



ADDRESS

BY

**THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
ZIMBABWE, HIS EXCELLENCY
DR. E. D. MNANGAGWA**

AT THE

**UNITED NATIONS HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE
ON FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT**

23 SEPTEMBER 2021

Your Excellency Abdullah Shahid, President of the 76th Session of the General Assembly;

Majesties;

Excellencies, Heads of State and Government;

Your Excellency António Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Let me commend the Secretary-General for convening this very important Food Systems Summit at a critical time when food supply chains have been disrupted by Climate Change and the COVID-19 pandemic. Population growth; changing consumption patterns; land degradation; biodiversity loss and, increased urbanisation, are straining the ability of supply chains to provide food sustainably. Those who are already vulnerable are the most affected.

Against this background, it is imperative that we develop more sustainable ways of producing, processing, accessing and utilising food.

Zimbabwe continues to implement a food systems approach that

aims to achieve safe and nutritious food and consumption patterns for all in its quest to meet the SDGs. To that end, my Government is implementing the Agricultural and Food Systems Transformation Strategy towards reviving, restructuring and transforming agriculture. This is cross-cutting and seeks to improve climate resilience through accelerated irrigation development, farm mechanisation and technology-based crop, livestock, land and water management systems.

The Strategy is envisaged to accelerate rural development as well as result in equitable access to safe and nutritious food for all, while building resilience to vulnerabilities and shocks. Due attention is given to the adoption of food system solutions and achieving the targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, in line with the country's Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement.

The remarkable successes registered to date under my country's various agriculture initiatives include increased production and productivity by small-holder and communal farmers, inclusive of women and the youth; sustainable utilisation of land and improved incomes for rural communities. This is against the fact that Zimbabwe continues to be constrained from realising her full potential due to the unfavourable environment brought about by over two decades of sanctions imposed on us by some Western powers; the vagaries of climate change and, the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Finally, I would like to reiterate the need to place urgent emphasis

on the nexus between food and the health of our planet, given that Climate Change is both a driver and a consequence of hunger. As such, concerted efforts must be made to enhance the resilience and sustainability of agricultural and food production systems.

The importance of exchanging experiences and best practices, including appropriate technologies, cannot be over-emphasised. Partnerships remain critical as we reach out and draw from the various competencies in our respective countries. All of us have a stake in food systems and must play a part towards ending hunger and malnutrition, as well as protecting the environment and enhancing equitable development.

I wish to call upon our partners to increase financial support and capacity building to the most vulnerable, targeting institutions and actors along the food systems value chain. With unity of purpose, we will truly build a fairer, better and more sustainable world which leaves no one behind.

I thank you.