

**Mr. Chairman of the General Assembly of the United Nations,**

**Mr. Secretary General of the United Nations**

**Ladies and Gentlemen, Heads of State and Government**

**Your Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

It is a great honor for me to speak today before this august assembly whose purpose is to provide adequate solutions to the challenges of food insecurity, malnutrition and morbidity through the establishment of sustainable, efficient food systems adapted to the needs of our populations.

I would therefore like to congratulate the Secretary General of the United Nations for having taken this initiative and to thank all the Heads of State and Government who have supported this undertaking and contributed to the successful preparation and holding of this summit.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The stakes of this summit are high, because the establishment of such food systems will be decisive if we want to continue to nurture the hope of achieving the sustainable development goals by 2030, because the implications on poverty reduction, health, nutrition, the environment, and even on peace and security are obvious.

This is particularly true in countries like mine, Mauritania, which is facing chronic food insecurity, aggravated by climate change that affects our vegetation cover and degrades our arable land, and which ultimately threatens the development of the productivity of our livestock and marine fauna.

These factors particularly affect our most vulnerable populations, who live in rural areas, but also negatively impact the economic development of our country.

Thus, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania has decided to invest in priority in the improvement of agricultural production, animal resources, and the rationalization of the management of our fisheries.

The national consultations, totally open and inclusive, that were held in preparation for this summit, have led in a preliminary manner to conclusions which were presented to you during the Pre-Summit in Rome last July, and which have allowed a certain number of actions to emerge which, if implemented, would allow us to achieve the objectives of our summit.

Our national consultations recommend that efforts be directed more towards creating the conditions for the development of small-scale farming. Small-scale agriculture is, in the opinion of the actors of the national consultations, the key to resilient food systems. It has great potential to be the foundation of sustainable food systems. There is no doubt that small-scale farms primarily serve national and local markets, invest and spend in local economies, create jobs and opportunities.

They also emphasize the need to promote a national industrial fabric to add value to local food production and its derivatives, in order to reduce our dependence on imports and lay the groundwork for meaningful economic and social development for our country.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The wealth gap that characterizes our world today is unsustainable. It weakens the most vulnerable states by fueling conflicts and social instability, and threatens the most prosperous states with uncontrolled and increasingly uncontrollable migratory flows.

This shows, if it were necessary, to what extent our World is one and that the security of each one depends on the security of all and that it is impossible to preserve the prosperity of each one if we do not ensure the resilience of all.

This is why a new impulse of solidarity is urgently needed so that developing countries can invest massively in healthy and sustainable food systems. For this to happen, increased cooperation must be established at the international level to accelerate the technology and know-how transfer, to make available adequate financing to the countries that need it most, through new resources, but also the cancellation of debt, which our country never ceases to call for because it is essential to lay new foundations for development and stability, especially in our Sahelian zone, which is facing multiple challenges that our countries will not be able to face as long as they are burdened by an unsustainable debt.

Ladies and Gentlemen

I won't conclude without announcing Mauritania's adherence and full support to the many coalitions that have already been announced in Rome, and we stand ready to support any initiative that will lead to greater solidarity in achieving the objectives of this summit.

I thank you.