

Prerecorded Video-Statement of H. E. Mr. Costas Kadis, Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment of Cyprus, for the United Nations Food Systems Summit, 23 September 2021

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

I am honored to represent the Republic of Cyprus at the United Nations Food Systems Summit, which is fully supported by my country.

This important Summit is convened in the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic, in a world facing climate and biodiversity extremities, and suffering from conflicts and uncertainty for the future. The Pre-Summit held in Rome in July, highlighted the imminent role that transformative investments in food systems can play in driving our recovery from the pandemic and getting us back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Food systems need to be sustainable and provide healthy and affordable diets for all. Ending world hunger and ensuring the right to food for every person is of paramount importance.

Excellencies,

Cyprus faces the severe impact of climate change and has a serious water scarcity problem. For this reason, we continue to invest in more efficient management of our water resources.

The health of our citizens and especially our children is of utmost importance. To this end, we provide school meals with fresh fruits and vegetables, which have multiple health benefits and play an important role in achieving the SDGs.

Cyprus is considering joining the School Meals Coalition as well as other selected Coalitions to ensure the deliverance of sustainable pathways around our planet.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have already joined, the inscription of the Mediterranean Diet as an “Intangible Human Heritage” by UNESCO and later the Alliance for the Principles of the Mediterranean Diet, recognizing the importance of healthy food and the Mediterranean Diet’s capacity to contribute positively to the 2030 Agenda.

Through its National Sustainability Strategy and the tools that the new Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union provides, Cyprus paves the way for the efficient transformation of its agri-food industry to better protect the environment, deal with climate change and improve food safety and public health.

To conclude, this Summit offers us the opportunity to take the needed action and guidance for the transformation of our food systems. We must act NOW for the sake of future generations!

Thank you very much for your attention.