



THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL

3 November 2020

Excellency,

I am writing to update you on an important aspect of the process towards the Food Systems Summit to be convened by the Secretary-General next year.

As you know, there is increasing recognition that transforming our food systems must be central in our efforts to achieve all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Therefore, the Food Systems Summit is an important part of the Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs by helping to establish the future direction for food systems and to accelerate collective action to that end. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown the fragility and inequalities of our food systems and underscored the urgency to make them more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient.

The preparatory process for the Summit includes several complementary workstreams that ensure a strong interface between science, policy, and implementation. Multiple stakeholders will work together to contribute to tangible, positive changes to our food systems.

I am writing to share more information on the Food Systems Summit Dialogues and to seek your support to convene these national Dialogues.

Food systems vary by location, and pathways to sustainability need to be rooted in national and local realities. The national Food Systems Summit Dialogues are a critical element of the Summit preparatory process because they encourage analyses, explorations, and solutions that are context-specific. They are opportunities to make connections, examine options, and devise pathways for the sustainable future of national food systems that make significant contributions to the SDGs.

All Member States have the opportunity to lead a three-stage dialogue process between November 2020 and June 2021. This progressive process starts with an examination of existing systems and policies and moves on to the shaping of pathways for sustainable national food systems that are aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

All Permanent Representatives of Members States
to the United Nations
New York

To lead the process at the national level, Member States are invited to nominate a National Dialogues Convenor, ideally located at the level of Heads of State and/or Government, or a central high-level coordinating Ministry. The Convenor will engage a broad range of stakeholders across government and other constituencies that compose food systems in the Dialogues program. In countries with a United Nations system presence, United Nations Resident Coordinators and members of the United Nations Country Teams are available to assist with organizing and preparing the Dialogues.

I am looking forward to the leadership of your Government in these Dialogues and at the Food Systems Summit. I invite you to nominate a National Dialogues Convenor as soon as possible, but ideally no later than 30 November 2020, and to send the name and contact details of the nominee to the Food Systems Summit Secretariat (nominations@summitdialogues.org) for follow-up.

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



Amina J. Mohammed