

FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT

(23 September 2021)

Secretary General,

One of the lessons learned from the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic is that recovery should rest on the principles of social justice and ecology. This requires a global change of agrifood systems. We have to ensure healthy, nutritious and enough food for a growing population, compatible with a fully sustainable food production.

Producers –in particular small producers– and family farming play a key role in the transformation towards an economic, social and environmental sustainability.

It is necessary to support family farming, not only because it produces 80% of world food,



but also because it contributes to the economic and sociocultural fabric of rural areas, it articulates territories and manages natural resources in a much more efficient way.

This is why Spain has boosted the coalition for the Decade of Family Farming.

The role of women in national and household food security is key, due to their responsibility in food production. But girls and women are the ones suffering the most devastating effects of hunger.

Gender equality and empowerment of girls and women are not only fundamental to making human rights effective, but also to reducing poverty, to improving economic growth and to achieving a sustainable management of natural resources.



I would like to highlight the progress obtained by the European Union in these areas through common agricultural policies that take into account the growing environmental needs and the protection of small producers. The Biodiversity and “Farm to Fork” Strategies, essential elements of the Green Deal, fully agree with the objectives of this Summit.

We are committed to reinforcing global governance of agrifood systems to accelerate this transition. Convinced of the transforming potential of a Committee of World Food Security adapted to new challenges, Spain has presented its candidacy to chair it over the next two years.

We have a major challenge ahead, but also a great opportunity: sustainable and inclusive agrifood systems can be a fundamental lever



for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and fulfilling the Paris Agreement.

Thank you.