

ENGLISH VERSION

PARTICIPATION H.E. MARÍA INÉS CASTILLO DE SANMARTÍN

From the heart of the world, Panama, we greet with optimism, conviction and commitment, this unprecedented Food Systems Summit convened by the United Nations, as part of the Decade of Action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

The process of citizen and multisectoral dialogues carried out by Panama, within the framework of the Food Systems Dialogues, was assumed with responsibility due to its relevance and how it aligns with our vision of national development and the commitment we maintain to continue closing inequity gaps with concerted actions among the multiple stakeholders. These dialogues provided us with a new opportunity to amend the weaknesses of our food chains. In addition, it has strengthened our perspective towards the achievement of genuinely sustainable human development that is sensitive to differences in our population.

With eight national and subnational dialogues, we generated evidence to leverage a vision for national health, within the framework of the Decade of Action for the SDGs.

Hundreds of Panamanians throughout the country reiterated the need to strengthen the food system. Our agro-logistic infrastructure needs to expand its capacity to integrate many Panamanians who cannot benefit from local food systems, both for highly nutritious consumption and to offer food competitively.

With support from the national government, multiple food systems actors joined forces to address the effects of COVID-19 on national food production and distribution, ensuring the success of social interventions such as the "Panama Solidario" program, the largest free food strategy in Panama's history.

We have proposed a roadmap directly aligned with our National Strategic Plan, integrates actions to meet the SDGs. This will allow us to directly follow up the process that brings us together today at this Summit, using proven and consolidated mechanisms to monitor the 2030 Agenda.

Today, at this summit on Food Systems, Panama reiterates and confirms that this is not a Summit of despondency, much less of pity. We have not come to lament. This is the Summit of hope, of confidence in ourselves; we are inspired by our children, in guaranteeing them a life of dignity, health and well-being.

Thank you.