

**Statement delivered on behalf of
Her Excellency Julia Klöckner
Federal Minister for Food and Agriculture of the Federal Republic of Germany**
by
**Mr Friedrich Wacker, Head of Department, European Union Affairs, International
Cooperation, Fisheries of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture**
on the occasion of the
42nd Session of the FAO Conference (14-18 June 2021)
16 June 2021

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Germany aligns itself with the Statement made by Portugal on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The topic chosen for today's General Debate could not address a more pressing issue: "Agriculture Food Systems Transformation: From Strategy to Action".

It is a positive sign for the international community and multilateral cooperation to see so many countries actively engaged. Germany would like to add its voice and encourage everyone to strengthen our joint efforts in reaching the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set out by the Agenda 2030.

Especially during the current pandemic, we witnessed how important innovation is for agriculture and food systems to become sustainable and resilient.

Therefore, we reiterate to bring the slogan to 'build back better' into action to ensure SDG 2 by 2030.

Climate change, loss of biodiversity and fertile agricultural land, unsustainable use of natural resources, conflicts and migration threaten our agriculture and food systems.

We acknowledge the importance of water for our agri-food systems.

Also, in Germany our farmers have suffered from droughts in the last three years.

Sustainable water management is a key element to reach SDG 6. Many initiatives, specific field work and projects are already implementing the call for more action.

The 47th plenary session of the Committee on World Food Security adopted voluntary guidelines on food systems and nutrition.

We now have an internationally agreed global framework at our disposal, underlining a holistic approach along the entire value chain. These guidelines offer us a comprehensive approach to achieve healthy diets through sustainable food systems. Sustainable Food systems connect production, processing, distribution, preparation and consumption of food, while also considering the impact on people and the environment.

We need to mainstream biodiversity, climate adaptation and mitigation across agricultural sectors and integrate these aspects in all other food and agricultural policies in order to reach our common climate and biodiversity targets.

With the upcoming United Nations Food Systems Summit we are witnessing another major political event combining all the meticulous ground work done in the past. It will generate momentum for agriculture food systems transformation with the aim to create actionable outcomes.

In this regard, I would like to mention that last week Germany held its Three-Day-Kick off to its National Dialogue process. More than 400 participants discussed the future of National and International Food Systems. They underlined, that innovation turned into practice across all dimensions of sustainability - ecological, economic and social – are necessary to achieve sustainability.

Let us not forget agriculture's core task: to sustainably produce high quality food within the planetary boundaries. The interconnection between humans, animals and environment are captured by the One-Health Approach, which we also strongly advocate at International level.

Regarding the FAO Strategic Framework we believe a balanced approach to all three dimensions of sustainability is needed. Let us start acting, let us move from the general debate to specific action, and let us leave no one behind.

This ambitious transformation process needs all actors .to feed a growing world population and for a healthy planet.

Thank you for your attention.