



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

STATEMENT

BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY DR. MOKGWEETSI E.K. MASISI
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA**

ON THE OCCASION OF THE VIRTUAL

FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT

**TO BE HELD DURING THE 76TH SESSION OF THE UNITED
NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

23rd SEPTEMBER 2021

New York, USA

- **Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government;**
- **Your Excellency Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations;**
- **Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen;**

1. Let me at the outset commend the United Nations Secretary General, Mr. Antonio Guterres for convening the first ever United Nations Food Systems Summit and for according my country the opportunity to take part in the deliberations.
2. This Summit and what it is anchored on, which is food systems, could not have come at an opportune time, as the whole of humanity is currently struggling to come to terms with the debilitating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has not spared any nation.
3. The 2021 Food Systems dialogues have given us an opportunity to introspect and devise game changers that will revolutionize our food system. We have thus mapped a clear pathway for transforming our food system to 2030 and beyond.

4. This pathway is premised on six focus areas which are; food production, value creation and markets, nutrition and diet, job creation, technology adoption as well as policy and governance.
5. The main focus in this regard will be to increase sustainable climate resilient food production, increasing sustainable value creation and private sector development, promoting regional and international trade in agriculture commodities.
6. It will also entail improving nutrition and sustainable consumption, promoting decent employment in agriculture, supporting the development and deployment of new technologies that help agriculture to adapt to changing environmental conditions as well as strengthening institutional capacity for long term food system governance.
7. Some of the low hanging fruits in this endeavour will include the control of food losses from production to storage, to processing up to consumption and inclusion of indigenous foods in the local food system.

8. There will also be need to intensify collaborations with other nations for mutual benefit.
9. Before I conclude my remarks, Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Governments, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, let me take this opportunity to confirm two things: Firstly, I wish to reiterate my country's endorsement of the Africa Common Position. The document has clearly articulated our development aspirations as a nation.
10. Secondly, I wish to confirm my country's commitment to the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit outcomes; fast-tracking the game-changing solutions will not only transform Botswana food system and achieve the 2030 Agenda, but will also help us in our efforts towards the achievement of the African Union's Agenda 2063, and Malabo Declaration amongst others.

I thank you for your attention.
