

FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT STATEMENT
BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT
ADAMA BARROW

23rd September 2021, NEWYORK USA

The Gambia stands on all protocols to extend it's appreciation for participating on the World Food Systems Summit 2021.

Excellences distinguished Delegates, good morning.

It is my singular honour and privilege to address this august body on the occasion of the World Food Systems Summit 2021 which brought together diverse food system actors from around the world to leverage the power of food systems to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic and to deliver progress on all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This will be a peoples and solution centred summit and participation of everyone everywhere is important.

Excellences, Ladies and gentlemen,

“In The Gambia we were able to conduct Regional, National and an Independent (civil society and farmer organizations) dialogues which gave rise to our national pathway.

The Gambian National Pathway consists of several milestones that will contribute to the Covid -19 recovery process and put us back on track towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030). The Dialogues culminated in to seven key milestones thus:-

1. Increase access to land, financing and other productive resources for women youth and differently abled persons.
2. Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the health delivery system,

3. Exploit sustainably the country's natural resource base,
4. Double food production.
5. Coordinate a harmonized policy environment that affect food systems,
6. Increase private sector investment in the food systems and
7. Respect regional and international fiscal obligations by Government of The Gambia.

Excellences, Ladies and gentlemen,
The ideas, solutions, partnerships and action plans generated from the National Dialogues gave a unique perspective on how the food systems will contribute to the attainment of Agenda 2030.

- 1) Milestones 1-4 will contribute access to safe and nutritious food, improve consumption patterns, reduce malnutrition, protect the environment, build resilience through smart Agriculture, improve quality education, improve gender equality, create jobs and enhance the sustainable use of the blue and green economies.
- 2) Milestone 5 will contribute to better understanding and communication within the government circles to eliminate the conflicts among policies and facilitate the implementation of projects and programmes.
- 3) Milestone 6 will contribute to developing livelihoods and reducing the gaps between regions and different strata of society by creating employment opportunities and developing infrastructure.

4) Milestone 7 will contribute to building partnerships, particularly, the commitment to the AU-CAADP process of allocating 10% of the national budget to agriculture as contained in the Malabo Declaration of 2014, and to our UN and regional partners.

5) Excellences, Ladies and gentlemen,

We recognize and are committed to the importance of the school feeding program in providing safe and nutritious food to our children at a critical period of their development and we therefore, support the coalition on school feeding and commit ourselves to achieving the goals.

Excellences, Ladies and gentlemen,

In conclusion, The Government of The Gambia is committed to the implementation of the national pathways emanating from the Food System Summit Dialogues.

I would like to convey my government's appreciation and gratitude to the UN Secretary General and through him the UN agencies, United Nation's Resident Coordinator's Office, UNDP, FAO, and WFP for the support given to The Gambia government in the conduct of the Food Systems Summit Dialogues.

Thank you for your kind attention