

**Statement of the National Youth Delegation of  
Cambodia  
In the World Food Forum  
On the Theme “Healthy Diets. Healthy Planet.”  
Rome, Italy, 17-21 October 2022**

- Excellency Chairman,
- Excellencies, Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen!

It is our great pleasure to participate in the World Food Forum which is facilitated by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations under the theme “Healthy Diets. Healthy Planet” in Agri-food System held in Rome, Italy.

Namely as the youth in Agricultural area and on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of the Kingdom of Cambodia, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to FAO for the good cooperation and for your excellent facilitation to our delegation to attend this, Forum.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we are aware that to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 as well as Global Sustainable Food Systems by 2030, requires all countries to work collaboratively to address complex and interrelated challenges such as climate change, urbanization, biodiversity loss, water scarcity, poverty, food safety and nutrition as well as Covid-19 Pandemic. In this regard, international cooperation among the Asian countries plays an important role in global food security and trade. Strengthening the agriculture and food systems research for development and innovative systems research are imperatives.

Agricultural technology cooperation and integrated innovations and technologies among the Asian countries will make agri-food systems more resilient to climate change, delivering better livelihoods for food producers and along the value chain, more nutritious and healthy food for consumers, a better natural environment for all as well as reduction of poverty.

To build agriculture and agri-food systems more resilient, The Royal Government of Cambodia has adopted the Agricultural Development Policy (ADP) 2021-2030 on 9th September 2022, with four main areas and thematic policies for intervention: (1) Modernizing and commercializing the agricultural value chain; (2) Public and private investments in the agriculture sector; (3) Growing sustainably and increasing resilience to climate change; and (4) Institutional reforms and cross-cutting issues.

To achieve these objectives and to modernize agricultural sector is a need to strengthen regional cooperation by exchanging science, technologies and innovation, training and other platforms such as the roundtable discussion, promoting public-private partnership and public and private investment in agricultural sectors.

We acknowledge that youth involvement in agri-food system is so crucial which helps to ensure the global food security. Therefore, the youth engagement in decision-making; for instance, this forum, offers chances to youths to voice their ideas, concerns, and possible solutions to address the challenges. Moreover, the support from the state/authority in terms of technical assistance as well as the finance motivates the youths to take active role in promoting the agri-food system.

The involvement of youth in the agrifood system has been integrated gradually in Cambodia. For example, Cambodia on Health University Network (CAMBOHUN); to develop a sustainable network of One Health professionals with cross-sectoral experts for solving public health threats, have been currently engaging the pre-service and in-service health professional across its members to ensure the optimal health one health issues, especially food safety. Also, set the One Health student clubs across the members and expanded to other networks across Cambodia.

Finally, we would like to congratulate and fully support Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for organizing this world Food Forum on the Theme "Healthy Diets. Healthy Planet" in Agri-Food System, which is held in Rome, Italy and we hope to have other opportunities to attend such forums next year, in order to enhance and strengthen awareness and capacity in the international arena. We wish Excellency, distinguished participants and all youths around the globe good health and success in your endeavors. We also wish for the great success to improve in the Agri-Food System.

Thank you!

**Statement of the National Youth Delegation of  
Philippines  
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According to a study by Dr. Maruja Asis of the Scalabrini Migration Center- Philippines in 2020, "the average age of Filipino farmers is between 57 to 59 years old". This posits a wide generational gap which ultimately impacts the agricultural industry. Citing the same study, it was noted that the technological innovations have become a double-edged sword– beneficial to the industry and through social media which made our lives easier, at the same time, has become a threat to "career-making decisions" as it provides the Filipino youth more options. This, in turn, has also become a trend as to why the youth are becoming less interested in agriculture.

