

UK official statement to the UN Food Systems Summit

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Thank you, Secretary General, Special Envoy Kalibata – it's great to see how the debate has *progressed* over recent months, and how priorities for the Summit *and* for the G7 *and* COP26 are coming together.

Our food systems are *heaping* costs on future generations – and on the planet.

In the last 40 years, we *tripled* food production.
But a billion people are facing hunger and malnutrition today.

And the way we *produce* and *consume* food is *fundamentally unsustainable*
...*increasing* the risk of zoonosis *and* the threat of antimicrobial resistance
...putting *impossible* pressure on freshwater, biodiversity, climate, and weather systems
...and on the world's poorest who depend most *directly* on the *free* services that nature provides – and that includes of course indigenous people.

So working together to help *prevent* ecological collapse and *famine* is more important than ever.

And that's why the UK has appointed our *first* Special Envoy
...and why we brought the G7 together to commit to providing *\$7 billion* in humanitarian assistance *and* resilience-strengthening support to 42 countries with populations just *one* step from famine.

Our shared global goal is to feed *9 billion* people by 2030 – but *in a way* that helps us tackle climate change and biodiversity loss, and helps realise the sustainable development goals.

In England, we've commissioned an *independent* review of how we can make our food system *fit* for the future.

And having reduced the volume of *wasted* food in our country by more than a *fifth* between 2007 and '18 – we're committed to achieving the *UN* goal to halve all food waste by 2030.

And we're making land use subsidies *contingent* on good environmental stewardship – *as well as* bringing in legislation to get illegal deforestation *out* of UK supply chains.

But we need *global* change.

So we're calling on governments *everywhere* to eliminate and redirect harmful incentives, as well as *significantly* increasing incentives with *positive* impacts across all sectors.

The G7 have committed to leading *by example* – and must now make good on that commitment.

And ahead of COP26, we're building *global* alliances of countries committed to more sustainable agriculture ...and in particular to *breaking the link* between agriculture and global *deforestation*, while *increasing* sustainable trade.

We need every *single* nation to join us.

At COP26, we'll be sharing the ways that countries, businesses, *and* farmers are *already* putting the transition to sustainable agriculture *into action* – including through nature-based solutions *and* new technologies.

We will showcase the *most* ambitious commitments to help protect and restore the world's most important *forests*.

And we'll shine a light on the health our ocean as well.

Ahead of the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit, and all *three* Rio conventions – we need to *recognise* that we have *all* the tools we need.

All that is missing is the political will to *use* them.

So it's up to *us* to make this decade *the* decade we reconcile our lives and our economies with the natural world on which we *all* depend.

Thank you very much.

[ENDS.]