



**Statement of His Excellency Mr. Othman Jerandi,
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians Abroad
On behalf His Excellency Mr. Kais Saied
President of the Republic of Tunisia**

**Food Systems Summit
high-level segment
The 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly
(New York, September 23, 2021)**

Your Excellency Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations,

Your Majesties, Highnesses and Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to thank His Excellency the Secretary-General of the United Nations for his initiative to organize this Summit.

There is no doubt that the aggravation of global and regional crises, whether economic, environmental, or health-related, in addition to the persistence of hotbeds of tension in many regions of the world, have led to the unprecedented decline of food security to the extent that the specter of famine is seriously and imminently threatening hundreds of millions of people.

The COVID-19 pandemic, and its resulting paralysis in the global distribution channels of food supplies, has demonstrated the inevitable need to consolidate international cooperation and solidarity and to reshape the mechanisms of multilateral action in order to guarantee the basic rights of the peoples of the world, the most important of which is the right to food.

We seize this opportunity to renew our call to all parties in conflict zones to implement Resolution 2532 (2000), adopted by the Security Council at the initiative of Tunisia and France, which calls for a cessation of military operations in order to secure the delivery of humanitarian aid in the areas of crisis and conflicts.

Honorable Secretary General,

Today, we hope that this Summit will result in a concrete political commitment and an effective mobilization at the global level to achieve sustainable food systems. We believe that our success in this endeavor depends on adopting effective, fair and multi-dimensional global governance which takes into account the specificities of developing countries and the challenges they face at the developmental and financial levels.

Tunisia considers that the dilemma of debt burdening developing countries, especially African ones, requires a deep discussion among all international partners to find innovative solutions such as rescheduling these debts within projects of meaningful developmental partnerships.

Honorable Secretary General,

Tunisia, which places the issue of food security among its top development priorities, is working, against the backdrop of the harmful consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, to mitigate several challenges, especially monopoly, speculation, inflation and the rise in food cost.

In this context, our country believes that ensuring access to all safe foods for all, in a sustainable manner and at appropriate cost, is a pivotal and essential target to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals within the framework of our developmental plan, especially given its close interconnectivity with most other development goals such as poverty eradication, providing health for all and guaranteeing prosperous conditions for life in dignity and food security.

As we renew from this platform Tunisia's full engagement and continued support for all the efforts made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and all UN entities as well as by international and regional institutions to achieve a better response to the aspirations of the peoples of the world for development and prosperity, I wish all success in the work of this Summit in a manner that contributes to better prospects for future generations.

Thank you.