We, the National Youth Commission- Philippine delegation, strongly recognize the vital role of the Filipino youth in contributing to the transformation of the Philippines' food systems, through engaging ourselves and tapping up with the appropriate Government Agency in order to have a healthier environment and better quality of lives. We believe that this may be attained by highlighting one of the outcomes of the conceptual approach for the Philippines Transformation Pathway: Promoting youth empowerment by engaging them in food systems. However, we deem that there are a myriad of things that still need to be done in order to achieve our goal.

To date, there is already an existing program launched by the Department of Agriculture, the implementing Government Agency responsible for the promotion of agricultural development by providing the policy framework, public investments, and support services needed for domestic and export-oriented business enterprises. One of its pilot programs that encourages the Youth to engage in the Agricultural Industry is the Young Farmers Challenge Program. Through this program, the Department of Agriculture offers business development services assistance to the youth including training programs and assistance in business and product registration and certification, mentoring assistance, market linking and business networking, and monitoring and enterprise assessment.

The Department's Organic Agriculture Program, on the other hand, also provides ways to recognize young farmers by field validations which then serve as basis in giving incentives and awards to them. Organic farming also needs to be advocated and communicated effectively in shifting from the use of harmful chemicals to more organic and safer ways of farming and we believe that young farmers also have a role in providing knowledge to their fellow youth.

Secondly, we also support the legislation of the Magna Carta of Young Farmers to further encourage the youth to maximize their skills in agriculture and to emphasize their role in promoting youth in agriculture. The Philippines being an agricultural country, to which our economic activity largely depends on the agricultural industry, the engagement of the youth sector in the industry will result in having the best practices in the grassroots level which is a big step towards food systems transformation and sustainability.

In addition, and in relation to the legislation of the Magna Carta of Young Farmers, the institutionalization of the Filipino youth's representation needs to be strengthened, particularly our participation in dialogues and policy formulation. The Filipino youth also has a voice which needs to be heard as future leaders of the country. Through the mobilization of the Sangguniang Kabataan or SK, a council representing the youth, we may be able to give them an opportunity and a platform for them to be enabled. The SK initiates, develops and implements programs, projects, and activities specifically for the youth in their respective barangays, municipalities, cities and provinces that address the needs of the youth sector in all levels such as but not limited to educational, cultural, sports, capability buildings and agricultural activities. By tapping the youth leaders, through the SK, they can prioritize the implementation of agricultural activities for the young people or existing young farmers in their communities.

Furthermore, there is also a need to widen the knowledge of the Filipino youth in terms of agriculture. While there are existing agricultural subjects in the curriculum, benefits of engaging in the agriculture sector have to be effectively communicated. Providing skills training and capacity-building is also important to properly equip the young people with the necessary skills in order for them to actively participate in agricultural programs.

In conclusion, it is also important for the youth to be economically-empowered to also encourage them to be engaged in the food systems. By providing financial services or projects that will incentivize them as young agripreneurs (agriculture entrepreneurs), they will be able to generate income from it which is also a way to sustainability.

We envision the strengthened linkages of our National Government Agencies, especially the Department of Agriculture, National Youth Commission, Department of Interior and Local Government, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education, and the National Economic and Development Authority, in effectively implementing agriculture and youth-related programs, projects, and activities which are fundamental to youth development.

In these ways, by encouraging the Filipino youth to become young farmers, we can ensure improved access to safe and nutritious food, which is also an outcome to achieving the overall goal for the transformed food systems and a healthier Philippines.

Food systems transformation starts with us, you, and the youth

**Statement of the National Youth Delegation of  
Switzerland  
In the World Food Forum  
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Switzerland thanks the World Food Forum for this initiative to bring Youth together from all over the world to catalyse the transformation of food systems.

Now is the time for a sustainable and inclusive food systems transformation, not only for young people but together with young people.

