



11 November, 2020

H.E. Thanawat Tiensin
Chairperson
Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

Your Excellency,

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

Let me start by acknowledging the important work of the CFS and thanking you for your leadership and strategic partnership over the past year to inform the vision and approach of the Food Systems Summit and its early inception efforts. We have welcomed all opportunities to join with the CFS mechanisms for briefings and events, including your recent High-Level Special Event during World Food Week, and we look forward to continuing to engage in these opportunities going forward.

As discussed, we fully recognize the essential role that the CFS serves as the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for stakeholders to ensure food security and nutrition for all. For this reason, we consider it essential that the UN Food Systems Summit – convened by the Secretary-General to deliver on all of the SDGs in the context of the Decade of Action – builds on the leadership, evidence, knowledge, ideas, innovations, actions and guidelines that were and are emerging from the CFS. This work and products of the CFS will continue to inform the work of our Action Tracks as well as the Dialogues in-country. The Food Systems Summit is designed as a time-bound opportunity for action that can advance in practice CFS products, such as the voluntary guidelines on land tenure or those emerging around food systems and nutrition. We also recognize the need for the Summit to ensure that it continues to strengthen the role of the CFS as a mechanism for follow up long after the Summit is over.

In reflecting on our engagements, we believe that we can better deliver on the vision for this Summit together by further deepening our collaboration through an enhanced structural role for the CFS in the Food Systems Summit. We suggest strengthening this role by:

- Proposing 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). We hope that having a self-appointed member from each mechanism in each of the five Action Tracks will enable them to bring their leadership and ideas into this core Summit work stream as they think is most effective, recognizing their self-organizing nature. Action Tracks will be looking at the priority actions that countries and other actors can take on to deliver on the SDGs and existing agreements rather than negotiating anything new, and they will benefit from perspectives from the mechanisms in this regard.



- Identifying ways to further leverage the independent evidence and thought leadership of the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) in complement to the role of the HLPE Chair as a member of the Scientific Group.
- Welcoming Your Excellency, as the CFS Chairperson, as a member of the Summit Advisory Committee. Chaired by the UN Deputy Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee serves as the highest level support structure and will enable the CFS to provide strategic guidance and feedback on the Summit's overall development and implementation.

I look forward to your feedback and any questions that might be helpful in moving this forward at your earliest opportunity.

Martin Frick, my Deputy in the Food Systems Summit Secretariat, looks forward to joining you for the upcoming CFS Bureau and Advisory Group meeting on 23 November.

Thank you again for your collaboration, and we look forward to working with you and the entirety of the CFS to deliver on this Summit in a way that advances the SDGs, and particular food security and nutrition for all, through the improvement of food systems all over the world.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kalibata".

Dr. Agnes Kalibata

Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit