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Associate Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries
Keynote Remarks

Official Handover of the Joint SDG UNJP/SAP/008/UNJ project
FAO Physical & Technical Assistance to the MAF
Crops Division, Nu'u
Thursday 23 March 2023

Madam Xiangjun Yao,
Subregional Coordinator for the Pacific Islands,
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I extend a very warm welcome to all of you this morning, and it is my great pleasure to address this special event, receiving the handover of Physical and Technical Assistance through the FAO component of the Joint SDG Fund, to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The world is seriously affected by climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic, the war between Russia and Ukraine, and most importantly the 5F crises (food, feed, fuel, fertilizer and finance). As a result of these ongoing crises and shocks, we have seen negative coping strategies developing, including changes in consumer behavior, with the price of

healthy foods beyond the reach of most of us, and forcing us to resort to cheaper, less healthy options.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation and the World Food Programme joint project is timely, as it aims to support the Government in increasing their technical capacity to analyse, predict, plan and respond to the impacts of the global crisis of food, energy and finance on Samoa's national food system.

This project has developed a Light Early Warning System, an effective tool that monitors the impacts of the 5Fs. It enables the development of more informed policies and strategic direction in decision making of the Government. We need to be innovative and come up with sustainable and affordable solutions, to transform our food systems for their intended beneficial purposes, which are to maintain food, nutrition and income security for our people.

On behalf of our Government and Ministry, I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge with great appreciation the ongoing technical and physical assistance provided by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, towards the sustainable development of our agriculture and fisheries sector, to ensure our food and nutrition security, increase our exports and boost our import substitution efforts.

The Ministry will continue to work in collaboration with the FAO and all our other development partners to ensure continuous flow of positive benefits to our economy and most importantly the livelihoods of our farmers, against the negative impacts of climate change and the 5F crisis.

Thank you very much for your attention and Soifua!