



International
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Madame Chair,

The ILO actively participated in the preparations for the UN Food Systems Summit, which took place on 23 September 2021, namely by ensuring issues concerning equitable livelihoods and decent work in food systems was an integral part of the summit. This contribution has particularly focused on the promotion of productive employment, especially for youth; advancing workers' rights, women's empowerment and access to social protection.

The ILO tripartite constituents, which in addition to governments include the organizations of workers and employers, actively participated in the national and independent Food Systems Summit. This has resulted in commitments from numerous Governments to accelerate action by focusing on feeding growing populations in ways that contribute to many of the other SDGs and adapted to local circumstances to provide decent jobs and inclusive economies. It is critical that the voices of the ILO social partners be heard throughout the follow-up processes in order to establish national pathways towards sustainable food systems.

With less than 10 years left to 2030, the transformation of the global food systems and many of the SDG targets will not be met unless there are collective commitments by all

stakeholders to make decent work a reality for all those working in the food system. Tapping into the food systems potential to create decent jobs is particularly important for women and youth who have been hardest hit by the pandemic.

With the ILO's primary goal and mandate centred on the promotion of decent work and social justice, we are pleased to be working with IFAD and other development partners on the operationalisation of the Decent Work Coalition, which was launched at the Summit.

The objective of this Coalition of Action is to advance equitable livelihoods by promoting labour and human rights and increasing opportunities for decent and productive employment within the agri-food sector. This involves: guaranteeing the effective implementation of international labour and human rights standards; improving the functioning and governance of labour markets; empowering workers and their organisations; strengthening social dialogue and delivering decent working and living conditions, including the right to social protection for all and especially those most likely to be left behind, workplace safety and health and decent incomes and wages for all food systems workers. This also involves creating equitable opportunities to earn decent incomes through productive farming and by improving employment and entrepreneurship opportunities in on- and off-farm enterprises.

We would like to call on all member States to join us in this important initiative and helping to ensure the ambitions set out by the Coalition are successfully translated into effective action and delivery at country level.

Thank you.