

**THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL**

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**PRE RECORDED REMARKS AT THE ANNUAL SESSION OF  
THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE WORLD FOOD  
PROGRAMME (WFP)**

21 JUNE, 2021

**Excellencies,**

**Distinguished delegates,**

**Thank you for the opportunity to address the Annual Session of the World Food Programme Executive Board.**

**Allow me to start by appreciating the work of WFP staff around the world. Rising incidence of famine is unacceptable at any time, but is now an increasing threat to our recovery from COVID-19. Together we must ensure we feed people, otherwise we feed conflict.**

**Today I will focus my remarks on the Food Systems Summit – which aims to address the root causes of our shared challenges by transforming the way the world thinks about food.**

**First and foremost, I thank the Executive Board, as well as its management and staff, for its dedication and guidance to the success of the Food Systems Summit. The Summit process has unfolded in the context of an unprecedented global pandemic, a worsening climate catastrophe and rising hunger and inequality.**

**Yet, as we approach the Pre-Summit, it's increasingly clear that this Summit has the potential to unlock ambition and action towards realization of the vision of the entire 2030 Agenda and accelerate towards a meaningful recovery. It is at the forefront of the Decade of Action for the SDGs.**

**Concrete progress to prevent and end hunger is being made through the inclusive and innovative process of the Food Systems Summit. I am encouraged by the momentum you have already generated, including through the**

**133 Member States that have committed to national dialogues so far.**

**As we turn our focus to accelerating action, partnerships, and investments to deliver on our shared goals, we will need the continued leadership and support from all Member States as we approach the Pre-Summit and Summit.**

**It is the dramatically amplified engagement behind this urgent agenda that will represent the success of the Summit process.**

**Excellencies, distinguished delegates,**

**After the Summit, our efforts will continue to be anchored in Rome, and WFP will be essential to their success, together with the other Rome-based agencies, the Committee on World Food Security, and the whole United Nations system.**

**WFP's work has a tremendous impact on the lives of millions. The Nobel Peace Prize recognized this, as well as WFP's important contribution to creating conditions for peace and the support that Member States have invested in this institution.**

**We will continue to look to your leadership in the Decade ahead.**

**Thank you.**

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