

Statement delivered by
Mr Lottie VAISEKAVEA
Permanent Secretary of Solomon Islands
on the occasion of the 43rd Session of the FAO Conference (1-7 July 2023)
4 July

Chair and Excellencies,

Solomon Islands sincerely and warmly congratulates Dr Qu Dongyu on his appointment as the FAO's Director-General. Solomon Islands is a committed partner of the food systems Agenda of the FAO mandate and also of your full capacity to deliver the necessary support and transformation to create and shape a new global and local agriculture functionality for our farmers, economies and countries. In regard to climate change and its dynamics, it is clear that the normalcy of cyclic influence is broken. Time has fallen into a very linear pathway and it will get worse and worse.

The new systems we create and build must impact the change of lifestyle to create a pathway through the crisis. The future demands the parameters, not the past. The crisis is manmade. That solution must also be manmade. That is the most difficult option for mankind today. In Solomon Islands, we are making the human component the common denominator of a new paradigm to shift our agriculture to a sustainable platforms.

We are a tropical country. We have very good rainfall, but the rains now are always raining cats and dogs and so flash floods has become a common everyday occurrence. Agriculture must be the deliberate choice and decision of the farmer. The *four betters* must be delivered in the midst of the crisis. The Solomon Islands Agriculture New Day Strategy provides a practical pathway to harmonize with the *four betters* to ensure a customized and practical local action. We look forward to learn partner and collaborate with FAO and all our partner countries and Members. Our strategies include the opportunities to make women and youth more pivotal in agriculture and engage a strong interface.

This interface will ensure that the technical support of both FAO and all our partners can build a strong local response. This ensures that global, regional and local joints supply practical opportunity. Solomon Island seeks to increase water conservation in partnership with the relevant sectors and make it the possession of our smallholder farmers in their own geographical locations. In conclusion, Solomon Island wishes everyone the best in all our joint efforts.

Thank you.