



26 March 2021

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Committee on Agriculture

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**JOINT STATEMENT**

**THE CONTRIBUTION OF INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL TRADE  
TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS**

*Submission by Brazil*

The following submission, dated 26 March 2021, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Brazil.

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This joint statement is being circulated to the Committee on Agriculture for transparency purposes only.

H.E. Amina Mohammed  
Deputy UN Secretary-General  
New York

H.E. Agnes Kalibata  
Special Envoy to the 2021 Food Systems Summit  
New York

Excellency,

1. International agricultural trade is critical for global food security and poverty eradication and must be duly considered by the 2021 Food Systems Summit.
2. The correction and prevention of trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, is one of the targets under Sustainable Development Goal 2. Therefore, it is our view that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has recognized the importance of this measure as a transformative solution for achieving SDG 2 in its entirety.
3. Open trade plays a vital part in ensuring and supporting global food security. No single economy can lay claim to full self-sufficiency.<sup>1</sup> We all rely on international trade for key components of our diet, and for access to inputs, machinery and services that allow us to produce safe and affordable food. Trade facilitates access to food during local production shocks and across different production seasons, and acts to prevent domestic shortages. Trade also leads to a more efficient and sustainable allocation of factors of production, such as land and water resources. Under open market conditions, agricultural supply chains are able to adapt to occasional and temporary challenges. Without predictable agricultural and food trade we would all be significantly worse off.
4. At this critical time, when countries are responding to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the risks posed by additional distortive subsidies, the disposal of subsidised stocks (whether privately held or in public storage), and other measures that distort or disrupt trade cannot be over-estimated. Producers who are already under pressure could be put in an unviable position and the supply chains that are critical to the global agricultural and food system could be put at risk. Such developments could increase the levels of global food insecurity as a result of COVID-19.
5. Therefore, in our effort to "build back better" and achieve sustainable food systems, our Governments jointly propose that the elimination of unjustified import trade barriers to agricultural products, as well as refraining from adopting quantitative export restrictions not in conformity with Article XI 2.A of the GATT and Article 12 of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture and capping and reducing all forms of trade-distorting agricultural subsidies should be considered "game-changing solutions" by the Summit, in line with SDGs 2.b and 2.c. Freer and fairer trade, based on multilaterally agreed rules, is key to democratizing access to food and eradicating poverty, especially for the poorest areas of the world.
6. We reaffirm our agreement not to impose export restrictions or extraordinary taxes on food and agricultural products purchased for non-commercial purposes by the World Food Programme (WFP) and other humanitarian agencies.
7. We also reaffirm our commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner.
8. We also request that the final outcome of the 2021 Food Systems Summit be consistent with rules and decisions adopted under the World Trade Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization and other entities of the UN-system, as well as with the terminology, Goals and targets set out by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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<sup>1</sup> Only 17% of countries produce more calories than they consumed between 2005-2009 and even those countries relied on trade to ensure a varied and nutritional diet. (M.J. Puma et al Environmental Research Letters January 2015).

9. Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Ambassador Maria del Carmen Squeff  
Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations

Ambassador Mitchell Peter Fifield  
Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations

Ambassador Ronaldo Costa Filho  
Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations

Ambassador Robert Rae  
Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations

Ambassador Milenko E. Skoknic Tapia  
Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations

Ambassador Guillermo Fernández de Soto V.  
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Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations

Ambassador Luis Lam Padilla  
Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the United Nations

Ambassador Craig J. Hawke  
Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations

Ambassador Julio César Arriola  
Permanent Representative of Paraguay to the United Nations

Ambassador Néstor Popolizio  
Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations

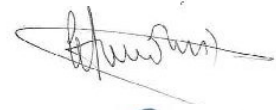
Ambassador Enrique A. Manalo  
Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations

Ambassador Mathu Joyini  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa to the  
United Nations

Ambassador Sergiy Kyslytsya  
Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations



Ambassador Carlos Amorín  
Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the United Nations



Ambassador Dang Dinh Quy  
Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations



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