

THE SECRETARY GENERAL

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**WRITTEN MESSAGE TO 47TH SESSION OF
THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY**

To be delivered by Agnes Kalibata,

Special Envoy for the Food Systems Summit, 8 Feb 2021

I send my warm greeting to the 47th plenary session of the Committee on World Food Security.

Food security and nutrition are among the most pressing development, security and human rights issues of our time.

2021 will be a pivotal year for achieving SDG-2 on Zero Hunger.

The latest State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report shows that COVID-19 pandemic is having a terrible impact on communities around the world, driving up hunger and malnutrition even further, and reversing progress in many areas of this complex issue.

Food aid is not the answer.

We need fundamental, systemic change to address hunger, sustainability, and malnutrition, while upholding human rights, alleviating poverty, and supporting inclusive and sustainable development for all.

Such change can only be driven and coordinated by a strong multilateral system.

This is core to my thinking behind the Food Systems Summit later this year in New York, and the pre-Summit in Rome in July.

The Committee on World Food Security has an important role to play in this Summit, from the reports of your High-level Panel of Experts, to your policy convergence products.

This Committee is our unique platform for multi-stakeholder engagement on SDG-2, bringing together governments, civil society, private sector, scientists, finance institutions, United Nations experts and others.

It is an important example of inclusivity that I hope can be emulated at the national level.

The guidelines and principals you have produced can support coherent solutions that are nature-based, protect the environment, address inequalities, promote the right to food, and drive climate action.

The Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition that you are scheduled to agree this week address the full complexity of our food systems and their shortcomings; and will make a significant contribution to the Food Systems Summit and its follow-up.

I strongly encourage all stakeholders to use and implement these Guidelines when they are adopted, and I pledge the support of the entire UN family for your efforts.

After all, food security is fundamentally a question of human rights and dignity.

I wish you every success in your deliberations at this plenary session.