



27 June 2021

Coordination Committee

Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples Mechanism (CSM) for relations with the United Nations Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

Dear CSM Coordination Committee Members,

I am writing to you to share an update regarding the Pre-Summit of the Food Systems Summit and to seek your support in moving forward important preparations where this agenda would benefit from the CSM's unique experience, voices, and leadership.

As you know, the Pre-Summit will serve as the preparatory meeting for the Food Systems Summit in September by bringing together diverse actors from around the world to transform food systems towards greater sustainability and leverage their power to deliver progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Pre-Summit aims to consolidate all substantive efforts of the last year and set a tone of bold ambition and commitment to action. The Pre-Summit will also deliver the latest evidence base; strengthen coalitions of action; and mobilize new financing and partnerships.

Under the leadership of UN Secretary-General António Guterres, and in partnership with H.E. Mario Draghi, Prime Minister of Italy, the Pre-Summit will be hosted in Rome, Italy from 26-28 July, 2021. The Pre-Summit will take a hybrid format, with a small in-person component at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Headquarters, complemented by a vast virtual program and platform. It will involve Ministers and Senior officials from a diverse range of Ministries and Departments from all countries as well as thousands of youth, food producers, Indigenous Peoples, civil society, researchers, private sector, and the UN system to collectively raise political ambition and work on transformative changes in food systems to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

The continued engagement and leadership from all constituencies will shape the success of this Pre-Summit. We continue to listen carefully, recognize and consider the CSM's concerns with the Food Systems Summit. We are fully aware you are mobilizing a "counter event to the Pre-Summit" from 25-27 July. While admittedly we would have preferred your voice within the process, we recognize your decision to mobilize independently, appreciate the unique opportunity that this counter event represents to hear more voices, and recognize its contribution to the global discussion on the future of transformed, more sustainable food systems.

We would now like to invite you to directly share with other constituencies what emerges from these discussions in order to enrich and refine the Summit's wider ambition and accelerate action moving forward in alignment with the 2030 Agenda.

In this regard, I am reaching out to the CSM Coordination Committee with a few concrete and specific opportunities in mind:



- 1) **We would like to invite you to identify an individual to speak in the Pre-Summit Synthesis Plenary that will be held on Wednesday, 28 July from 11:30-13:30pm Rome time.** As part of this Synthesis Plenary, we have held a 5-7 minute speaking slot to hear directly from the CSM on the main messages emerging from the Counter Summit from 25-27 July that you would like to share with UN Leadership, Member States, and all stakeholders as a main contribution to the need for enhanced ambition moving forward towards the Food Systems Summit in September.
- 2) **We would like to offer that you help identify up to 11 individuals – one drawn from each of the CSM’s 11 constituencies – to attend and participate in the Pre-Summit events either virtually or in-person in Rome from 26-28 July. We ask that these individuals represent strong leadership from each of the CSM’s constituencies that are playing an active leadership role in food systems around the world.** These will be individuals that the organizing team could look to for other speaking roles and views from civil society and Indigenous Peoples in program sessions throughout the days. We defer to the CSM Coordination Committee in determining the most appropriate delegates, but we ask that attention be paid to gender balance and geographic and cultural diversity across regions and sub-regions, with an encouraged focus on voices of the Youth. Participation arrangements can be discussed in greater detail with the Secretariat, whether they be virtual or in-person.

Beyond these specific asks, we also welcome your support in identifying and mobilizing other individuals from the CSM to attend and participate in the Pre-Summit events virtually through the digital platform that will be open to all people, everywhere in all six UN languages and Italian. Please continue to know that the open invitation to your participation remains, and Martin Frick, Deputy in the Food Systems Summit Secretariat, is available to discuss these requests and preparations with you at any time.

Thank you again for your continuous leadership in this global agenda. I continue to appreciate your independent voice as we collectively work to deliver the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for all people, our planet and the prosperity of our communities.

Sincerely,

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

Dr. Agnes Kalibata  
Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General  
for the 2021 Food Systems Summit