

Permanent Mission of Tuvalu to the United Nations

United Nation Food System Summit +2 (UNFSS+2) Rome, Italy 24-26 July 2023

INTERVENTION

PLENARY SESSION 1 Day 2 – FINANCING FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION IN PRACTICE: Success, Challenges and the Way-Forward

Thank you, Moderator.

Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates.

Let me first associate myself with previous speakers in thanking our distinguished panelists for enlightening us with their insightful presentations on this important topic: Financing Food Systems Transformation in Practice.

Excellencies,

Financing Food System Transformation in Tuvalu, while it is challenging, we have made some good progress since the last Food System Summit. Since the launching of our Sustainable Healthy Food Security Strategy, we have been able to garner financial support from our development partners, particularly the Republic of China (Taiwan) for financing the implementation of our Sustainable Health Food Security Strategy, and the European Union for financing our Coconut Sector Rehabilitation Programme, worth 4.5 million Euro.

With these funding we were able to implement some of the project activities such as, at the household level, we have "food cubes" and home gardens which provide reliable nutrition sources of vegetables and root crops. And at the community level, the government has leased land on all islands for agriculture sites and nurseries to enhance food production and security.

In terms of the challenges, Tuvalu being a small low-lying atoll nation, climate change, scarcity of resources, pests and diseases, and the food price crisis are giving us difficulties in our food system transformation efforts.

The way forward, we are focusing on increasing education about nutrition and healthy eating through programs by the Department of Health and stakeholders. These programs promote understanding of healthy food choices and provide cooking demonstrations using local ingredients. The government is also facilitating access to healthy local food by establishing mechanisms that support income-generating opportunities for farmers and collaborating with existing markets.

By implementing the Tuvalu Sustainable Healthy Food Security Strategy and addressing these challenges, Tuvalu calls for the support of development partners to assist us in transforming our food systems and improve food security. Collaboration, innovation, and education will be key in achieving these goals and ensuring a sustainable and resilient future for Tuvalu's food systems.

Thank you!