

DRAFT

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

National Statement by President of Ireland H.E. Michael D Higgins at the United Nations  
Food Systems Summit in New York  
Thursday, 23 September, 2021

(Speaking time 3 minutes: 492 words)

Secretary-General, distinguished delegates.

Ireland embraces the profound insight which inspired the Secretary General to call this Summit – that transforming our food systems is central to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Whether or not we transform these systems is the test our authenticity in the words we use while so many are dying of hunger.

The need for action is more urgent than ever – we meet in the shadow of a global pandemic; in a world struggling with new rising inequality; scarred by unprecedented levels of conflict

-stakeholder dialogue, has shown that systemic change, while challenging, is possible but that it requires the willingness of all stakeholders to engage and cooperate, and at times to accept difficult compromises.

Based on this experience, Ireland, with UN partners, is leading the development of a Food Systems Transformation Support Facility that will provide structured support to countries to build their own capacity to develop and implement their national pathways.

We in Ireland recognise the urgency of the challenges we face collectively and support the Secr Ireland stands ready to work with all stakeholders to accelerate the global transformation to a more equitable, inclusive, resilient and sustainable food system.