

# **Statement of the Republic of Korea**

**by H.E. Mr. Kim Hyeon-soo**

**Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs**

**of the Republic of Korea**

at the United Nations Food Systems Summit (23 September)

-----

Greetings from Korea!

It is my honor to speak at this United Nations Food Systems Summit on behalf of the Republic of Korea.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres for preparing today's Summit.

I agree with the Secretary-General's Statement of Action that transformation into sustainable food systems is essential to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused food supply disruptions and increased the number of hungry people. This reminds us that food systems have a huge impact on us, such as in the areas of poverty and inequality.

Food systems transformation should be implemented with participation and support of all stakeholders.

In particular, small-scale producers, workers, women and youth should be taken into account in this process.

Agreeing on these approaches, the Republic of Korea has devised its National Food Plan. I would like to outline three important points for sustainable food systems.

First, food security.

In order to provide food stably, the building of infrastructure, disaster response, and transparent trade should be promoted.

Local production for local consumption is also important.

Second, environmental sustainability.

Carbon neutral food production is needed to cope with the effects of climate change.

Also, food loss and waste should be effectively reduced.

Third, healthy diet accessibility.

Low-income families, children, pregnant women, and elderly people should be provided with proper food and nutrition.

Food safety should be assured through better policies and regulations.

For global food systems transformation, all the member states and international organizations need to work together.

Korea has been cooperating to take action for zero hunger, school meals, research and development for climate action and so on. In the future, we will work further to improve food systems with the global community.

I hope this Summit serves as a turning point for achieving the SDGs.

Thank you.