

Statement delivered on behalf of

**Her Excellency Tereza Cristina Correa De Costa Dias
Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply of the Federative Republic of Brazil**

by

**His Excellency Fernando José Marroni de Abreu
Permanent Representative of Brazil to FAO**

**on the occasion of the
42nd Session of the FAO Conference (14-18 June 2021)**

15 June 2021

Director-General Qu Dongyu,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The year 2021 represents a decisive moment on the path towards sustainable development. The beginning of the effectiveness of the Paris Agreement's goals and of the last decade to reach the Sustainable Development Goals show the urgency of seeking and implementing solutions.

The so-called transformation of agri-food systems is part of this process, but it should not be an end in itself. We must bear in mind its instrumental nature, in order to guarantee the full promotion of the 2030 Agenda.

The improvement of food systems must holistically consider the three dimensions of sustainable development, economic, social and environmental, considering local contexts and different national priorities.

We must remember, therefore, that there is no one-size-fits-all solution. There are numerous paths, equally legitimate, to this common goal of ours.

Furthermore, sustainability is associated with the forms of production, and not with an inherent characteristic of each food.

Therefore, it is essential that the FAO promotes the diversity of diets and considers that the concept of healthy diets also includes the cultural and social dimensions of eating practices.

For countries to actually grasp those opportunities, investment in research and innovation is essential, fully tapping the potential of the bioeconomy. It is also essential that access to technology is ensured to the most vulnerable, such as small producers, family farmers and traditional communities.

Providing means of implementation, in turn, is essential so that developing countries can also benefit from this movement. Payments for ecosystem services, for example, are a relevant tool that can help to recognize, among others, the value of the conservation of vegetation areas undertaken by producers in developing countries.

In all cases, free and transparent trade is essential if these trends are to generate opportunities for producers and countries, rather than causing unjustified barriers to trade or distortions in food prices.

For many years now, Brazil has been promoting production systems that bring greater income to the producer, efficiency in the use of inputs, resilience and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Specifically about climate change, we have launched the Carbon Neutral Meat, updated our Low

Carbon Agriculture Plan, known as ABC+, and published collections of factors for emission and removal of greenhouse gases in Brazilian agriculture.

Agri-food systems can certainly contribute to global efforts to adapt and to mitigate climate change. However, their ultimate goal, that of ensuring global food and nutrition security must be respected and remain at the heart of FAO's work. Furthermore, we cannot lose sight of the fact that more than 70 percent of greenhouse gas emissions still come from fossil fuels.

Brazil is ready to do its fair share in the search for solutions that will make a difference for future generations. We expect the same frank and balanced commitment from other countries.

Thank you.