

Statement
United Nations Food Systems Summit (FSS)
76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
(September 23, 2021)

03:00 mins

Mr. Secretary General,

I commend you for the insightful manner in which you have steered preparations for this Summit.

Food is essential to human existence and therefore central to the attainment of each Sustainable Development Goal (SDG). As part of our efforts to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in the Decade of Action for delivery of the SDGs this year's focus on food will play no small part in the global recovery efforts.

The reversal of development gains, the frequency of extreme weather effects and economic contraction are among the daunting challenges confronting both developed and developing countries alike. However, the difference lies in our differing capabilities to respond to these challenges.

This Summit can help narrow these gaps. It also presents an opportunity to contribute to efforts to eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities, address the climate crisis, and promote resilient and sustainable futures. By focusing on solutions and transformative actions, we are collectively laying a good foundation to sustain momentum on food security.

Mr. Secretary-General

Guyana is committed to the sustainable and equitable transformation of food systems. Our efforts to do so are rooted in our commitment to the 2030 Agenda. We are also wedded to the goals of ensuring access to safe and nutritious food for everyone, the reduction of on-farm and post-harvest waste and loss and the implementation of a circular food economy.

We are focused on de-risking the agriculture sector, implementing the use of innovative technologies, developing climate-smart practices, and increasing investments in disaster preparedness and response.

We also are promoting greater food security by:

- Investing in Research and Development, especially in the development of climate-resilient crops and varieties;
- Diversifying agricultural production and catalysing agro-processing; and
- Investing in agricultural-support infrastructure such as drainage and irrigation and better farm to market roads, packaging facilities

As part of our efforts to provide safe and nutritious food for all, Guyana has adopted measures to consolidate its National School Feeding Programme. We are strengthening the linkages and synergies between consumers and food producers, so as to deliver safe, healthy and nutritious school meals. This will also help provide small farmers with a guaranteed market for a portion of their produce.

Climate change poses a threat to food security. Financing to for mitigation and adaptation to climate change is critical and integral to our efforts to improve local and regional food security. These priorities, which I have outlined, continue to drive our sustained engagement in the Summit process.

Guyana expresses its appreciation for providing a platform for us to advance global food security. I assure you of Guyana's full commitment to this objective.

I thank you.