



**STATEMENT BY MR GABRIEL MBAIROBE, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT ON THE OCCASION OF THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD
FOOD SECURITY SESSION AT THE 2021 UNITED NATIONS PRE-SUMMIT ON
FOOD SYSTEMS.**

26 JULY 2021

Honourable Ministers,
Excellency,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
All protocol observed,

1. I am glad to be here today to support the Committee on World Food Security in this Pre-Summit Session and contribute to today's discussion on the *importance of Multilateral Policy Convergence for Food Systems Transformation and CFS and its policy instruments*.
2. I have been very attentive to the powerful statement delivered by H.E. Gotabaya Rajapakse, President of Sri Lanka. It was indeed a very insightful and inspiring statement.

3. Frankly speaking, the debate around the world's pathways to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals reveals that we still have a long way to go to achieve Agenda 2030 and its SDGs.

4. At a time when SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) targets are unlikely to be achieved in many parts of the world, this uncertainty is exacerbated by the fast-growing threats on the environment, as a consequence of climate change, compounded with the COVID-19 pandemic that is further threatening the food security and nutrition of millions of people around the world. Therefore, the obvious conclusion is that the challenges associated with agriculture and food systems require urgent attention.

5. The situation of agriculture and food systems in my country, Cameroon, is obviously critical. A country that is considered peaceful and stable is today facing multifaceted crises with regional dimensions. As a result of the various shocks and stresses, insecurity is soaring, and the food security situation is progressively deteriorating. This poses serious challenges in achieving Zero Hunger and eradicating malnutrition by 2030.

6. Given the main orientations of our food systems, based essentially on smallholder producers, we are laying considerable emphasis on the value-chain development as the driving force for agricultural growth, putting technology, institutions, people, and natural resources at the forefront of our food systems transformation.

7. Being a key stakeholder in the Committee of World Food Security (CFS), Cameroon's agriculture growth orientation continues to be inspired by the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to

Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security and all other policy instruments.

8. Cameroon has been an active member of CFS, since its reform in 2009, and we have been deeply involved in the negotiation processes for all its flagship products, including the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, and Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and Other innovative Approaches both successfully adopted this year.

9. Cameroon has always seen the CFS as providing an invaluable opportunity to improve policy convergence/coherence at global level, leading to strengthened and coordinated actions at national and regional levels.

10. The CFS provides a unique space for governments to agree on policy approaches that aim to ensure food security and nutrition for all, backed by the expertise of its High-Level Panel of Experts.

11. Concerning the UN Food Systems Dialogues, I am happy to announce that Cameroon conducted a series of dialogues resulting in committing itself in accompanying the United Nations towards safeguarding food for all by 2030 by ensuring:

- a) Better and acceptable farming methods
- b) Encouraging equitable profit from agriculture
- c) Improving on processing of farm produce and marketing.

12. Our ultimate wish is that for the UN Food Systems Summit to deliver meaningful results, it needs to build upon CFS' accomplishments, and support implementation of its key products, on

land tenure, on responsible investment, on the Right to Food, on Innovations, and on Food Systems and Nutrition.

13. Ideally, every country should build its own CFS at national level, using CFS products as the core for promoting and fostering food system transformation.

14. I hope all countries, like Cameroon, see in the CFS a valuable opportunity to join forces to combat malnutrition in all its forms.

15. Cameroon is committed to a dynamic and impactful Committee on World Food Security that adds value and momentum to our efforts of transforming agri-food systems for better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life, leaving no one behind.

Thank you very much.