



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 1 – SCHOOL MEALS POWERING FOOD
SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION

Co-Chairs, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates

Tuvalu align itself with previous speakers in thanking you for the excellent leadership in this important session: “School Meals Powering Food Systems Transformation”.

In Tuvalu, while we have yet to formally incorporate school meal in our food systems, we are conscious that school meal has the potential to play a significant role in powering food system transformation. In fact, the government recognizes the importance of nutritious meals in schools and is committed to leveraging school meals as a catalyst for sustainable and resilient food systems.

One key aspect is the commitment to supporting local food systems. Tuvalu aims to incorporate locally sourced ingredients into school meals, ensuring that students have access to fresh and nutritious food. By partnering with local farmers and fishers, the government can promote local food production, enhance food security, and reduce dependence on imported food. This initiative aligns with the national pathway for food systems transformation and contributes to the overall goal of improving the health and well-being of Tuvalu's youth.

Another crucial element is education about nutrition and healthy eating. Tuvalu has already implemented nutrition education programs in collaboration with stakeholders and donor-funded projects. By expanding these programs to schools, students can learn about the importance of making healthy food choices and preparing nutritious meals. Cooking demonstrations using local ingredients can be incorporated into the curriculum, empowering students with practical skills and knowledge that they can apply both at school and in their daily lives.

However, challenges such as climate change, scarcity of land, water, and energy, as well as pests and diseases, need to be addressed in the context of school meals. Tuvalu determines to explore

innovative practices for climate change adaptation, such as promoting drought-resistant crops and implementing water-saving techniques in school gardens. Collaboration with development partners and UN agencies can provide technical expertise and support in managing pests and diseases, ensuring the safety and quality of locally sourced ingredients.

By harnessing the power of school meals, Tuvalu can drive food system transformation at the grassroots level. Through a holistic approach that integrates local food systems, nutrition education, and access to healthy food, Tuvalu can empower its youth to make informed choices and contribute to a sustainable and resilient future.

Thank you, Co-chairs!