



ALLIANCE OF SMALL ISLAND STATES

Food System Summit

Final statement to be delivered by Hon Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda & Chair of AOSIS on the occasion of Food System Summit

scheduled for

September 23, 2021

Secretary- General.
President of the General Assembly,
Fellow Heads of States and Governments,

Mr. President,

The end of 2021 will find us all far from delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. The COVID-19 pandemic has further pushed us away from achieving these universal goals. It is therefore important for this Food Systems Summit to offer game-changing solutions that will accelerate the pace in delivering the SDGs to all, leaving no one behind.

This Summit must be a catalyst for fast-tracking the global transformation towards a more equitable, net-zero and healthier food system that can nourish all people. Given the impact of the pandemic on small island developing states, we recognize the urgent need to transform the food system and to decrease the harmful impact on the environment and the associated risk to human health and development.

Achieving food security and improving nutrition are critical components in the implementation of and success of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Not only are both essential for SDG2 – Zero Hunger, but they are also linked to many other SDGs including SDG3 – Good Health and Well-Being, SDG12 – Responsible Consumption and Production, SDG14 – Life Below Water, and SDG15 – Life on Land, among others.

AOSIS is acutely aware that food systems are local, regional, and international and interconnected and that any substantial transformation can only be achieved by collaboration and the application of common but differentiated responsibilities.



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA AOSIS CHAIRMANSHIP 2021-2022



For SIDS with small landmass, remoteness and dispersed populations it is a constant struggle as to how to provide sustainable patterns of consumption and production. This is even further exacerbated by the adverse impacts of Climate Change, unfair trade practices, protectionism and high indebtedness. However, even with these factors that we have little control over, we continue to strive to make a better place for our citizens

We cannot continue along this path if we are to ever achieve success of the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this vein, we welcome the seven principles of engagement - act with urgency; commit to the Summit; be respectful; recognize complexity; embrace multi-stakeholder inclusivity; complement the work of others; and build trust.

And the five action tracks - ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all; shift to sustainable consumption patterns; boost nature-positive production; advance equitable livelihoods; and build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress.

Mr. President,

Recent studies conducted by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network and the UN Resident Coordinators in SIDS shows that there exists a negative relationship between the degree of structural vulnerability of countries across the world and their progress towards achieving SDG2 – Zero Hunger.

Consequently, the evidence indicates that countries with a higher degree of vulnerability face more difficulties to end hunger and achieve food security and improved nutrition. Regrettably, this is the case for small island developing states.

Food security and inadequate nutrition is a complex and multi-faceted challenge facing SIDS. However, in all its complexities, the end result is malnutrition within our small states remains increasingly grave.

Mr. President,

Food security in SIDS is a policy priority which requires coordinated efforts from different stakeholders at both the local and international level. However, given the unique vulnerabilities of SIDS and the various challenges that we face, the international community must do more.

This includes the transfer of and access to environmentally friendly technologies that will aide in the uptick of food production in our countries. We also call for continued sustainable access to healthy food including through increased global nutrition labelling policies, development of coherent public policies from production to consumption, and ensuring timely and cost-effective importation of healthy food within SIDS is not onl

Mr. President,

Finally, we call on the international community for scaled up and enhanced support, including in the areas of technical assistance, capacity-building and technology transfer, and to mobilize



additional development finance from all sources and at all levels, including on preferential terms, to support small island developing States' national plans and strategies to address food security and improving nutrition.

For SIDS, consensus over a global pathway towards sustainable food systems and adequate financing is not only vital, but also necessary for our survival, sustainable development and resilience building.

I Thank You.

