

Democratic Republic of Congo



**PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC
OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF STATE
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGEMENT**

**SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY MR.
FÉLIX-ANTOINE TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO,
PRESIDENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO,
HEAD OF STATE, PRESIDENT OF THE AFRICAN UNION
ON THE OCCASION OF THE UNITED NATIONS SUMMIT ON FOOD
SYSTEMS**

New York - UNITED STATES, Thursday September 23, 2021



**Excellency, President of the United Nations General Assembly
Excellency, the Secretary General of the United Nations
Excellencies, Dear Colleagues, Heads of State and Government
Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the 2021 United Nations Food
Systems Summit
Ladies and Gentlemen, Any Protocol Observed**

I thank the Secretary General of the United Nations for inviting me to this Summit on Food Systems, where I will outline Africa's common position.

Africa plans to double food production by sustainably increasing productivity through the adoption of high-yielding agricultural varieties, while supporting research to develop biotechnology and innovation.

As you all know, climate change is having a negative impact on food systems. Africa emits the least greenhouse gases but is the most impacted by the actions of others. We are seeing extreme weather events like rising temperatures, prolonged droughts, floods and landslides in various parts of the continent. We call on all UN Member States to implement their commitments under the Paris Agreement on climate change, and rich countries to support the poorest countries to cope with and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted our food systems. We hope that the results of this summit will help our Member States to better rebuild and create resilient food systems.

Thanks to the African Continental Free Trade Area, Africa is open for business. However, we want to trade with each other and with the rest of the world in a mutually beneficial way. Africa must feed itself and depend less on food imports; we intend to invest in infrastructure and improve food safety compliance and standards. We are also committed to reducing endemic non-tariff barriers at the border in order to stimulate trade.

We call on our Member States to adopt the multisectoral approach to transforming food systems and encourage them to join the various partnerships and coalitions being created to advance solutions favorable to Africa's common position and national interests.

In order to support our Member States, we call for the establishment, under the initiative of the African Development Bank, of a financing mechanism for food and nutrition security in Africa.



Finally, we must have a monitoring system to measure progress and hold each other accountable for the outcome of the Summit, as is the case with the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP). We are ready to consider modifying the latter to integrate the food systems approach into monitoring progress towards 2030, and to share our lessons and experiences with the rest of the world.

Thank you.