

DRAFT INTERVENTION

to be delivered by

H.E. Zsolt Belánszky-Demkó, Permanent Representative of Hungary

during UN FSS Stocktaking Moment

**Plenary Session 1: Food Systems Transformation in Practice – Successes,
Challenges and the Way Forward**

Rome, 25 July 2023

Dear Secretary-General,

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Let me present the steps Hungary has taken to implement food systems transformation and some objectives that are still ahead of us.

In our national pathway, which is closely linked to the European Green Deal in several points, we defined numerous short and long term tasks to transform our Food System and make it more sustainable in three dimensions.

The economic one, which focuses on accessibility and affordability and is mainly determined by policy incentives, assesses whether the current system is capable to provide sustainably sufficient food for all.

The actions of social dimension should focus on *improvement of livelihoods, empowerment of communities*, promotion of healthy diet, enhancement of awareness raising and educational processes, but also ensure decent work and appropriate level of income to decrease poverty and inequalities.

The environment dimension includes several key areas, such as the *sustainable consumption, resilience* and the *reduction of impact of food systems on climate and biodiversity*, while the tasks include the improvement of agricultural techniques, the preservation of biodiversity, the increasing of

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resilience, the prevention of soil degradation, deforestation, the enhancement of circular economy, climate actions and so on.

In Hungary we aim to achieve shorter supply chains, promote local products and raise awareness. Through the educational system we wish to reach children to promote sustainable food consumption, food safety and quality. Adapting front-of-pack labels of nutrition labels and sustainability would empower the consumers to make the healthy and environmentally conscious choice, while many programs contribute to raising awareness and decreasing food waste in Hungary. We are proud of the achievement of our so called Wasteless program which supported the decrease of household waste by a quarter in the last five years. Also, I am glad to shed light on the success of awareness raising about food quality and conscious shopping.

The Hungarian Government promotes digitalization for all generations to help them get involved in agricultural activities. We strengthen the availability, collection and use of data in order to facilitate access to knowledge, science and technology but we also pledge to increase the research, development and innovation activities in the food industry. Our policy incentives are also to support small scale farmers, to improve livelihood in rural areas and to encourage entrepreneurship in the agricultural sector. We also aim to solve the problem of ageing society in the rural areas through a legislative act.

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As far as climate actions are concerned, the Act on Climate Protection declares the medium- and long-term climate targets, which includes the achievement of full climate neutrality by 2050.

Hungary's National Adaptation Strategy includes the development of sustainable resource-efficient irrigation facilities and appropriate cultivation techniques, because our highly vulnerable geographical position exposes us to the dramatic influence of climate change. We take these efforts to conserve water habitats, protect nature and reduce the impact of climate change.

We also encourage the promotion of local products through better information to consumers and to the stakeholders of the catering sector. Also, we continue the campaigns about healthy and sustainable diet, highlighting the benefits of the locally produced, seasonal fruits and vegetables.

The noble event of Stocktaking Moment lends us a chance of reflection and sharing our experiences to amend our national policies to reach more swiftly the sustainable and safer future we all desire and strive for. Let me encourage you to continue to do so, because it is our grand duty, personal and moral obligation towards each other and towards the generations to come.

Thank you for your attention.