changed lifestyle.

These are broad in themselves and will certainly create other smaller committees with tailored strategies to focus on specific tasks in improving the Food Systems. The common aim is not only to meet the SDGs and KV20 targets but to address the issues presented in the alarming evidence of the decreasing health quality of the Kiribati people and the fragile atoll environment of Kiribati.

Kiribati acknowledges that the journey on this ambitious pathway is not easy and will depend on partnerships. Thus we welcome support from all our development partners and the international community to partner with us on this important journey.

With those few words, I bestow upon us all the traditional blessings of my country of *Te Mauri, Te Raoi, ao Te Tabomoa*. – HEALTH, PEACE AND PROSPERITY.