

STATEMENT

BY

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PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COUNCIL (ECOSOC)**

**ON THE
OCCASSION TO COMMEMORATE WORLD FOOD DAY
(PRE-RECORDED STATEMENT)**

**15 OCTOBER 2021
13:00-14:45
VIRTUAL, NEW YORK**

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**Excellencies;
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen**

1. It is a privilege to commemorate this World Food Day with you, as we reflect on how far we have come and how our actions today can help us witness Zero Hunger by 2030.
2. The theme for this year's World Food Day: "***Our actions are our future. Better Production, Better Nutrition, a Better Environment and a Better Life,***" recognizes the interlinkages across the Sustainable Development Goals.
3. This multidisciplinary understanding of SDG2 – Zero Hunger – is one that my ECOSOC Presidency welcomes, and looks forward to supporting.
4. The theme of this year's ECOSOC session: "***Building back better from COVID-19 while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda,***" is one that relies on integrated approaches and crosscutting solutions.
5. ECOSOC remains an important partner to FAO and other partners involved in achieving Zero Hunger by 2030. My Presidency will take a cue from previous work on this subject, especially the 2021 High-Level Political Forum convened under auspices of ECOSOC. The Forum reviewed the global situation regarding SDG2 on Zero Hunger, and found us wanting.
6. In the last month, I have participated at two separate events on Food Security, where discussions on ways of achieving Zero hunger took place. At the Forty-ninth Session of the Committee on World Food Security, different stakeholders from Governments, civil society organizations, international organizations, business and experts came together to dialogue on global food policy convergence.
7. The UN Foundation also facilitated a discussion on the role of artificial intelligence in achieving food security, thereby affording us the opportunity to look at alternative ways of achieving food security.
8. On the other hand, the recent Food Systems Summit has given the world a platform and a community of practice through which to share resources, leverage solutions, and deliver on our promises.

9. The World Food Day therefore, comes at a most auspicious time this year, reminding us that we have the power to continue this momentum towards a food systems transformation for human and planetary prosperity.

Excellencies, Dear friends,

10. We all understand that a recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic is only as strong and sustainable as its inclusivity of those who have been most affected, such as smallholder and family farmers, rural women, and indigenous peoples. As we dialogue on new ways of achieving zero hunger, we should carry this constituency with us, bearing in mind how we can improve their subsistence methods.
11. Our most valuable assets -- as humanity -- rest in our ability to come together in solidarity and in ready disposition to shift the narrative and direction of the most pressing issues before us.
12. Having **up to 811 million people** going to bed hungry and **over 3 billion** unable to afford healthy diets is more than reason enough to act together and shift away from a business-as-usual approach to ending hunger.
13. Today's commemorative event is precisely about this: showing how a change in mindsets -- through the power of science, technology and innovation, smart investments and cooperation -- can make hunger a hardship of the past.
14. Let us not overlook the potential behind each individual action in leading us to a future where no one goes without a meal and where our food systems work together with, not against, our planet's ecosystems.

I thank you.