

Honorable Mr. António Guterres,

Excellences,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I have the honour to address this eminent audience today and the privilege to deliver this country statement on behalf of the Republic of Armenia at the global Summit of the UN Food Systems.

The Summit came to attest that there cannot be separate dialogues and the spirit of cooperation is necessary today more than ever to face the world's current challenges. Indeed, the Summit has been instrumental in gathering participants under one roof from different corners of the world to ponder over the most critical issues of the planet.

Within the frames of National Food Systems Dialogue a holistic approach on the priority actions for national food systems transformation has been defined to reach the national goals.

COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted supply chains around the world adversely, but also brought to the fore the need to transform traditional supply chain models as well as reaffirmed the utmost importance of adopting technology led strategy. Hence, protecting, retraining and reskilling the workforce is a major priority for us, along with investing to make the autonomous supply chain a reality.

Next, today, more than ever, growing water scarcity requires immediate actions including the development of water infrastructure and efficient use of water via usage of advanced irrigation technologies. The Government of Armenia has a dedicated commitment to implement water reform over the next five years striving to create a water sector that is economically and environmentally sustainable, that provides a secure basis for future investment, and that yields high returns to the community.

Third, we are going to increase the level of productivity in Agriculture. Furthermore, the need and relevance of increasing the level of low self-sufficient products, applying frontier technologies, implementing land reform belong to strategic priorities for the Government of Armenia.

In addition, the establishment and deepening of contractual relations for selling of agricultural products shall contribute to farm business planning, reduction of losses and increase of profitability which will serve as an important instrument for poverty reduction.

Also, we are going to mobilize our efforts on promoting investment in human capacity across all agriculture market segments and levels. This must include educational and vocational training system reform to engage youth and improve farmer skills, as well as linking the market needs to the science.

Fourth, we are going to keep focusing on food security and nutrition, as we know the effects of poor nutrition can be fatal. It is prone to the risk to food availability, particularly in the event of social and economic shocks the country and the globe faces in recent years. Hence, we have a call for action, a reminder for developing diversified food systems that can withstand global shocks.

The full implementation of the priorities highlighted is moral, social and economic imperative for us and we strongly hope that the focus of our national Strategy shall contribute to shaping the direction of food systems transformation over the coming decade.

I do believe that together we can seize the future - unleash the change that increases economic growth and makes an enormous impact on social welfare.

Security nationally and globally.

Thank you!