



THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL

25 August 2020

Excellency,

On 16 October 2019, World Food Day, the Secretary-General announced his intention to convene a Food Systems Summit in 2021 aimed at empowering people to leverage food systems as accelerators of progress to realize the vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Since then, the crisis brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic has claimed hundreds of thousands of lives and taken a devastating toll on economies, livelihoods, and families. The pandemic endangers everyone, everywhere, especially the most vulnerable.

This context presents an urgent backdrop and underscores the importance of one of our most basic needs. The pandemic reinforces the importance of food systems, from how we produce food to the supply chains that bring it to our homes. The stress put on our food systems by this crisis underscores the fragility of these systems and the interconnectedness of global challenges and their impacts on people, planet, and prosperity.

The Food Systems Summit will be convened in support of the Decade of Action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals, with the aim to help Member States and stakeholders maximize the co-benefits of a food systems approach across the entire 2030 Agenda and to meet the challenges of food security, malnutrition, climate change, natural resource degradation, and economic well-being. The objectives of the Summit are to generate momentum, expand the knowledge base, and share experiences and approaches to unleash the benefits of food systems for all people. Complementing other global processes, the Summit will also offer a catalytic moment for global public mobilization and actionable commitments to invest in diverse ways to make food systems inclusive, climate-adapted and resilient, and support sustainable peace.

All Permanent Representatives
of Members States and Permanent
Observers to the United Nations
Organizations in Rome
Rome

Further details regarding the Summit, including its focus areas and opportunities for Member States participation, are included in the accompanying background note.

In order to exchange views on the Food Systems Summit, I am pleased to invite you to a briefing on Friday, 4 September 2020 from 10:15 till 11:45 a.m. (EDT). Technical details will be provided in due course. I will be joined at the briefing by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Food Systems Summit, Ms. Agnes Kalibata.

I look forward to your active participation.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A J M', is positioned above the printed name.

Amina J. Mohammed