

**UNITED NATIONS FOOD SYSTEMS PRE-SUMMIT
ROME, ITALY
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**UNITED STATES MINISTERIAL STATEMENT (PRE-RECORDED)
DR. JEWEL BRONAUGH, DEPUTY SECRETARY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Greetings. I am Jewel Bronaugh, Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is my great pleasure and honor to represent the United States at the United Nations Food Systems Pre-Summit Ministerial here in Rome.

I came to Rome because, frankly, we couldn't miss this event. During this year-plus of a global pandemic that has devastated health, food security, and economic prosperity At this time of significant climate change affecting every corner of the earth And as we witness over and over the effects of conflict in deepening food insecurity.

We know that this is a time for concerted, collaborative action. And we must act with urgency.

The 2021 Report on The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World shows that 811 million people faced hunger in 2020, with a projected increase of 118 million in just the past year. These devastating figures underscore the need for more resilient food systems. This is a wake-up call!

With the Food Systems Summit, we have an opportunity to collectively refocus the world's attention on ending hunger and poverty and building more sustainable, equitable, and resilient food systems. Together, we can build coalitions, increase collaboration, bring energy, and create momentum to reverse food insecurity trends.

The road to recovery from COVID-19 offers us an opportunity to build forward better and make real progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by deepening resilience to future shocks and promoting sustainable livelihoods that conserve nature and leave no one behind. The United States is committed to a Summit that leverages this moment and lives up to its potential.

To make real and lasting improvements to our agriculture and food systems, we must come together in support of science-based, data-driven decision-making and innovative solutions. We must optimize producer-led solutions and be open to the next big ideas – and we must continue investing in the agility and resilience of agriculture, rural communities, and supply chains around the globe. If we don't improve economic viability for producers across food systems, the future of food security will only become more unpredictable and more unstable.

We must also continue to promote open markets and trade, recognizing that well-functioning markets at the local, regional, and international levels bolster food security and sustainable food systems.

I'd like to outline for you some of the areas where the United States is committed to action:

First, food security and nutrition:

We all recognize that global food insecurity was at unacceptable levels even before the pandemic. That is why the United States is committed to a Food Systems Summit that puts addressing hunger, poverty, and malnutrition – and their causes – at the center of discussion for global action.

As the largest provider of international agricultural, economic development, and nutrition assistance –

We are stronger together, and together we can shape the future of food systems for the better for everyone.

We look forward to joining the international community in forming coalitions and presenting