We see three critical aspects to support this transformation:

1. Firstly, hunger and malnutrition are not only caused by scarcity of food, but result from power imbalances, injustices and discriminations in the food systems, affecting young people in all their diversity. Young people need to be included. Switzerland therefore supports youth engagement and empowerment as well as gender equity in food systems through a number of initiatives at national and international level. Switzerland, as a member of the Committee on World Food Security, and as initiator of the Bites of Transfoodmation initiative – a project that brought together young men and women from diverse countries and background to develop a common vision for our future food systems – contributed actively to the establishment of the CFS Policy Recommendations on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition, which have just been adopted a week ago by the CFS50 Plenary.

2. Secondly, Switzerland considers agroecology as a key approach to food systems transformation. Switzerland advocates greater consideration of agroecology by multilateral institutions and is a member of the Agroecology coalition aiming to accelerate the transformation of food systems through Agroecology. As young representative, we particularly value agroecology as it not only provides innovative solutions and decent employment for youth, but it empowers people and communities to become their own agents of change.

3. Thirdly, family farmers are fundamental to food production, both worldwide as in Switzerland. Young farmer's participation in decision making processes is crucial. Switzerland is in support of maintaining and increasing the role of young men and women in all their diversity at home and globally in policy-making processes. In order to generate sufficient income, farms are growing in terms of size and number of employees. To strengthen family farms' competitiveness on international markets, product certificates are essential. Switzerland will continue to foster instruments that allow farmers to create added value and keep the sector attractive for youth.

4. To conclude, we would like to report on the progress made on Switzerland's commitment during the UN Food Systems Summit.

The national pathway of Switzerland is based on the Swiss Sustainable Development Strategy 2030, adopted by the government in June. It sets out four concrete and measurable goals for Switzerland by 2030:

- First, that one third of the population eats a healthy, balanced and sustainable diet.
- Second, that food losses are halved.
- Third, that the greenhouse gas footprint from production to consumption is reduced by a quarter.
- Fourth, that the share of farms that produce in a particularly animal and environmentally friendly way grows by a third.

To achieve these goals, Switzerland has started multiple processes, such as the development of a new climate strategy for food and agriculture and the adoption of a new action plan to reduce food waste. In addition, the federal administration contributes to The Citizens' Assembly for Food Policy, which brings together people of different ages, genders, and language-regions living in Switzerland in a deliberative format. It explores the question of what a sustainable food policy in Switzerland could look like in 2030 and will conclude its work in early November.

In closing, we would like to congratulate the World Food Forum for the tremendous work of all who have contributed in delivering this second edition of its Flagship Event.

Thank you.

**Statement of the National Youth Delegation of  
Somalia  
In the World Food Forum  
On the Theme “Healthy Diets. Healthy Planet.”  
Rome, Italy, 17-21 October 2022**

Master of ceremonies,  
Flag officers  
Young men and women of the YA/WFFpresent,  
Members of the media,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great honor and privilege for me to join today's event on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports in Somalia and substantially contribute our vision and views to enrich the 2022 theme which is Healthy Diet: Healthy Planet.

Somalia remains one of the countries ravaged by the climate changes ranging from disruption of the rainfall pattern, ocean acidification, recurring draughts as well as internal conflicts and wars. However, securing the country's food and nutritional security requirements, expanding youth engagement in agriculture, and strengthening capacities of local farmers along the riverine farms are progressively strategic options to enhance national economic development.

As we work towards improving the livelihood of our rural communities, provision for employment opportunities and using sustainable agricultural practices to mitigate climate change issues and strengthen national agro-food resilience.

Youth population is vital in national development strategies and is estimated 74% of the total population. In this regard, balancing economic development and capitalizing youth participation and empowerment schemes to strengthen agro-food improvement.

The failure of the five years rainfall has completely disrupted local production hence increasing rural-urban migration and the current situation paved the way for internal displacement.



Despite responses given by the humanitarian actors to bring the malnutrition and mortality under control youth empowerment for sustainable economic resilience was not addressed with greater magnitude.

