



TO: Food Systems Summit Action Track Leaders, Scientific Group Chair, Senior Advisor for Food Systems Summit Dialogues, Multi-Actor Food Systems Champions Network, UN Task Force

FROM: Agnes Kalibata, UNSG Special Envoy for the Food Systems Summit  
Peter Thomson, UNSG Special Envoy for the Ocean

SUBJECT: Recognizing “blue foods” in the Food Systems Summit processes

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Dear Colleagues,

In accordance with the UN Secretary-General’s request that UN Summits and Conferences align and contribute to each other’s mandates to deliver on our shared vision in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we wish to put a bright spotlight on the common ground of the UN Food Systems Summit and the UN Oceans Conference to inform our work moving forward.

As the priorities for the Food Systems Summit develop and get refined, it is important that we adequately and appropriately recognize the importance of addressing the vital role of foods harvested from the ocean and other aquatic systems. These “blue foods,” are already a cornerstone of the food system – providing essential nutrition for more than 3 billion people and livelihoods for more than 800 million. They will be even more important in the future, as we seek to build a food system that is inclusive, healthy, sustainable and resilient.

Through SDG14, Member States of the United Nations agreed to a bold agenda for sustaining the production of food from the ocean. They committed to end overfishing, destructive and illegal fishing, and to conserve and restore marine ecosystems. In the Food Systems Summit, we must reinforce those efforts and build upon them.

To that end, we ask that each of you help us in your respective roles in the Summit by:

- Including the priorities of SDG14 as our own, in blue-food-specific solutions, using SDG-reflective language;
- Ensuring that the importance of blue foods and opportunities for strengthening their role in sustainable food systems gets reflected as well as possible in Summit materials; and,
- Mobilizing around blue foods as part of the commitments and action that move forward in the Summit process, through transformation pathways and multi-stakeholder coalitions of action.



The attached two-page brief from colleagues involved in the Oceans Conference process provides more information on sustainable blue foods and some specific examples of ways in which they can be better incorporated into the emerging ideas for action by countries and all stakeholders in the Food Systems Summit.

Thank you for your consideration of these matters.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kalibata".

Agnes Kalibata  
UNSG's Special Envoy  
for the Food Systems Summit

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Thomson".

Peter Thomson  
UNSG's Special Envoy for the Ocean