



Thanawat Tiensin
Chair of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)
CFS Secretariat
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Rome 19 November 2020

Dear Dr Kalibata, Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General for the Food Systems Summit

RE: Strengthening Collaboration with the CFS towards the Food Systems Summit

Thank you very much for your letter dated 11 November 2020, summarizing the topics and issues that we discussed in our Zoom video call of 6 November 2020.

Let me start by expressing our appreciation for the recognition of the work and mandate of the CFS and its central and essential role in the global food security and nutrition policy architecture. I am also warmly thanking you for the clear and unambiguous statements you made on our call and in your letter regarding the important work the CFS is doing.

Your strong commitment to ensuring that the Summit builds upon the products of the CFS and that the CFS be strengthened as a mechanism for continued collaboration with – and follow-up to – next year's UN Food Systems Summit, is very much appreciated.

Specifically, I am delighted to accept the invitation to participate in the Summit Advisory Committee, and look forward to representing the CFS and its various constituent parts and members in future meetings. Likewise, I agree with you that there are certainly ways that we can further leverage the independent evidence and thought leadership of the CFS High Level Panel of Experts (CFS HLPE) in complement to the role of the HLPE Chair. And last, as proposed institutional seats in each of the five Action Tracks for self-appointed members from both the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) and the Private Sector Mechanism (PSM), I have conveyed your invitations to those mechanisms. However, I cannot speak on their behalf; I do recognize the logic of your wishing to invite the CFS's Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) and Private Sector Mechanism (PSM), each in their own institutional capacity, to participate in all five Action Tracks that will be looking at priority actions by countries and other actions for achieving the goals of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. In this regard, I am happy to encourage those mechanisms to respond favorably to your invitation.

Regarding the issues raised publicly by the CSM - and echoed by the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food - I would recommend and encourage you and your Secretariat team to consider their arguments about including a stronger focus on human rights, especially the progressive realization of the right to adequate food, given that this is a fundamental and bedrock principle of the work and mandate of the CFS.

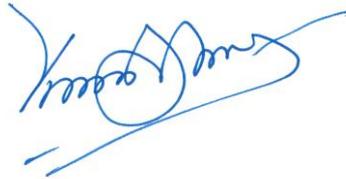
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Agnes Kalibata
Special Envoy
UN Food Systems Summit
Nairobi

I also look forward to exploring how these role and responsibilities for the CFS can manifest itself within the planning and implementation of both the pre-Summit event planned for Rome this coming summer, and the Summit itself in New York planned for next September. I can assure you that we are prepared to play an active and constructive role to support the preparations of the Summit.

Likewise, I would welcome your presence and participation in our next plenary session (CFS-47), scheduled to take place from 8-11 February 2021. At that meeting, we expect the Members to adopt our Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition that are currently being negotiated. I will supply your Secretariat team with more information on this.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Thanawat Tiensin', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Thanawat Tiensin
Chairperson
Committee on World Food Security