

Your Excellency Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations,
Your Excellency Agnes Kalibata, United Nations Special Envoy for the 2021 Global
Food Systems Summit,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

With the support from FAO, IFAD and UNRC, Samoa has completed a series of national dialogues which engaged numerous stakeholders to share ideas and experiences to develop a pathway in order to transform our food systems for a resilient and healthy Samoa where no one is left behind. An important outcome from our dialogues is the strengthened shared understanding about the key issues and challenges that we face with building the sustainability of our food systems, to support economic development, livelihoods, income generation, and food and nutritional security.

Food is an important part of the Samoan culture with ties to our land and ocean and is key to our people's cultural identity. Extreme hunger is not a concern in Samoa as food availability is not an issue. The real concern is access to a balanced and nutritional diet which requires a shift from consuming processed imported foods to locally produced fresh foods. This will also be key to addressing the rising burden of Non-Communicable Diseases.

Excellencies,

Samoa has developed potential game-changing systemic solutions to transform the national food systems for a resilient Samoa, and I only mention three.

- Firstly, changes in our dietary attitudes are needed to facilitate and support a transformational shift towards a healthy and nutritional balanced eating lifestyle and food culture. This shift in sustainable consumption patterns requires changes in our food policy, food environment, and consumer behaviours. This includes strategic partnerships with civil society and private sector, strengthening our food policy and regulatory systems, promoting consumption and availability of local traditional foods, enhancing nutrition education, and promoting healthy consumption patterns in our communities.
- Secondly, revitalising and promoting the use of our traditional and indigenous knowledge in sustainable agricultural practices, strengthening extension services, and improving environmental protection policy and regulatory measure are crucial to boosting nature-positive production in Samoa.
- And thirdly, tailoring our food systems policies to reach vulnerable and marginalised groups of our population, is key to success of the food systems pathway of actions for 2030. A number of our vulnerable groups are in the informal agricultural sector. Facilitating effective engagement of our vulnerable groups in food systems discussions, promoting our women and youth involvement in agriculture and food value chains, and enhancing the role of our communities and culture in developing food systems will assist in advancing equitable livelihoods in our food sector.

Based on these broad solutions, Samoa has developed a specific indicative action plan for implementation to contribute to the realization of the interrelated and mutually reinforcing pathway actions under the five Action Tracks. And in order for our food systems transformation to be successful, it requires collective commitment, investment and adequate resourcing, strong leadership, and a willingness to work collaboratively among stakeholders and development partners to adopt and effectively implement our pathway actions.

Excellencies,

Samoa is honored and grateful to be part of this three-day Global Food Systems pre-Summit. We also thank the United Nations and the Government of Italy for organizing this important event, and we look forward to joining you all at the main Summit in September. The lessons learnt and experiences shared from our discussions, will accelerate the achievement of our pathway of actions under the five Action Tracks. More importantly, it will help us realize our voluntary commitments in achieving the sustainable development goals.

Thank you for your attention, stay safe and God bless!