

UNITED NATIONS



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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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**MESSAGE TO THE 50TH SESSION OF
THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY**

Rome, 10 October 2022

I am pleased to greet this 50th session of the Committee on World Food Security.

You meet at a critical moment.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the increased inequalities it generated, the war in Ukraine and the ongoing cost of living crisis have multiplied the hunger and malnutrition challenge.

Three billion people -- almost half of humanity -- cannot afford a healthy diet.

Last year, at the UN General Assembly, I convened a Food Systems Summit.

The message was clear.

We need transformative action to ensure that the world's food benefits all people.

Food systems can and must underpin economic recovery, poverty reduction, greater equality and decent work.

And they must mitigate climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss.

At the Food Systems Summit, nearly 100 governments provided national strategies to transform food systems.

Some 150 governments made clear commitments to work with all who contributed to the Summit: businesses and civil society groups; indigenous communities, women and young people; and farmers -- especially small farmers -- and other workers who sustain food systems around the world.

We need all hands on deck.

Including yours.

Your ideas and policy expertise can drive change across food systems.

From land tenure to responsible agricultural investment.

From healthy diets and emergency nutrition to famine prevention.

You have the full force of the United Nations system behind you.

Working together with the Food Systems Hub and United Nations country teams, we are supporting transformations on the ground.

Let's deliver the food systems the world so desperately needs.

For people. For prosperity. For the planet.
