

**STATEMENT BY H.E THE RT HON PRIME MINISTER**

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**VIRTUAL UNITED NATIONS FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT**

**NEW YORK, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

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UN Secretary General

Heads of States and Governments

Distinguished delegates

The Kingdom of Eswatini is honoured to join the global community in supporting the implementation of Agenda 2030. We agree that the Food System Approach needs to be mainstreamed into our policies and programmes to ensure inclusive and sustainable development for all.

Excellences, we are excited that our national planning framework has integrated Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063, recognising the Food System Approach as we accelerate the progress of the country's pathway towards achieving these goals.

We have prioritised some solutions to achieve sustainable food systems by 2030. They include the following:

- **Value chains structuring through development of commodity Sector Development Plan Agreements**, where opportunities based on potential, set targets, required investments and objectives for each

commodity will be identified with specific roles for private and public sectors.

- **Improving Public financing mechanism through the establishment of an Agriculture Development Fund** with financing facilities for de-risking agriculture value chains.
- **Improving coordination of players through the establishment of Agriculture Industry Associations** for farmers, traders, service providers and processors to improve organisation, systematic planning and linkages along the value chains.
- **Reviewing and re-engineering institutional arrangements** to create an environment that will support and enable marketing boards to fulfil their mandates as outlined in the legislative framework.
- **Supporting Integrated Digital Agri-data and Information Systems** to establish farmer registration, product scheduling, and agriculture commodity exchange platform for key commodities.
- **Up-scaling food security and nutrition programmes;** where poor and vulnerable households will be supported to produce their own food.

As I conclude, may I extend our appreciation to our partners who have continued to support our food systems in the country and invite others to do same.

I thank you and wish you fruitful deliberations.