



THE REPUBLIC ***OF THE GAMBIA***

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

THE QUADANGLE

BANJUL

National Food Systems Dialogue Pre-Summit Statement.

July 27, 2021, Rome, Italy

Statement of the Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

President of the Conference

Prime Minister of the Republic of Italy

The Secretary General of the UN,

Deputy Secretary General of the UN

Commissioner of the FSSD

Colleague Ministers & Convenors

Distinguished Delegates

It is my singular honour to address this august body on the occasion of the World Food Systems Pre-Summit 2021. My gratitude is extended to the Italian Government for the warm welcome to the eternal city of Rome and for hosting the pre-summit.

The Pre-Summit serve as a preparatory meeting for the Food Systems Summit in September. It brings together diverse actors from around the world to leverage the power of food systems to deliver progress on all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The food systems are the sum of actors and interactions along the food value chain—from input supply and production of crops, livestock, fish,

and other food commodities to transportation, processing, wholesaling, retailing, and preparation of foods at household level, disposal and food waste management.

In The Gambia we were able to conduct regional, national and an independent (civil society and farmer organizations) dialogues which gave rise to our national pathway.

The Gambian national pathway consists of several milestones which contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030). The key milestones are: 1) Increase access to land, financing and other productive resources for women and youth, 2) Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the health delivery system, 3) Exploit sustainably the country's natural resource base, 4) Double food production, 5) Coordinate a harmonized policy environment that affect food systems, 6) Increase private sector investment in the food systems and 7) Respect regional and international fiscal obligations by Government of The Gambia.

Mr President, Your Excellences

The ideas, solutions, partnerships and action plans generated from the National Dialogues gave a unique perspective on how the food systems will contribute to attainment of Agenda 2030.

- 1) Milestones 1-4 will contribute access to safe and nutritious food, improve consumption patterns, reduce malnutrition, protect the environment, build resilience through smart Agriculture, improve quality education, improve gender equality, create jobs and enhance the sustainable use of the blue and green economies.

- 2) Milestone 5 will contribute to better understanding and communication within the government circles. This will eliminate the conflicts among policies and facilitate the implementation of projects and programmes.

- 3) Milestone 6 will contribute to developing livelihoods and reducing the gaps between regions and different strata of society by creating employment opportunities and developing infrastructure.
- 4) Milestone 7 will contribute to building partnerships, particularly, the commitment to the AU-CAADP process of allocating 10% of the national budget to agriculture as contained in the Malabo Declaration of 2014, and to our UN and regional partners.

Mr. President, Your Excellencies

Gambia in collaboration with her friends on the African continent and the Islamic Umma with who we share common values and common challenges with regards to the food systems. We are committed alongside them to finding solutions to our common problems of food and nutrition insecurity.

Likewise, in the Gambia, we recognize the importance of the school feeding program in providing safe and nutritious food to our children at a critical period of their development. So, we therefore, support the coalition on school feeding and commit ourselves to achieving the goals.

Mr. President, Your Excellencies,

Before I conclude, all the above milestones emanating from FSSD will contribute to reducing poverty and building partnerships towards the achievement of the SDGs. The Government of The Gambia is committed to the implementation of the national pathways.

In conclusion, I would like to convey my government's appreciation and gratitude to the UN Secretary General and through him the UN agencies, RCO, UNDP, FAO, and WFP for the support given to The Gambia government in the conduct of the Food Systems Summit Dialogues.

Thank you for your kind attention

