

1 September 2020

Dr. Agnes Kalibata
UN Special Envoy on the Food Systems Summit & President, AGRA

Reference: Food Systems Summit – North American farmers

Dear Dr. Kalibata,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, please accept our congratulations on being appointed Special Envoy for the UN Food Systems Summit and your work in initiating this important global dialogue.

Representing both American and Canadian farmers and ranchers, our collective memberships are integral to realizing the Sustainable Development Goals and are key stakeholders in local, national, and global food systems. They are the boots on ground producing the healthy, safe food required to meet our growing and diversifying population and play an integral role in food security.

As support structures and guidance mechanisms for the Summit are formalized, we are reaching out today to formally request North American farmers and ranchers be included in Summit preparations and proceedings. In this vein, absent of an existing regional farmer governance structure, we have formed a North American Farmer Sustainable Development Coalition to focus on elevating the food systems discourse geographically, working towards meaningful engagement on the SDGs and outcomes and, ultimately, bringing forward producers' voice. The Coalition brings together producers from both crop and animal agriculture and whose membership represents over ## producers.

While food and agriculture may differ by region and locale, North American producers also face challenges relating to economic, environment, and social sustainability and are equally invested in the Summit vision and objectives. There is no one size fits all in agriculture. Each farm, notwithstanding its size, type or production systems, plays a role – each interconnected through our food systems.

The Coalition is interested in being the voice for North American producers. As the UN and its member countries prepare for the Summit, an inclusive farmer mechanism ensures producers are included enhancing this critical dialogue and outcome success. They play the ultimate role in transforming our food systems, and need to be fully represented leading up to, at and following the Summit.

We appreciate your consideration of our request and hope to have the opportunity to engage further. For further information, please contact Erin Gowriluk, Executive Director of the Grain Growers of Canada (egowriluk@ggc-pgc.ca) and Rosalind Leck, Senior Director with the U.S. Soybean Export Council (RLeck@ussec.org).

Best Regards,

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Mr. Martin Frick, Deputy Chief of Staff, 2021 Food Systems Summit & Director, Climate and Environment Division, FAO

Mrs. Allison Cairns, Business Engagement Lead, 2021 Food Systems Summit & Director, Food System Transformation, World Business Council for Sustainable Development