



Statement by
Honourable Laáuli Leuatea Polataivao Fosi
Minister of Agriculture & Fisheries

“UN Food Systems Summit 2021”
23rd September 2021, New York, USA

Talofa lava and greetings from Samoa!

Heads of State and Government,
Honourable Ministers,
UN Secretary-General, Mr. António Guterres,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

This Global Food Summit is timely, as we strive to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The COVID-19 and climate change parallel challenges, call for game-changing solutions. Border restrictions and disruptions in food supply chains further emphasize the importance of sustainable food systems. The challenge for us in the Pacific is to put in place resilient food systems and to recognize the critical importance of integrating what the land produces and what the ocean provides.

Food remains an integral part of the Samoan culture with ties to our land and ocean. Increased dependence on imported processed foods, fueled by changing dietary habits; vulnerability to climate change, rising burden of Non-Communicable Diseases, and limitations of a small island economy, pose challenges in ensuring sustainable food systems that can cater for

Samoa's growing population. A sustainable ocean platform recognizes that everyone has a part to play in food security and nutritious food for all.

Excellencies,

With the support from the United Nations, we completed our Samoa Food Systems Pathway 2030, as an outcome from our national food system dialogues, which includes five key systemic solutions, to transform our national food systems and also help achieve the 2030 Agenda, to pave the way for a resilient and healthy Samoa.

For our transformation to be successful, it requires collective commitment, investment and required resources. Strong leadership and partnerships as well as good stakeholder collaboration are vital to the effective implementation of our pathway initiatives.

Excellencies,

It has been an honour and privilege for Samoa to be part of the Food Systems Summit process over the last 18 months. The solutions highlighted throughout this summit, will drive transformative actions, and contribute to the UN Decade of Action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Thank you for your attention and God bless.