

UNITED NATIONS - FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT (FSS) 2021

PRE-SUMMIT: 26 - 28 JULY 2021

ROME, ITALY

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON NATIONAL PATHWAY FOR
FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION**

Honourable Ministers

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. At the outset, let me extend my sincere appreciation to the FAO and United Nations Food Systems Summit Leadership for tireless efforts to support the Summit Process and in convening the Pre-summit. At this Pre-summit Platform, we join other Member States in our common endeavor to foster a global discourse and narrative that puts food systems at the centre of global efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
2. Towards our commitment to sustainable food systems, Malaysia has conducted various levels of national dialogue with multi-stakeholders who are involved in national food systems. We also took the leverage to provide people with the opportunity to engage, contribute and shape the national pathway.
3. This national pathway is consolidated and inline with the National Agrofood Policy (NAP) 2.0, which will be released soon, the National Nutrition Policy of Malaysia (NNPM) 2.0, the Twelfth Malaysia Plan and the National Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) Policy. It is designed to look into certain aspects of Food Systems

Transformation in order to enhance national economic development, competitiveness, and sustainability, as well as resistance to global shocks. In addition, it outlines how stakeholders may collaborate effectively to achieve a common goal, together with national key priorities.

4. Guided by our National Pathway, Malaysia is committed **to improve the livelihood of smallholder farmers and food producers**. Smallholders are the most important stakeholders in Malaysia's agrofood business, accounting for nearly 76% of the industry's players. Currently, we have paved strategic steps through the provision of various mechanisms, such as services to boost production, efficient post-harvest management, and increased market access. Furthermore, stronger partnership between smallholders and larger companies is required to instill trust and provide assurance among smallholders, as well as to stimulate the adoption of technology to innovate and progress up the value chain.
5. In order to strengthen our food systems, we are concentrating our efforts on providing **safe and sustainable food in the future for all**. Food safety and food security are two complementing elements of our sustainable future. In the long run, the aims of food safety and food security must be aligned to achieve the United Nations' SDGs. We envisage that it is important to ensure and enhance the food and nutrition security of all people, especially the vulnerable groups, via sustainable food systems, including national preparedness and response during emergencies and disasters.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

6. We can not emphasize more **supply-chain agility and resilience**, which are critical for the agrofood industry to maintain smooth operations and remain competitive under distressed conditions such as climate change, a global pandemic, and other crises, where disruptions could impact value and supply chains. In addition, food safety has been increasingly a global challenge to national food security policy, corresponding with the expanding dimensions of food supply chains.
7. **Productivity is a key factor in ensuring the long-term viability of food systems.** Adoption of technology, research and development (R&D), and innovative approaches would assist food producers in better managing agricultural activities, reducing reliance on manual labour, promoting natural resource conservation, and adapting to the effects of climate change. These elements would significantly improve the plant and animal stock, as well as the soil fertility.
8. Malaysia has also consistently taken measures **to increase responsible consumption and production.** For Malaysia, this means that the supply of food in Malaysia must be efficiently produced, processed, distributed, and consumed within the recommended dietary intake based on Malaysian Dietary Guidelines and with minimal wastage. We believe that the quality and efficiency of handling and processing food products must be embedded in the entire food system.

Thank you.