

Statement by Sister Alessandra SMERILLI
Head of the Holy See's Delegation

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Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

In the face of the tremendous hardship brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, these three days bear witness to a human family that is hungry for change. This change requires our combined courage, our strengths, and a united approach as we walk together in achieving food justice.

Whereas the 3 Cs of *Collaboration*, *Coordination* and *Companionship* could be the antidote to the scourge of hunger in today's world, there are three key drivers that are complicating our attempts to end hunger. These

excludes and places them at a disadvantage. Small-scale farmers working in subhuman conditions and exploited by unfair market prices; indigenous and traditional communities suffering the loss of their natural ecosystems, which are inextricably linked with their cultures and identities; women whose contributions to the food system remain invisible and continue to be marginalized; and children whose growth and prospects for future development are stunted forevermore.

We are currently facing a turning point in history in which our sense of shared responsibility and our sense of belonging to the human family is being challenged. Yet, the current situation can also represent an opportunity to better understand the interconnectedness of systems and to envision new paradigms for their radical transformation. Achieving food justice is not an impossible enterprise. We already have the means and knowledge to embark on this journey together, and this will require sustained political commitment throughout the coming years.

There is an urgent need to reimagine and rebuild food systems with the perspective