

UNITED NATIONS SUMMIT
ON FOOD SYSTEMS

COMMUNICATION BY MADAME ROSE CHRISTIANE OSSOUKA RAPONDA, PRIME
MINISTER, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT

PRONOUNCED IN THE NAME OF

H.E.M. ALI BONGO ONDIMBA
PRESIDENT OF THE GABONESE REPUBLIC

LIBREVILLE, SEPTEMBER 23, 2021,
IN VIRTUAL MODE

Ladies and Gentlemen, Heads of State and Government;
Mr. Secretary General of the United Nations;

Ladies and Gentlemen, National Coordinators of National Consultations;

Ladies and Gentlemen, Heads of Diplomatic Missions;

Ladies and Gentlemen, Technical and Financial Partners;

Ladies and gentlemen

Allow me, at the beginning of my remarks and first of all, to convey to you the warm greetings of His Excellency Mr. Ali BONGO ONDIMBA, President of the Gabonese Republic, who entrusts me to send you his regrets for not being able to take part personally at this World Summit on Food Systems.

Also, the President of the Gabonese Republic has done me the great honor of representing him at this meeting which focuses on the resilience of the food systems of our States.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Heads of State and Government,

Ladies and gentlemen,

This Summit comes almost two years after the outbreak of the global health crisis of COVID-19, which has disrupted our societies and our life together, claimed millions of lives around the world, shook many economies by undermining systems food from our various nations, because of the confinements we had to resort to, to protect our populations.

Our Work is also taking place, at a time when our planet is facing an unprecedented climate change with the erosion of its biodiversity on the one hand, and when the African continent must take its food sovereignty in hand to feed in a way. more autonomous its population and generate jobs, in the spirit of achieving the SDGs, on the other hand.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Heads of State and Government,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is aware of the importance of the challenges it faces as a State and because our country is located in the heart of the Congo Basin, one of the two great green lungs of the planet, that Gabon under the impulse of the President of the Gabonese Republic, HE Mr. Ali BONGO ONDIMBA, is committed to intensify the process of diversification of its economy, based on the inclusion of women and young people and on the preservation of the environment, among others.

With this in mind, the Transformation Acceleration Plan that my Government has implemented has placed the agricultural sector at the heart of the priorities of our new development model.

This Plan results in the provision of the greatest number of agricultural land whose land titles are secured, by facilitated access to inputs or by quality support, both for small producers and foreign direct investors.

It is also within the framework of the said Plan that Gabon has acquired in recent years a system to control its greenhouse gas emissions and protect its biodiversity.

One of the most tangible levers is the creation of 13 national parks and 20 marine protected areas, 1/3 of our Exclusive Economic Zone.

In addition to this system, various organizations have been created such as the Gabonese Agency for Space Studies and Observations (AGEOS) as well as the National Land Allocation Commission (CNAT). To further preserve our environment, Gabon has also adopted, at the legal level, an ordinance on climate change.

All these efforts contribute to the preservation of our forest and the richness of its biodiversity. This forest now absorbs nearly 100 million tonnes of carbon per year!

Ladies and Gentlemen, Heads of State and Government,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is with conviction and determination that our country has embarked on the preparation of this Summit, which has been the subject of inclusive national consultations.

From these consultations, the following clearly emerged:

- Gabon must perpetuate its policy of combating climate change, while benefiting from the maximum support of the international community, in particular with regard to the transformation of the human-wildlife conflict into peaceful and harmonious cohabitation between man and fauna;

- the development of short supply chains will promote the development of national production that is more resilient to shocks, able to offer national producers decent remuneration;
- the requirements in terms of nutritional quality, quantitative production needs, preservation of animal health integrity and limitation of the environmental impact of productive activities are inseparable;
- efforts to consolidate the legal and financial framework in order to support the private sector in this area must be continued and intensified.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Heads of State and Government,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Gabon is resolutely committed to the transition to a more inclusive, fairer and more sustainable economy, therefore more respectful of the environment.

We would therefore like to invite all States to adopt a Roadmap based on policies that reconcile the ability to achieve food self-sufficiency and the preservation of our planet. Only in our opinion, together and in solidarity, will we succeed in meeting this challenge!

Thank you.