

UNFSS Pre-Summit “Pathway Statement for the United Nations Food Systems Pre-Summit”

26-28 July 2021; Rome, Italy

Talking Points of Secretary William D. Dar

1. The Philippines reiterates its support to the ambition and efforts of the United Nations Food Systems Summit. Cognizant of the complex and interlinked nature of elements and activities in the food systems, the Philippine government recognizes the need for synergies among relevant national government agencies, the Local Government Units, key stakeholders, the academe, and the private sector to transform our food systems to be responsive to the 2030 SDGs.
2. In the past several months, we conducted a series of subnational dialogues, both independent and government-led, in partnership with different stakeholders.
3. The series of dialogues brought out the perennial issues in the food systems exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Consequently, an issue paper initiated by the UN-FAO provided a wide range of discussion starters on issues and initial recommendations that inform the co-creation of the Philippines’ pathway towards food systems transformation.
4. The recently concluded National Food Systems Dialogue served as the culmination activity and aimed at building on efforts that are already underway.
5. Today, through combined efforts we are determined to move ahead to achieve our shared goals. We in the Philippine Department of Agriculture, together with the rest of the Philippine government agencies, civil society groups, UN agencies, private sector, farmer and fisher groups, and research and academe pledge to harness our

resources towards strategic interventions in the areas of policy and platforms, people, planet, and partnerships.

6. The conversations initiated by the UNFSS have given us a wealth of ideas that we will further flesh out in the coming months.
7. While we know that a decade is too short to truly and consistently reflect impactful and life-changing transformations, we are assured that even a single, small change could affect a larger whole.
8. The Philippines also recognizes that forging partnerships and coalitions with the international community, such as the Zero Hunger Coalition, can help amplify our voice, align our interventions, and provide an opportunity to leverage our network of partners in achieving our common goals, especially in eradicating poverty and hunger by the end of this decade.
9. The pathway that highlights a multi-stakeholder, multi-level, multi-faceted approach to socio-economic and sustainable change, will lead to shaping the Philippines into a country where farmers and fishers produce more than enough for their family, are prosperous and happy, where the natural resources are sustainably managed and communities are resilient, where every Filipino is healthy and never hungry, and is deeply engaged in growing a healthier and stronger nation where no one is left behind. ###