

Agenda Item IV: statement delivered by Chair Ambassador Jackline Yonga on behalf of the African Regional Group on UN Food Systems Summit and its implications for CFS.

Chair,

Dear Excellences, distinguished participants Ladies and Gentlemen

1. Mr Chair thank you for giving me the floor. I take this opportunity to appreciate your patience and resilience in steering yesterday's session, this was particularly demonstrated during the confirmation of the conclusions of the sessions.
2. Chair , I present this statement on behalf The Africa Regional Group. I begin by expressing the Region's appreciation for the great achievements of the September 2021 UN Summit on Food systems.
3. We recognize in particular the high level political participation, the opportunity given to us, as Permanent Representatives to the UNRBAs to be part of this challenging journey since its inception. We were involved in the various dialogues and consultations, which climaxed with the July 2021 pre-summit in Rome and the September 2021 Summit in New York.
4. We want to seize this occasion to give some highlights of the Africa Common Position, as delivered during the Summit by our leaders, which expressed Africa's vision and strategic priorities, as well as the main outcome of African country's national dialogues. As well as give general observations.
5. Chair, We believe that The journey of food System has deeply affirmed that food systems hold supremacy to realize our shared vision for a better world. Universally in the world, those engaged in food systems are providing nutritious food for billions of people while safeguarding biodiversity and critical ecosystems.
6. We therefore wish to reiterate and take cognizance of the fact that we must build on good practices espoused in the summit — such as Indigenous food systems — invest in science and innovation, and to engage all people — particularly women and youth, Indigenous Peoples, businesses and producers — in achieving the SDGs.
7. We, further, wish to echo the UN Secretary General, affirmation that “Let's act now – together – and realize our vision”. We also believe that Inclusive and transformative Food Systems Nourish progress to Achieve Zero hunger, because hunger has no boundaries, Rich or poor , young or old –everyone needs food to eat and we are all aware that safe and nutritious food provides life, health as well as hope.

8. Indeed, it is time to galvanize action after the passion and further commitments emerging from the Summit.

9. We welcome the following announcements:

- Action must be driven at country-level by governments in their local contexts, building on existing efforts of countries and supporting organizations, with strong, inclusive country ownership and leadership (as far as Africa is concerned)
- Emerging multistakeholder initiatives and coalitions, including the school meals coalition and agro-ecology;
- At the global level, working across the UN system and with partners, the Rome-based Agencies — FAO, IFAD, WFP — will jointly lead a coordination hub

10. Most significant: the CFS remains an essential intergovernmental and stakeholder platform for all - working together to ensure food security and nutrition for all through sustainable and transformative food systems.

11. Engagement with the CFS remains important in providing leadership to the follow-up of the Food Systems Summit, this is essential for it to deliver on its mandate. Strategic leadership by the CFS and its mechanisms, including the Civil Society Mechanism, will be vital to informing accountability for all stakeholders, including the private sector.

12. We recommend a strong implementation follow-up and coordination mechanism which would offer the CFS a great opportunity of extending its presence on the ground, through a new partnership with existing regional institutions and by taking stock of the multi-stakeholder platform which facilitated the national dialogues as potential counterpart at country level.

13. Chair with these remarks I thank you