UNFSS+4 Stocktaking Summit – clean version

(under 400 words – 3 minutes speaking time)

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

- It is a great honor to represent Belgium at the official opening of the Second United Nations Food Systems Summit Stocktake (UNFSS +4).
- Two years ago, Belgium committed to building a resilient, fair, and healthy food policy. Today, we reaffirm that commitment. We believe in multilateralism as the path to coordinated solutions and advocate for stronger global governance rooted in a rights-based approach to food systems.
- Belgium's international cooperation is guided by three global public goods: **Climate, Health, and Stability**. We view sustainable food systems as essential to addressing climate change, promoting global health, and fostering peace. Reflecting this, nearly 14% of our cooperation budget is dedicated to food systems transformation and food security.
- Our approach prioritizes the most vulnerable. We believe that inclusive, lasting change must be co-created with those most affected—farmers, communities, and public authorities—within existing frameworks. Innovation is vital, but it must be paired with proven sustainable practices such as agroecology.
- We also commend the work of Belgian NGOs partnering with local actors to support family farming and combat rural poverty and food insecurity.
- Domestically, Belgium's regions have taken significant steps. The Walloon Government launched the "Eat Tomorrow" strategy (Stratégie Manger Demain) to accelerate the transition to a sustainable food system, similarly Flanders adopted its "Go4Food Strategy" and the Brussels-Capital region launched "The Good Food 2 Strategy". All three strategies adopt a food systems approach and were developed inclusively through co-creation with diverse stakeholders. They are backed by investments in research, field support, and knowledge exchange on shared challenges—such as engaging the retail sector—and include robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks to maximize their impact.
- To illustrate some of the impactful actions so far: Wallonia is promoting sustainable food in catering by rolling out a sustainable a canteen label, Flanders is involving citizens in 'The Big Food Map' project for healthier food environments, and Brussels is developing Good Food supply chains for local sustainable products."

- The UNFSS has created global momentum for food systems transformation. While progress has been made, significant challenges remain. We must continue working together to build sustainable, equitable, and future-proof food systems worldwide. Systems that nourish people, support sustainable agriculture, and offer economic, social, and environmental resilience.
- Belgium remains fully committed to doing its part.