



Agricultural Trade and Food System Transformation
Virtual WTO Agriculture Symposium

WEDNESDAY 2 DECEMBER 2020

OPENING SESSION

10:00 - 11:30

Dr Qu DONGYU

FAO Director-General

Thank you, Madame Moderator, My brother Alan Wolff:
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear colleagues and friends,

I am pleased to be part of this symposium and to address you on this very important topic. The future of the agri-food systems will define humanity's future as well.

The 2030 Agenda calls for action to end hunger and eliminate all forms of malnutrition by ensuring that sufficient quantities of safe, nutritious, affordable and healthy foods are available to all.

It also calls for this goal to be achieved, while creating economic growth and employment opportunities needed to eradicate poverty, reduce inequality, sustain biodiversity and the natural resource environment, and adapt to the growing stresses of climate change.

We need our agri-food systems to deliver food security and better nutrition for all, to be economically sustainable, to be inclusive and to have a positive impact on climate and environment.

Unfortunately, we all know that our contemporary agri-food systems are NOT fulfilling this aspiration. Urgent action is therefore required by all key players and partners.

Let us first

However, most governments and food system actors have yet to harness the power of these technologies.

For this, we need to partner and work closely with the private sector to promote inclusive business models that reduce the digital divide between countries and regions.

Third, we must strengthen governance, human capital and institutions.

We need to build the capacities in countries but also to strengthen our capacity for collective action to develop the agri-food systems we want.

Actions to address these challenges will be accelerated through the UN Food Systems Summit and through the many multi-stakeholder platforms and initiatives, which have been formed to support the development of more sustainable food systems.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The 2030 deadline for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals is rapidly approaching. We need to intensify addressing the challenges

