

## **Script of Luxembourg Ministerial Statement for UNFSS translation purposes**

- Dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, it is with great pleasure that I am talking to you today.
- Food insecurity remains one of the most alarming challenges we face today, exacerbated even further by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the climate crisis. The UNFSS Pre-Summit therefore marks a unique occasion for all of us to re-think and re-shift the current food systems.
- Transforming global food systems represents a complex undertaking, affecting everyone from a local to a global level via a diverse range of sectors: from technology and environment, to gender, agriculture and health. Urgent and innovative solutions are needed!
- In this context, we need to address pertinent questions as to how financial investments can support sustainable opportunities and encourage system shifts.
- In Luxembourg, we have been actively mobilizing the financial sector for sustainable development purposes for more than two decades. We consider this catalytic role to be an essential, effective and efficient use of our ODA funds in order to achieve our common SDG goals, especially given the current economic situation.
- Local small-scale farming systems represent the backbone of local food systems and urgently need our support. Addressing their financing gap in countries where Governments are not in a position to deliver large stimulus packages is crucial to driving economic prosperity and innovation in LDCs.
- Also, climate change is one of the biggest challenges of our time. While it influences all countries, sectors, and people, not everyone is being affected in the same way. Climate change is particularly threatening to communities that rely on agriculture, forestry and fisheries - all primary economic activities deeply affected by climate conditions.
- As with COVID-19, the most vulnerable to these changes are the poor and marginalized, including rural communities dependent on natural resources for their livelihoods and for food security, as well as urban communities that are being hit by more frequent and intense flooding and storms.
- The ongoing crisis has highlighted the importance of local food production, but also the relative resilience of the agricultural sector. By leveraging this momentum through dedicated and socially oriented investment funds and inclusive financial services, we can provide added value as a donor. Investment funds, like the Luxembourg Microfinance and Development Fund (LMDF) or the Agri-Business Capital (ABC) Fund, together with IFAD, have started investing in agriculture and sustainable practices.
- I would also like to mention the Smallholder Safety Nets Upscaling Program (SSNUP), which we have recently launched in partnership with private investment funds. It aspires to provide technical assistance to smallholder farmers. Its aim is to ensure strengthened resilience of agricultural businesses, to promote environmentally friendly practices, and to increase impact-driven private investments in this underfinanced sector.
- Finally, I would like to highlight the Agri+ Program which we are implementing together with the NGO SOS Faim and which aims to support capacity building to farmers' organizations and to encourage finance sector engagement through guarantee funds as well as a credit line for the benefit of microfinance institutions. Furthermore, we support another NGO "ADA" that works

with the FAO on research and knowledge development on inclusive agricultural finance, as well as institutional and human capacity development in this area.

- These are only a few examples that show how sustainable finance can play a guiding role in reforming food systems and help us realize our vision of the 2030 Agenda.
- Before coming to a close, I would like to highlight Luxembourg's efforts concerning the provision of school meals. We are a proud member of the school meals coalition and we are looking forward to the official launch of the coalition in New York this September.
- Thank you for your attention.