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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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MESSAGE FOR FORUM FOR THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE
23 March 2021

It is a pleasure to greet this important forum on the future of agriculture.

Food systems are crucial for eliminating hunger, promoting economic growth and protecting the planet. Despite remarkable progress across the decades, food systems are still falling short in putting meals on all tables and in delivering on their potential to generate gains across the Sustainable Development Goals.

The urgency is clear. Food systems continue to generate more than one third of all greenhouse gas emissions in the midst of a climate emergency. The sector also employs more than 1 billion people.

We must transform our food systems but we cannot leave anyone behind.

The Food Systems Summit that I will convene in September will be a key moment and opportunity. I am encouraged by the many hundreds of solutions that have already been proposed by diverse sets of stakeholders and institutions as inputs to this process.

Our challenge is to work more closely and effectively together to bring these ideas to life. The European Union's Green Deal and its Farm to Fork Strategy are important parts of the picture.

Together, we can and must renew the world's food systems.