



**GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VANUATU**

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK  
FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND BIOSECURITY**

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**GOUVERNEMENT DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE DE VANUATU**

**MINISTÈRE DE L'AGRICULTURE, DE L'ÉLEVAGE,  
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Official Address by Hon. Willie Daniel Kalo

Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries, and Bio-security

Republic of Vanuatu

United Nations Food Systems Summit 2021

Pre-Summit 26-28 July, 2021

Mr. Secretary-General

Mr. Prime Minister

Excellencies, Heads of State and Governments

Distinguished Delegates:

Ladies and Gentlemen,

### **Introduction**

I have the great honour to deliver this address on behalf of the government and people of the Republic of Vanuatu.

Mr Secretary General,

At the outset, let me congratulate you on your leadership and the work of the United Nations in uniting the Globe to leverage the power of food systems to deliver progress on all 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

I also warmly greet and thank the Prime Minister and People of Italy for hosting us at this Pre-Summit in Rome.

## **Background**

Mr. Secretary General,

The people of the Republic of Vanuatu face multiple threats to their food and nutritional security.

As a Small Island Developing State, Vanuatu is rated as one of the most vulnerable to natural hazards and disasters. This vulnerability is exacerbated by global impacts of climate change, pandemics, and economic imbalances and downturns.

Vanuatu also has a youthful and rapidly increasing population which faces micronutrient deficiencies and rising rates of obesity - especially in the urban and peri-urban areas. Non-communicable diseases are now the leading cause of death and disability in the country.

Also, food safety is a major concern stemming from poor safety and hygiene practices.

## **Vision of Success**

Mr. Secretary General,

In the face of these challenges, last year 2020, Vanuatu launched its multi-sectoral Gudfala Kakae, or Good Food Policy 2020-2030. The Vision of this Good Food Policy is: *'A healthy, wealthy, food secure Vanuatu that enjoys a high quality of life'*.

The main objectives of this policy are:

- 1) Improve access to affordable, healthy diets through increased production of local food
- 2) Promote local food as the key to a sustainable and healthy diet
- 3) Increase access to appropriate technology, knowledge and skills in local food production, preservation and storage
- 4) Reduce the consumption of food imports contributing to poor health outcomes
- 5) Improve the resilience of agricultural production systems through adoption of sustainable and climate smart agricultural practices
- 6) Improve multi-sector co-ordination, implementation and monitoring of actions to address food security and safety

## **How Vanuatu "Will Get There"**

Mr. Secretary General,

The Global Food System Summit is being convened at an opportune time for Vanuatu because it serves as a global catalyst for using our Good Food Policy and Implementation Strategy to critically analyse and strengthen our Food System.

The Vanuatu Food System Dialogues are already reaching out to key stakeholders in the country and we are excited that this multisectoral engagement will help us to develop pathways to transform our Food System.

We look forward to working with the United Nations, the international community, partners, and experts to achieve our mutual 2030 Development Goals.

I thank you Mr Secretary General and God Bless you all.