

**Plenary Session 2: Reversing the Food and Hunger Crises :**  
**Building Resilient Food Systems**

**United Nations Food Systems Stock Taking Moment 24-26 July  
2023**

*Q1. How have the country's food systems transformation pathways/actions adapted to continue delivering food security and nutrition in the face of increasing shocks and stresses?*

*Q2. What are the main calls for action deriving from successes, challenges and bottlenecks experienced so far – needed to advance the agenda to 2030?*

The crisis in food systems has triggered many adaptations, and we can use the shocks and stresses as an experience to advance the agenda to 2030.

Malta is a densely populated country heavily reliant on extra-territorial trade for its food supply, and it has been extremely important for us to remain vigilant of threats and to consider the entire food value chain. In this context we express our preoccupation that international events have also tested long established mechanisms of international cooperation and solidarity. For this reason, we believe that international cooperation and the role of international organizations such as the Food and Agricultural Organisation play a very central role in safeguarding sustainable food supplies to all corners of the world.

We would also like to underline the importance of trade agreements and negotiations for food security. Trade agreements and building partnerships with third countries for development of sustainable food systems are key in diversifying our inputs and supplies.

In our strategy, we addressed the sources of food insecurity, and rather than control the prices of staple foods, we stabilised the price of fuel and electricity, and made use of aid schemes to subsidise the purchase of animal feeds and fertilisers.

We have also supported the set up of co-ordination groups with the aim of increasing transparency and collaboration between different players.

Thinking about the main calls for action, I believe we need to consider these extraordinary shocks and stresses as part of the norm and remain constant and consistent in our struggle to ensure food security.

This means that we have two clear missions in our transformation agenda.

Firstly, we need to learn from our experiences and use this knowledge to build permanent systems for long-term preparedness and resilience.

Secondly, we need to be selective in our investment, choosing to set aside non-urgent issues and agreeing to accelerate action in those areas of food security that matter most to the sustainability of our food systems – ecosystem health; ethical businesses; and consumers' rights.