

Mr. Chairman
H.E. Antonio Gutter, UN Secretary General
Excellencies, Heads of State and Government
Distinguished Heads of Delegation
Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me first extend my appreciation to the organizers of this important event.

In Eritrea the challenge of food production starts from our location. As we find ourselves in the Sahel region, which is water stressed zone, a huge work of soil and water conservation in general, and water harvesting in the form of ponds and dams in particular, is imperative. Over the last three decades, the Government constructed hundreds of small and big multipurpose dams. The big dams have adequate infrastructures around them in order to lay the ground for modern farming.

Improved seeds, and better agricultural practices are helping us in boosting production and productivity.

However, producing enough to eat is one thing, and ensuring the right nutrition is another thing. For this we have developed a very clear strategy for our small holder farmers and our small and medium commercial farmers with the aim of practicing climate smart, intensive and integrated agriculture combining crops and livestock.

Moreover, Eritrea recorded remarkable success in nutrition intervention at community level through micronutrients deficiency control programs (particularly iron, vitamin A and iodine). Consequently, Eritrea achieved a Vitamin A supplementation of 96% among children under the age of 5. In addition, integrated management of acute malnutrition, together with maternal and neo-natal health services, have been expanded in all health facilities.

We are also increasing fish production and consumption from our maritime and freshwater sources.

Better production and better nutrition, however, is not going to be sustainable and resilient unless we address the environmental and safety issues.

Owing to the cross-cutting nature of environmental challenges like climate change, land degradation and bio-diversity loss, great efforts have been made to mainstream environmental issues in all sectors.

To address the safety issues, the government is promoting and launching liquid and solid bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides produced from locally available materials.

This will also strengthen the resilience of the people to environmental and other shocks like COVID-19 and outbreak of desert locust against which we are doing very fine.

In conclusion, Eritrea believes that the combined knowledge, skills and experiences of the global community will lead us all to a better and more sustained food system.

I thank you for your attention.