



REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

STATEMENT

by H.E. Mr. Viorel Gherciu

**Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry of the Republic of Moldova
at the United Nations Food System Summit 2021**

(23 September)

Your Excellences!

I would like to express my deep gratitude for the invitation to attend this high-level event related to food systems.

I regret that, we are limited to a virtual format of our discussions, due to the pandemic situation, but I really hope, that with joint efforts, we will soon return to normality.

During my brief statement, I would like to speak about our national perspectives on the contributions that food systems can realize the vision of the 2030 Agenda in the Republic of Moldova.

For the Republic of Moldova, the agro-industrial sector is certainly more than a priority on the Government agenda, as well as an important chain for the national economy, with a GDP share over 21% and a significant share of 36% of the employed population involved in this sector. These indicators are vulnerable to a number of complex challenges, such as: climate change, economic fluctuations and, more recently – the effects of COVID-19 pandemic – with a negative impact on the sustainable development path for the food systems.

These social-economic effects caused by the pandemic demonstrated once again the importance of agricultural sector sustainable development and motivated the Government to increase the immunity of the agricultural sector and to develop a National Strategy on Agriculture and Rural Development for the next 7 years. The strategy will have a holistic approach and will be focused on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals with the following priorities: adaptation and mitigation of the climate change, increasing the competitiveness, environmental protection, development of rural areas, restoring balance in the food chain, landscape conservation and biodiversity, food safety and food quality protection.

I would like to mention that the Republic of Moldova has launched a platform of the Summit of National Dialogues for the Food System where are set the main issues in the area, through extensive consultations with the public and private sector, as well as the involvement of academia and civil society organizations.

I am firmly convinced that the summit will generate innovative ideas, partnerships and multi-stakeholder dialogues to better understanding food systems perspectives and to design actions to overcome current challenges and vulnerabilities.

Building sustainable food systems and healthy nutrition patterns is essential for achieving 2030 Agenda and creating a healthy and prosperous environment for our future generations.

Your Excellences,

As closing remarks, I want to thank you on behalf of the Republic of Moldova for all the provided support, ensuring you that our country will continue to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development oriented to the benefit of the citizens of our country.

I thank you for your kind attention and I wish you success in achieving the goals you have set!