

## **UN FOOD SYSTEM SUMMIT – NEW YORK**

### *STATEMENT OF THE STATE OF QATAR*

Your excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen, heads of delegations

It is with great enthusiasm that Qatar welcomed the Secretary General's initiative to organize this Global Food Summit with the topics raised and the urgency it deserves, encouraging all member states to put Food System transformation high on the agenda. In line with the ambitions of this Summit it was already in Qatar's Vision for 2030 to build a high performing food system that supports our diversified and competitive economy and improves our standards of living, whilst also achieving perpetual harmony between economic, social and environmental development. In short, prosperity for our people, our planet and our economy.

In Qatar food security became an issue of national security overnight not so long ago. Today our food system is widely recognized as resilient and a model for others. We effectively coped with significant shocks in our food supply and bounced back stronger than before. The credit for this goes to the concerted effort of many of you friendly nations abroad and a wide range of public and private sector stakeholders at home.

Ladies and gentlemen

Qatar organized the National Food System Dialogue bringing food system stakeholders, public and private sector parties. We obtained a strong mandate to tackle the issue of food waste and food loss with some of our retailers already voluntarily committed to the 2030 SDG goal of a 50% reduction. Various actors stressed the need to consider further incentives to improve the economic feasibility and attractiveness of local food production and food manufacturing in Qatar, improved quality standards and cost sharing programs for infrastructure upgrades and improvements. But also, to improve the market incentives for our ambitious local producers to adopt year-round and environmentally friendly production methods.

In summary the Dialogue discussions inspired all participants to think about strengthening the resilience of our current food system but also to prepare for a future of global warming and resource scarcity - not only at home but also abroad.

From this conference, the State of Qatar stresses the importance of the international community uniting to develop and enforce international regulatory frameworks that will prevent food supplies of any country to be cut off in times of conflict. Convinced I am that we can, and should, protect each other against the violation of a simple basic human right: access to food under all conditions.

We are convinced that we can and must protect each other against the violation of a simple human right: access to food in all circumstances.

Thank you, and all the best for the conference,