The ministry believes that initiating youth empowerment forum with substantial policies and reforms could actively contribute to the national youth development projects. Through providing strategic directions and prioritizing objectives, a country-side campaign to end illiteracy and promote local production will be staged bringing people together and promote youth farmers association across the country.

Youth empowerment Forum Somalia is primarily a country-wide tool employed to foster a sense of social-economic empowerment while addressing key issues such as agro-food, environment conservation and engagement of inclusive innovation-hubs to increase awareness and skills promotions.

Youth Empowerment Forum Somalia Initiative is a way of responding to the growing demands and rising level of unemployment, sustained poverty, continued food and nutrition insecurity as well as climate changes. The country-side campaign is intended to create better and contribute to national development programs. The initiative will greatly enhance food security by giving people the following opportunities.

1. Establishment of youth agro-entrepreneurship empowerment. This has already been put into function and currently large number of the city households are blessed to access creation of job opportunities as well as access to better and improved nutrition values
2. Supporting innovation hub to train, engage and promote skills and expertise to generate income at the rural base where large portion of the economy sits.
3. Direct access to diversity and nutritionally rich foods.
4. Engaging microfinance institutions and Banks to provide loan accessibilities for the YEFS hence promote and contribute to the national GDP.
5. Continuity and sustaining food supply through green-house farm establishment and engaging youth and energetic part of the society.
6. Inclusive and gender mainstreaming into agro-entrepreneurship will help providing youth entrepreneurs with skills through strategic workshops and develop small businesses hence promote agro-food resilience

A couple of decades, in Somalia, campaigning on climate justice and bringing people together to act and speak was difficult and frustrating. However, as youth increasingly joined the higher ranks of the national governance several aspects were made possible, and these includes giving message to larger population

Finally, I would like to state briefly that national development plan is already set, and the youth remains the key actors in every aspect including promotion of peace and prosperity, engagement in advanced farming practices as well as positive contributions towards to ending poor practices leading to ravaging climate changes. As I concluded my speech, I would like to welcome any developmental conscious institution, state or individual willing to participate in the promotions of Youth Empowerment Forum Somalia Initiative and be the cause of livelihood empowerment for vulnerable societies.

Thanks, and May God Bless You All

**Statement of the National Youth Delegation of  
South Korea  
In the World Food Forum  
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South Korea has achieved sudden and rapid growth from a poverty-stricken and war-ridden post colony to 12th largest economy in the world. With these developments, hunger has also decreased significantly. Post-war South Korea had a high risk of famine; however, due to the before-mentioned economic growth, it now maintains a stable percentage of 2.5% of the population who cannot intake a healthy amount of nutrition. The government has achieved this by achieving rice self-sufficiency, vertical farming, and food banks. However, the percentage of 2.5% is not decreasing, something that the Korean government should focus on, especially with the fact that, because of the Russian-Ukraine war and the ongoing pandemic, there will be an inflation of food prices, possibly causing hunger levels to rise.

Globally, however, South Korea has a relatively low rate of hunger. Therefore, not a lot of youth see hunger as a problem in South Korea. However, it must be taken into account that hunger still exists as a problem, especially in the older generations. The sub-replacement fertility along with the aging of the population further contributes to this problem. Especially because South Korea is a technologically developed country, a lot of jobs require technical skills from the people. Hence, while the aging population continues to grow, the number of jobs available for this population decreases.

In recognition of this problem of hunger amongst the elderlies, the South Korean government has initiated a retirement program that offered jobs to elderlies in which they could receive about \$200 a month. By providing the elderlies with these jobs, the government was not only able to decrease the unemployment rate, but provided access to healthy and nutritious food for them. However, as aforementioned, because hunger appears not to be a significant problem in Korea, the youth themselves are not really involved in the process of ending hunger in Korea.

## Food System in Korea

To discuss some possible solutions or actions that the youth can take, it is crucial to understand the current food system in South Korea. The Ministry of Food and Drug Safety has established a food safety management system as explained in the diagram below. This organized system has proved to provide nutritious and safe food to a great number of the population.

