

**UNITED NATIONS FOOD SYSTEMS PRE-SUMMIT  
ROME, ITALY  
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**UNITED STATES MINISTERIAL STATEMENT (PRE-RECORDED)  
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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, as well as humanitarian assistance, the United States sees the Summit as a moment for decisive and coordinated action. As part of that, we are pleased to join the Global School Meals Coalition to support effective school feeding programs worldwide and help ensure that every child has access to nutritious meals in school by 2030.

### Second, **climate change:**

The climate crisis threatens to disrupt food systems around the globe, exacerbate food insecurity, and disrupt farmer livelihoods. We need *all* food systems stakeholders at the table to develop solutions that reduce emissions, sequester carbon, and help food systems adapt to a changing climate. This is the time to raise global climate ambition and drive more rapid and transformative climate action in all countries.

That is why, at President Biden’s Leaders’ Summit on Climate in April, the United States and United Arab Emirates announced plans for the Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate, which will be launched at COP26 in November.

By coming together to support greater investment in agricultural innovation and research, we can enhance existing approaches and deliver new ways to sustainably increase agricultural productivity. At the same time, we will be improving livelihoods, conserving nature and biodiversity, and addressing the climate crisis.

### Third, **inclusivity:**

Within the U.S. government, we are aligning our efforts to deliver improved nutrition for the most vulnerable, empower youth and women for greater inclusivity, and step-up investments in agricultural innovation and rural infrastructure to significantly improve the sustainability and resilience of food systems.

We are committed to a Summit that strives for improvements across all three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, environmental, and social. And the importance of that social dimension cannot be overstated. We must strengthen the capacity of *all* participants in food and agriculture systems, particularly those in marginalized communities, women, youth, and indigenous people.

The Food Systems Summit gives us the opportunity to face our shared challenges together – and to move forward together. None of us alone can address the enormity of these global challenges.

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 concrete deliverables to make measurable progress toward ending hunger and meeting the Sustainable Development Goals.