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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

science, systems, evidence, food, work, innovation, sdgs, transformation, process, evidence based approach, support, areas, constituencies, planetary, calibrate, colleagues, pivotal role, scientific, global, enhancing

Excellencies Dear colleagues,

Thank you for the invitation to join you at the start of a crucial two days on the road to the food system summit.

I would like to commend the contributions of the independent scientific group in drawing together the best science and evidence to accompany the process. Their work has helped us better understand the complexity of food systems, and the many areas where science knowledge and innovation can support improvements in our food systems for the benefit of all, their approach to the work has reflected our intention to be inclusive in all areas of this process. The group's efforts to galvanize multiple research networks across the globe have enriched the process.

The importance of strong evidence for food system transformation has never been clearer. Our evidence base has been strengthened, but we still need to make further progress in several key areas.

First, food systems transformation demands that we deepen our understanding of how to best calibrate our policies and investments, so they address all dimensions of sustainable development. This means supporting decision makers to maximize co benefits in our choices, and to reduce the impacts of perceived trade offs. In short, it's no longer enough to think only of enhancing productivity. We must also account for the relationship with human and Planetary health. These will not always be easy choices. We therefore urgently need science and knowledge to help us chart the best path if we are to leverage transformations in our food systems to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

A second area relates to the incorporation of evidence and experience from indigenous peoples food systems. Here, I'd like to congratulate the global hub of indigenous peoples food systems for their work in association with the scientific group. Dear colleagues, if we are to meet the SDGs by 2030, and keep global temperature rise to less than 1.5 degrees, we need science, technology and innovation to play a pivotal role.

Doing that effectively means ensuring that the role of all constituencies, particularly women and youth is recognized and empowered. Science will also have to work with leaders and the business community to help lead the just transitions that we need to reach the SDGs. workers will need new skills and the knowledge to drive innovation and bring new opportunities for decent jobs in all parts of the world.

I'm confident that your deliberations will further advance the science and evidence-based approach to the transformation of our food systems. I wish you a good meeting and I look forward to receiving the outcome.

Thank you