## Possible Actions from the Youth Going Forward

First and foremost, the problem of hunger in Korea must be brought to attention by the youth. This can be started off with the actions of youth who are already aware that hunger is a problem in Korea to raise awareness on this issue and call other youths to action. Although individual actions are also important, oftentimes, group actions are more powerful. Therefore, greater awareness can be raised by having individual youths come together to take actions and spread awareness on the issue.

Moreover, the main issue of hunger identified in Korea had to do with hunger in an aging population. Those in the younger generation like the youths are the ones who are educated and interact with the rapid advancement of technology. Therefore, it is our responsibility as youths to create a bridge between the older generation and the current world to allow them to live together in this ever changing world. Our efforts will not only help the elderlies acquire jobs that require a basic knowledge of technology but also allow them to get employed in jobs that can sustain themselves. After all, sustainability is key to solving any problems, including hunger

**Statement of the National Youth Delegation of  
Georgia  
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Georgia is a small country with a strategically favorable location between Europe and Asia. Georgia is homeland of wine with world’s oldest wine producing country – 8,000 years of winemaking tradition. Population of Georgia is about 3.6 million people and total territory covers 69,700 square kilometers. The share of agriculture land in the total area is 43.4%, the state forest fund covers 44% of the country’s territory (2020). The Socio-economic condition of the rural population mostly depends on agriculture and agribusiness. On average, 20% of the labor force is employed in agriculture. Rural development in Georgia has an important role to play in increasing the welfare of rural populations and reducing the economic imbalance between rural and urban areas.

Nowadays, existence of the sustainable food systems has the great importance for the world. For Georgia, as well as for the other UN member countries availability of the sustainable food systems and improvement of the food environment is a priority.

Georgia has developed a National Pathway for Sustainable Food Systems within the framework of the UN Food System Summit. Existence of sustainable food systems in the country by 2030 depends on the development of the directions written in the Pathway document:

- Ensure competitive value-chains in the food systems;
- Ensure effective systems of food/feed safety, veterinary and plant protection;
- Sustainable use of natural resources, environmental protection, preservation of ecosystems, climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- Elaboration of effective systems for the crisis management.
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According to the Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy of Georgia (ARDS) for 2021-2027 food security and food safety are especially important for the country, and is a key obligation of the Government of Georgia.

In the process of implementation of the strategy, the country pays special attention to stimulating the involvement of youth. Namely to raise awareness and knowledge of farmers and entrepreneurs as well as to integrate them into the markets and stimulate young farmers and entrepreneurs in rural areas.

Georgia can achieve its food systems transformation through inclusive multi-stakeholder collaboration. The involvement of the civil society sector in the policy implementation process along with the public agencies is of utmost importance. It is vital to actively communicate with the direct stakeholders of food systems, such as producers, unions, associations, NGOs, scientific circles, donors, international organizations, higher educational and vocational education institutions, local municipality representatives, as well as the civic sector in the country's municipalities.

Additionally, we consider it appropriate to focus on the implementation of the directions, which will contribute to the involvement of young people in the development food systems:

- Support access to rural co-financing project and grants for young farmers and entrepreneurs;
- Promote and support vocational education;
- Support to the diversification of the rural economy through innovation;
- Raising awareness of food loss and food waste.

Involvement of youth in the country's development process has always had and will have crucial importance. Therefore, the strategic task of each country should be investment in its young people, because they can contribute to development of the country and the world with new perspectives and innovative approaches. We call for greater engagement of youth in the decision-making processes and encourage all policymakers and actors in position of power to invest in enhancing youth leadership in their areas.

We wish peace in the whole world. Young people deserve to inherit a better planet than what we are proposing now.

**Statement of the National Youth Delegation of**  
**Argentina**  
**In the World Food Forum**  
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We, the representatives of the National Delegations to the World Youth Forum, gathered in Rome, Italy, we meet in the World Food Forum, from October 17th to 21st 2022. We propose to share our views around the future of agri-food systems and the involvement of youth.

