

His Excellency

Mr Antonio Guterres

Secretary General of the United Nations

cc: The Special Envoy for the 2021 Food Systems Summit, Ms Agnes Kalibata

Your Excellency,

**Re: Cairns Group Farm Leaders position on the UN Food Systems Summit and agricultural reform**

The Cairns Group Farm Leaders (the 'Group') wish to highlight its position on the United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS), including the importance of international trade to global food systems and meeting the objectives of the Summit's Action Tracks.

2021 statement of intent from the Cairns Group Farm Leaders

In August 2021, organisations from the Group including the Australian National Farmers' Federation, Federated Farmers of New Zealand, the Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance, Canadian Federation of Agriculture, Sociedad Nacional de Agricultura Chile, Sociedad de Agricultores de Colombia, Sociedad Rural Argentina, Asociación Rural del Uruguay, Asociacion Rural del Paraguay, Agri SA (South Africa), Camara Del Agro – Guatemala, and Agexport Guatemala met to put forward a statement of intent with respect to the role of agricultural trade, and the need for agricultural reforms in global forums to ensure the principles of free and fair trade are adhered to. This includes the positive role of trade in global food systems.

Specifically, the Group is promoting the following principles:

- The Reinvigoration of the World Trade Organization (WTO) agricultural reforms.
- The upholding of the WTO rules-based system, including commitment and support for WTO dispute settlement institutions and processes.
- That the UNFSS explicitly recognize the central role of agricultural trade in ensuring outcomes in terms of sustainability, ensuring access to safe and nutritious food, and in creating resilient food systems globally.
- That the UNFSS recognize the critical importance of agricultural diversity in sustaining global production of high-quality animal and plant proteins in meeting the Summit's Action Tracks.
- A greater focus on tackling Non-Tariff Barriers to trade, particularly with respect to the imposition of agricultural regulations that are not grounded in evidence, science-based approach to regulation.
- domestic and international efforts on sustainability and climate action be science-based and shall not unnecessarily hinder the role international trade in agriculture plays in securing global food security.

We thank you for considering our position and look forward to your response. The policy and secretariat contact for this matter is Ash Salardini, Australian National Farmers' Federation Chief Economist and General Manager Trade, email: [asalardini@nff.org.au](mailto:asalardini@nff.org.au) or phone: +61490785390.

Yours Sincerely



**Ms Fiona Simson**  
**President**  
**Australian National Farmers Federation**  
**(on behalf of the following Cairns Group Farm Leaders)**

- Federated Farmers of New Zealand
- The Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance,
- Canadian Federation of Agriculture
- Sociedad Nacional de Agricultura Chile
- Asociación Rural del Uruguay
- Sociedad Rural Argentina
- Asociacion Rural del Paraguay
- Agri SA (South Africa)
- Agexport Guatemala
- Camara Del Agro - Guatemala
- National Agriculture Confederation – Brazil

*About the Cairns Group Farm Leaders*

*We are a group of farm organizations from Cairns Group countries, a coalition of agricultural exporting countries. Together, we represent farmers that grow and produce over one third of the world's agricultural exports.*

*It is our vision to create a world with an equitable and enforceable rules-based trading system in agriculture. We want to create the opportunity for our farmers to benefit from a sustainable agriculture sector and to contribute to the socio-economic development of our countries.*

*The Group was established to coordinate advocacy seeking World Trade Organisation members to deliver on the Doha mandate from 2001, including:*

- *improving market access to enable more open, effective and equitable access for all products;*
- *reducing trade and production distorting domestic support;*
- *allowing developing countries to unlock the potential of their agricultural industries by giving them meaningful special and differential treatment.*

*To find out more about the Cairns Group Farm Leaders please see:*

<https://www.cairnsgroupfarmers.org/>