

ADDRESS FOR THE UNITED NATIONS FOOD SYSTEMS ONLINE SUMMIT

(SEPTEMBER 23, 2021, DURATION: 3 MIN, VIDEO MESSAGE)

Esteemed Heads of State and Government,

Distinguished Secretary-General,

Esteemed Delegates,

I, on behalf of myself and my nation, salute you with my most heartfelt feelings.

I would like to thank my good friend, Mr. Secretary-General, for this important event.

Unfortunately, we are falling far too short of realizing the Sustainable Development Goal of Zero Hunger by 2030.

As the world's population grows, so, unavoidably, does the global demand for food.

The effects of climate change, such as climatic disasters with increased intensity and destructive consequences, water poverty, and drought, adversely affect food sources as well.

The cost of food systems thus increased impedes access to food sources, and, as a result, the compromised food security paves the way for mass migration which is one of the most critical challenges of our day.

The coronavirus pandemic has introduced a new burden to the system, as well as the risk of quickly losing the already hard-won achievements.

We, as Turkey, took the necessary actions in 2019, prior to the pandemic, by taking into consideration the outlook.

The same year, we convened the 3rd Agriculture Forestry Council Meeting with the participation of 21 Working Groups that cover all elements of sustainable food systems.

We introduced our Water Council and expedited the consultations across our country.

We identified 46 main actions and 324 sub-actions to be realized by the end of 2023, such as building a digital value chain from seed to plate, establishing an infrastructure for food loss and waste, and introducing water legislation.

Our national roadmap covers a wide range of topics from regular access to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food at affordable prices to reducing food loss and waste, as well as from sustainability in agriculture, livestock, and fishery sectors to ensuring food security in the face of emergencies and crises.

Within the framework of our roadmap, we aim to encourage practices such as the fight against climate change and drought, the reduction of water pollution, the adoption of renewable energy sources, and the promotion of e-commerce.

Also, in this context, we continue to work on issues such as biodiversity preservation and nature-positive production, acceleration of digital transformation, women's and youth employment in agricultural and food sectors, as well as creating decent work opportunities.

In conjunction with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, we also continue our "Save Your Food" Campaign and work to prevent food waste.

Dear Participants,

Access to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food is not a privilege but a right for all.

It is our shared responsibility to bequeath a more just, habitable, and peaceful world to our children.

We, as Turkey, will resolutely continue to work in this direction.

As I conclude my remarks with these feelings, I hope that the Summit will be a success, and once again extend my best regards to you all.