We are currently going through the terrible effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic that entails multiple crises, as well as a war in Ukraine that specifically affects the Energy and Food sectors globally.

In a climate change scenario that requires sustainable responses, and where the United Nations states that 29% of greenhouse gas emissions come from the food supply chain, we accept the challenge of working on concrete responses, within the framework proposal of “Healthy Diets. Healthy Planet”.

1. Healthy diets. Healthy Planet.

The premise “Healthy diets. Healthy Planet” invites us to highlight some of the steps that Argentina has taken in this direction. To cite some of the policies around food security, healthy eating and the involvement of youth in agri-food systems:

- a) The recognition and enhancement of the instances proposed by the UN in the “Member State Dialogues”, as part of the Food Systems Summit process, in which President Alberto Fernández himself participated, establishing a national path towards agro-national consultation dialogues.
- b) The sanction of the Law for the Promotion of Healthy Food (Arg. Law 26,642), which proposes to provide simple and understandable information on packaged foods and alcoholic beverages, warn about the excess of certain components, prevent malnutrition, reduce chronic non-communicable diseases and regulates advertising while promoting healthy eating in educational establishments.

c) Within the scope of the National Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, the creation of a National Coordination of Incubators for Women, Agro-Food Producers and Youth, within the scope of the also recently created Undersecretary for Productive and Sustainable Strengthening for Small and Medium (SME's) Agrifood Producers; as well as the National Food Loss and Waste Reduction Program.

These advances occur in a framework where the most recent National Health Survey indicates that 14 out of 100 children under 5 years of age are overweight -and 41 out of 100 children between 5 and 17 years of age-; while 50.9% of girls and boys in Argentina are below the poverty line.

## 2. Agri-food systems and youth

The particularities presented by the Argentine agri-food systems in relation to youth deserve a deeper analysis. We must question where the youth are expected to carry out the proposed transformations, if in the last 20 years the agricultural units in Argentina have been reduced by 25%, concentrating production in fewer hands, and forcing urban migration of families. There are less than 20,000 agricultural units led by young people under 39 years of age, 50% less than in 2002.

In this sense, it is important to reinforce that:

- a) physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet dietary needs and preferences for an active and healthy life is a right.
- b) the goals of eradicating hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition have not been achieved; that while there have been failures in policy formulation and funding, the approach may need to be transformed.

We youth understand that access to safe and nutritious food and healthy diets necessarily implies linking to other issues that the agenda of numerous youth groups contemplates: the conservation of wetlands, national environmental planning, environmental education, policies for gluten intolerant , lactose- and the promotion of Small and Medium-Sized (SME's) Agrifood Enterprises aware of these social, cultural and environmental variables to promote sustainable production.



Achieving a better food future for all by empowering youth will be impossible without financing possibilities, agreements and regional networks that facilitate other models of production and consumption, of life. New ideas, strong partnerships and global dialogue will allow us to make the necessary commitment to transform the system, encouraging youth to assume their role in ending hunger and promoting peace.

Not all the answers are expected from institutional environments. We believe it is essential to invite societies, peoples, especially their youth, to participate in the definition of their own policies and strategies for the production, distribution and consumption of food, in order to guarantee a culturally and nutritionally appropriate and sufficient diet for all the population. Recognize the experiences that are taking the initiative towards transformations of agri-food systems

In this way, it is proposed to democratize power and decision-making in the entire food network: Production, Distribution, Marketing, Consumption and Post-Consumption; questioning the concentration of production and land, the effects on biodiversity and the health of our people. Reterritorialized states and the participation of organizations and movements will make it possible to stop what is happening in terms of socio-environmental limits, and begin to reverse it

It is urgent to build a productive, educational and social strategy that transcends the property scale, and recognizes these global conditions in its food proposals. The formation of a social block made up of small and medium-sized national agri-food companies, family farmers, peasants and indigenous people, and social movements, with and without legally recognized land, that clearly defines the meanings of food security policies, as well as decisions on quantities and destinations of national food production.

