



Statement by the Prime Minister of Tuvalu

The Secretary-General
Excellencies
Colleagues
Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my pleasure to inform the Summit of the approval by the Cabinet of the Government of Tuvalu our Food Systems Pathway that I am presenting today.

Tuvalu acknowledges the importance of laying clear pathways towards the achievements of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We now know our Food Systems Pathway all impinge on the successful achievement of these goals

However, we would like to state from the outset that our first and foremost responsibility is to achieve our National Vision – “*A Peaceful, Resilient and Prosperous Tuvalu*” stipulated in our National Strategy for Sustainable Development TE KETE 2021-2030.

To achieve our National Vision, we will pursue five (5) Strategic Priority Areas (SPAs):

1. Enabling Environment
2. Social Development
3. Economic development
4. Island and Culture Development
5. Infrastructure development

There are twenty (20) corresponding National Outcomes (NOs) listed towards the achievement of the 5 SPAs in our TE KETE by the year 2030. Out of these 20 national outcomes, 15 of them directly impinge on the achievement of the 5 ACTION TRACKS listed under the FSSD.

We are proud to advocate the matching target year for the SDGs and Our National Vision - 2030. Recognising too that most of the challenges we are facing relating to our food systems pathway are human induced caused by others.

The FSSD process has made us to recognise the need to work holistically in the transformation of our food systems from production to consumption.

Our vision therefore is to foster national food systems for Tuvalu that reduce the importation of unhealthy food, promotes increased local food production, enhanced food safety, nutrition and healthy diets, and improved income generating opportunities to enhance sustainable livelihoods.

The Challenges

Our beloved Tuvalu, having been one of the only 5 Atoll Nations in the world, faces unusual challenges that are different from most other countries. Most of these challenges are naturally associated to being an atoll nation such as poor porous soil, distance from markets and limited flora and fauna. The key human induced challenge is climate change that is already affecting our food systems.

Our Approach

Six (6) overarching goals came up from our National Dialogues that are imperative to achieve our food systems transformation. These are:

1. Increase local food production
2. Strengthened partnerships
3. Change and shifting of diets
4. Eat safe and nutritious food
5. Governance and finance strengthened
6. Coalition with other Atoll Nations

I am proud to say that we in Tuvalu are already implementing a number of game-changing transformation initiatives:

- *Concrete 'pulaka' pits* – burrow pits passed on from our ancestors are now being built with concrete to curb the intrusion of seawater
- *Live and Learn farming systems* using tubs distributed to households in all the islands of Tuvalu is allowing families to increase cultivation of food crops
- *A Healthy National Food Strategy (HNFS)* was recently launched by the Ministry of Finance to help our people eat healthy and safe food

- *Increased local food production:* the Department of Agriculture will launch in early 2022 a nationwide scheme in partnership with all islands where land will be leased to help increase the production of local food

Our work will not end here at the Summit. Immediately after this Summit, Tuvalu will undertake face to face bilateral meetings with our national stakeholders including those in the island communities and our overseas partners.

We shall also foster coalition of our sister atoll nations as we move forward
I wish you all a successful Summit.

Tuvalu mo te Atua