

Statement of the Republic of the Philippines
UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment
Plenary 1: Food Systems Transformation in Practice - Successes, Challenges,
and the Way Forward
Tuesday, 25 July 2023

Honorable Ministers, Excellencies, distinguished guests, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

1. Agriculture Undersecretary and National Food Systems Convenor of the Philippines Mercedita Sombilla, who was recently in Rome for the FAO Conference, would like us to share highlights of our country's efforts to achieve prosperous, sustainable, equitable, and resilient food systems for all.
2. President Ferdinand R Marcos Jr. and the concurrent Secretary of the Department of Agriculture is resolute on fast-tracking the transformation of the Philippine Food System to achieve greater access to safer and more nutritious food towards healthier and more sustainable consumption patterns. With the incorporation of the strategies of the Philippine National Food Transformation Pathway in three significant national policy and planning documents of the country, namely the Philippine National Food Policy (NFP), the National Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization and Industrialization Plan 2021-2030 (NAFMIP), and the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2023-2028, the whole -of- nation has been called upon to help achieve the objectives.
3. To ensure that this collaboration happens, the President signed Executive Order No. 27 in May 2023 to reinstitutionalize once again the Inter-agency Task Force on Zero Hunger that was mandated to ensure food security during the height of the Covid 19 pandemic.
4. A Pilot Food Stamp Program was also launched this month with children and nursing mothers as key beneficiaries to promote healthy balanced meals that address child malnutrition.
5. Efforts to boost agricultural productivity and production are being continued, but now more mindful of doing these by boosting sustainable soil health and integrated water resource management, and implementing climate resilient agriculture.
6. The other interventions being vigorously implemented, to increase farmers' and fisherfolk's income and to ensure a variety of safe and nutritious food reaches consumers, are those that strengthen the commodity value chains. The Philippine Rural Development Project Scale-up will continue to expand farm-to-market roads and ramp up the farmers' and fisherfolk clustering and consolidation (F2C2) program to foster the sector's digitalization and modernization, and strengthen value chains.
7. There are other interventions that we hope to highlight in the next Stocktaking Session. Reaching the objectives will not be easy, but we are committed to transforming our food systems for our countrymen. The support of development partners to sustain this momentum cannot be overemphasized. END