

Statement
by H.E. President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy
at the UN Food Systems Summit 2021

(September 23, 2021, New York)

Dear Mr. Secretary General!

Excellencies!

Ukraine is one of the global leaders in the food market – therefore, this topic is an opportunity for us.

We acknowledge our responsibility in ensuring food security. Ukraine has been a reliable partner even in the toughest times, like during the COVID-19 pandemic, and has never created any restrictions on food supplies.

We understand what contribution we can make to ensure more sustainable and equitable use and we are actively working on this.

Our priority remains the development of efficient agricultural systems and the formation of global confidence in the application of established food safety standards.

The further sustainable development of national food systems is important. We have a potential for increasing our role in sustainable food supply. We have already taken a number of appropriate and successful steps towards implementing this ambitious plan. Ukraine has joined the Committee on World Food Security and the International Grain Council.

On July 1, a full-fledged land market was launched in our country. This is the end of a 30-year transformation. A transformation that is meant to create conditions for the functioning of the agricultural sector, allowing both small farmers and large agricultural companies to develop.

Land reform in Ukraine is first and foremost a care for the people who work the land. Who want to work on it all their lives and make it inheritable.

But the transformation of food systems is not just about agricultural business. This is also about people's nutrition. "Healthy food for all" is one of the priorities of the draft national roadmap for the transformation of food systems developed in Ukraine.

The First Lady, Mrs. Olena Zelenska, launched a national campaign to change children's eating habits at school. We're glad to share this experience in the framework of Food Coalition under the auspices of the Summit "School Food: Nutrition, Treatment and Education for Every Child". Our goal is to ensure both the availability and the affordability of healthy food for all.

We will also focus on two other well-known areas.

We have to move towards climate neutrality of production. Considering that such a goal by 2050 is quite real.

But this should not turn into excessive subsidies for already wealthy farmers from developed countries. We need to help those who really need it - farmers from developing countries. Climate policy should not further deepen economic inequality.

It is also necessary to change the domestic market and stimulate exports. Our goal on this path is to ensure food security, the transition to sustainable production and sales models, as well as the development of the necessary financial instruments.

This summit is just beginning to shape the agenda of the eternal issue of food systems. Ukraine is a proactive participant in this work.

We are ready to continue working with partners and developing our own food systems in the context of global challenges. Both current and future ones.

Thank you for your attention.