**Statement of the National Youth Delegation of  
Guatemala  
In the World Food Forum  
On the Theme “Healthy Diets. Healthy Planet.”  
Rome, Italy, 17-21 October 2022**

I would like to begin by thanking, on behalf of the government of Guatemala and my own behalf as a youth representative of my country, the organizers of this flagship event of the World Food Forum, which is being held under the theme “Healthy Diets. Healthy Planet.”. This is an important opportunity for us young people to raise our voices in the search of solutions and priorities in the transformation of the agrifood systems of our nations, without letting anyone behind.

My country, for those who haven't had the opportunity to visit, represents us for being a mega diverse and multi-ethnic nation with a diversity of microclimates and multiple cultures. However, it faces great challenges. The agrifood systems of Latin American and the Caribbean are under great pressure due to the damage to biodiversity and ecological imbalances resulting from climate change, conditions that limit the development of the region. Therefore, the transformation of agrifood systems must be efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable, to achieve the necessary actions to encourage support and transform these systems. We recognize that both urban and rural jobs are a fundamental pillar for the country, since they contribute to the transformation of food systems for their capacity of innovation, creativity and the value they give to the care of the environment, which is a guarantee for sustainability.

In that regard, I would like to share with you some strategies that have been implemented throughout recent months and reflect the priority that the government of Guatemala has given to the transformation of food systems as an important complement for the sustainable development of our country. In the last Food Systems Summit, called by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Guatemala held national dialogues. We were honoured to receive support and the participation of multiple stakeholders and actors to identify the main problems and the most viable and innovative proposals that could guarantee food security, and eradicate malnutrition of the population in the urban and rural area of my country. As a result, it was possible to identify three priorities to accomplish for its approach.

Likewise, in Guatemala, we are implementing the great national crusade for nutrition, which is a priority of our government, a pilot of our public policies and is an integral part of our national development plan called "Plan k'atun 2032" - it seeks to unite all sectors of the country to improve the health and nutrition of the Guatemalan population through their access to healthy and nutritious food, diversifying the diet through strong family farming, improving the quality of food for children under two years of age and care for vulnerable families in situation of food insecurity. In addition, I want to emphasize that Guatemala has carried out actions that highlight education as a transformative tool for food culture, contributing to the healthy consumption from childhood. As a result, the school meal program is currently being implemented, seeking to contribute to the growth and development of school aged children and young people as well to promote learning and to encourage healthy dietary habits. Thanks to this now, more than 29,000 educational centers and 2.6 million students are benefitting from it. These are some of the actions that have been launched. However, there is still too much to be done and the role of youth is vital so that gaps are reduced in a short time to make possible significant advances and improvements for our countries. That's why technological, institutional and social innovation must be at the center of the actions to ensure that agrifood systems in the world and in the region continue to play a leading role in agriculture, trade and food security.

It is therefore important to invest in research, development and innovation, as well as to increase competitiveness in the agrifood systems. With this, Guatemala, as well as the rest of the countries will be able to face multiple challenges with tangible results that will lead to a better production, a better nutrition, a better environment and a better life.

To conclude, I want to emphasize the fact that as a high percentage of young people, it is necessary to make sufficient and sustained investments to enhance the talent of this group in the rural and urban areas of Guatemala. Investing in the youth is investing in the future of our nations and their own viability. So it is imperative to continue working together to ensure the participation of young people in all sectors and offer them as much opportunities as possible. Today, we can have the opportunity to make catalytic actions. On this behalf, the participation and commitment from all actors is fundamental- governments, youth, civil society, the private sector, academia, producer organizations and individuals - we all have a contribution to make for the transformation of food systems and ensure food for all.

Thank you.