

**Statement by President of the Republic of Seychelles
Mr Wavel Ramkalawan
UN Food Systems Summit 2021
23rd September 2021**

**Your Excellency António Guterres, UN Secretary General,
Heads of State,
Ministers
Delegates**

Seychelles is grateful to be part of the United Nations global initiative to reshape and atone the global food systems in the pursuit of greater prosperity, food sovereignty and the attainment of the SDGs.

As a Small Island Developing State, our current food system depends predominantly on imported commodities and as such, we are highly exposed to external shocks. The current Covid 19 pandemic has tested our vulnerability and has posted a clear message: food and nutrition security are indeed an imperative but food sovereignty is supreme.

We are in the process of reviewing our National Development Strategy with economic innovation and diversification being priority areas. The domestic food sectors have great potential for growth and I am happy to see that some of the outcomes of the process include a clearer vision of the country's needs, greater resilience to face the challenging goals and well-defined pathways to transform Seychelles' position in terms of its food self-sufficiency and food sovereignty targets.

Our Government is committed to the global call to reform the food systems. We will build on the outcomes of the dialogues, articulate the findings and project ideas in the country's food system transformation strategy. We will invest within the possibilities of our economic resources to bring to life the vision for a domestic food system less dependent on imports.

We appreciate and value the support that we have received from the United Nations Agencies and all other Partners. We look forward to the continued partnership to harness our collective resources and know-how to build a network of coalitions in the spirit of a win-win strategy and greater synergy to address the challenges of the food systems transformation.

Things grow when conditions are right.

I would like to thank the UN Secretary-General António Guterres, all UN Agencies and other stakeholders for organising the Summit and more importantly for creating the right conditions for things to grow.

I thank you.