



STATEMENT

**HIS EXCELLENCY DOCTOR ALEJANDRO GIAMMATTEI FALLA,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA**

FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT 2021

(English version)

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN;

ALLOW ME TO GIVE YOU A WARM AND CORDIAL GREETING ON BEHALF OF GUATEMALA. THANK YOU FOR THE INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT.

GUATEMALA IN LINE WITH THE PRIORITIES ESTABLISHED IN THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT POLICY 2020-2024, MADE A COMMITMENT TO HAVE A PROACTIVE PARTICIPATION TO GENERATE TANGIBLE RESULTS.

IN THIS FRAMEWORK, MY COUNTRY PRIORITIZED THE ACTION TRACK NUMBER 1: "ENSURE ACCESS TO SAFE AND NUTRITIOUS FOOD FOR ALL", TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THAT THE FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION, HAS BEEN A FUNDAMENTAL PILLAR SINCE THE FIRST DAY OF MY GOVERNMENT.



GUATEMALA HAS CONDUCTED THREE NATIONAL DIALOGUES, IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND OUR CHALLENGUES AND LOOK FORWARD TO FIND SOLUTIONS, WHICH CAN BE REPLICATED.

MORE THAN FOUR HUNDRED PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT FOOD SYSTEMS SECTORS AND FROM THE EIGHT GUATEMALAN REGIONS, ATTENDED THIS EVENT. AMONG THEM, I HIGHLIGHT THE PUBLIC SECTOR INSTITUTIONS, ACADEMIA, INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, WOMEN ´S ORGANIZATIONS, AND PRIVATE SECTOR.

AS A RESULT, WE ESTABLISHED AN INTERINSTITUTIONAL ROADMAP, WITH SHORT- AND LONG-TERM GOALS AND ACTIONS BASED ON OUR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN, AND THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

ONE OF THEM IS THE GREAT NATIONAL CRUSADE FOR NUTRITION, WHICH HAS THE OBJECTIVE OF IMPROVING THE HEALTH AND NUTRITION OF THE GUATEMALAN POPULATION, WITH AN EMPHASIS ON CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF FIVE, HIGHLIGHTING FOOD PRODUCTION, EDUCATION, SUSTAINABLE HOUSEHOLDS AND GOOD PRACTICES, AMONG OTHERS.

WITH ITS EXCEPTIONAL GREOGRAPHICAL LOCATION, GUATEMALA IS A COUNTRY WITH A VARIETY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND WITH A CLIMATE WELL-SUITED FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. HOWEVER, IT IS A HIGHLY VULNERABLE TERRITORY TO THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE. EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS SUCH AS FLOODS, CYCLONES AND DROGHTS, THAT CAUSE LAND DEGRADATION, ARE DEVASTATING FOR AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS.



WE FIRMLY BELIEVE IN ~~ALIGNING~~ EFFORTS WITH ALL STAKEHOLDERS AT NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL. THEREFORE, WE ARE COMMITTED TO: 1) STRENGTHENING SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAMS; 2) STRENGTHENING OF LOCAL PRODUCTION AND ITS LINKAGE WITH CONSUMERS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL; 3) THE PROMOTION OF EDUCATION ON CONSUMPTION OF HEALTHY FOODS; AND 4) GENERATION OF RESILIENCE.

WE MUST ADD ACTIONS AND NOT DUPLICATE EFFORTS, PROVIDING TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO GENERATE IMPACTS TOGETHER.

IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE PRE-SUMMIT, GUATEMALA JOINED THE COALITION OF ZERO HUNGER; AND TO THE SCHOOL FOOD COALITION, ON WHICH WE HAVE BEEN WORKING HARD.

THE SCHOOL MEALS COALITION REPRESENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO ARRANGE ACTIONS WITH THE NATIONAL SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM, TO ENSURE THAT ALL CHILDREN HAVE ACCESS TO HEALTHY MEALS AT SCHOOL BY 2030, SO THAT THE CHILDREN HAVE ACCESS TO NUTRITION, HEALTH AND EDUCATION, FUNDAMENTAL PILLARS FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT.

FROM OUR PARTICULARITIES, WE HIGHLIGHT THE COMMITMENT TO PROMOTE AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION, FAIR TRADE AND ACCESS TO FOOD.



I CONCLUDE BY THANKING THE SUPPORT OF THE COUNTRY'S OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM, AS WELL AS THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES: FAO, IFAD, WFP, UNDP AND UNICEF IN GUATEMALA.

I INVITE THE AUTHORITIES HERE AND ALL THOSE WHO ARE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY PART OF THE FOOD CHAIN, TO ACT TOGETHER, URGENTLY AND WITHOUT DELAYS TO OBTAIN THE RESULTS THAT LEAD US TO SUSTAINABLE, RESILIENT, AND INCLUSIVE FOOD SYSTEMS.

THANK YOU SO MUCH, GOD BLESS YOU.