

STATEMENT AT THE UN FOOD SY TO ET EMC Spn MICID Lang (rFR) BDC 0

Our Food systems are called upon to nourish a growing world population in such manners so as not to harm the planet and the people by addressing malnutrition and mitigating climate change.

In that regard, we embarked on a National Food Systems Dialogue with the assistance of the United Nations Coordinator with the participation of some 700 stakeholders in the crop and livestock production, agro processing, value chain and fisheries sectors. Major issues were discussed during the dialogues. Hard questions were asked. Can we continue with the same agricultural practices to nourish the world? How can we avoid being victims of external shocks such as climate change, flash floods and biosecurity threats? We sincerely hope that this Summit will provide a ray of hope.

Excellencies, before concluding, allow me to make a solemn appeal to all distinguished delegates. Allow me also to make this solemn appeal on behalf of other small island States and vulnerable regions.

Let us all pledge in the course of this Summit that we shall henceforth Pledge for a New Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture. Let us all pledge to come together with renewed vigour with the solemn aim of finding Nature-based solutions to man-made calamities. Such a new partnership and such a pledge should involve one and all – namely the farmers, the agro-chemical manufacturers, the transport agencies including maritime agencies, cargo and freight forwarders and so forth.

It is only by finding Nature-based solutions that we will achieve our ultimate goal which, to my mind, is the aim to look at our food systems through the farmers' eyes.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates

I thank you for your attention.