



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.



23 March 2021

Dear Madam Speaker,  
Dear Mr. Speaker

The United Nations (UN) Secretary-General will host a Food Systems Summit in conjunction with this year's UN High Level week in September. Food systems encompass all the people, institutions and processes that play a part in producing, processing, transporting and consuming food, touching every aspect of human existence. However, too many of the world's food systems are fragile and vulnerable to collapse, as has been exposed during the COVID-19 crisis. Despite the setbacks, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) offer a roadmap to deliver on resilience for people, planet and the economy, and should be at the heart of recovery efforts from COVID-19.

The Food Systems Summit aims to support countries to identify a set of guiding principles and priority actions to implement reforms at all levels of food systems. Through their representative role, parliamentarians play a key role in voicing how people are affected by current failures and inequalities of food systems. Ensuring effective action and investments in food systems in a way that supports the achievement of national development plans and the SDGs also requires leveraging parliaments' powers of legislation, budgeting and oversight.

As part of the Summit preparatory process, the UN is encouraging Member States to nominate a National Dialogue Convenor that will be responsible to engage all relevant stakeholders in devising pathways for the future of food systems that are rooted in national and local realities.

We would like to request you to reach out to your respective governments and urge them to convene multi-stakeholder Member State Food Systems Summit Dialogues. We also urge your parliament to participate in these Dialogues and thereby contribute to shaping a new generation of food system policies and strategies. For further reference, we are pleased to attach an overview of the UN Food Systems Summit.

The IPU is fully committed to mobilizing parliaments and, as a contribution to the UN Food Systems Summit, will convene a high-level parliamentary meeting on 23 June 2021 in which we hope your parliament will be represented. Further information will be shared in due course.

We count on your support and commitment on this critical opportunity. We invite you to let us know of any parliamentary actions taken on food systems.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Chungong  
Secretary-General  
Inter-Parliamentary Union

Agnes Kalibata  
Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for  
the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit