

International Dairy Federation World Dairy Summit 2023 Statement

As the International Dairy Federation (IDF) celebrates its 120th anniversary of acting as the global dairy sector's voice of scientific and technical expertise and as the Food and Agriculture Organization hosts the 2023 World Food Forum, IDF's General Assembly, representing a broad swath of dairy producing countries from around the world, reinforces the importance of working together and empowering the next generation of leaders within the global dairy sector to maximize dairy's Boundless commitment and Endless ambition to sustainably nourish people and communities and to make a positive difference in the world.

Whereas there is a Boundless commitment by Dairy to support improved nutritional outcomes for global consumers through:

- Recognizing the integral part that milk and dairy products play in healthy, sustainable and nutritious diets, with consumption of milk and dairy products recommended by nearly all dietary guidelines around the world;
- Encouraging consumption of milk and dairy products while investing in production innovation to provide a unique combination of several essential nutrients for people of all ages, as well as benefits including better bone health and lower risk for type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease;
- Providing a reliable source of critical nutrition that children and other vulnerable populations need for optimal growth and development, including expanding accessible milk and dairy options in school, nutrition, and feeding programs; and
- Continuously innovating across the global dairy sector's farming, processing, marketing, and trading branches to respond to consumers' evolving tastes and preferences and growing global demand for dairy products.

Whereas, in line with the various UN sustainability goals, there is Endless ambition by Dairy to contribute to a more sustainable future for people, animals, and the planet through:

- Furthering the dairy sector's ongoing efforts and positive potential to improve sustainability in a holistic manner by taking context-specific steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, preserve water quality, decrease water use, champion soil health, save energy, produce renewable energy resources, and/or develop packaging and recyclability technologies that reduce waste;
- Supporting knowledge sharing and increasing access to resources and innovations on sustainability, sustainable food systems, animal care, and other environmental/production issues facing dairy producers;
- Charting a pathway to a lower emissions future for the global dairy sector through the Pathways to Dairy Net Zero Initiative and other similar industry efforts;

- Upholding high animal care standards consistent with relevant World Organization for Animal Health standards to enhance animal welfare outcomes; and
- Fostering sustainable productivity growth to contribute to meeting the world's growing nutrition needs in a sustainable, affordable, efficient manner.

And whereas the global dairy sector plays a vital role in supporting farmer livelihoods and providing jobs and valuable revenues and resources for communities around the world through:

- Sustaining more than 600 million people living on approximately 133 million dairy farms around the world;
- Employing two hundred and forty million people across diverse cultures worldwide directly or indirectly in a dairy sector that feeds more than 80% of the world's population who regularly consume milk and dairy products;
- Providing a critical income source for the 80 million women engaged in dairy farming and the 37 million farms headed by women globally; and

Therefore, IDF calls on governments, global organizations, and the world's food and beverage sector to support "Being Dairy" by:

- Recognizing that dairy is essential to producing safe, affordable, sustainable nutrition to feed the world's growing population by contributing to healthy diets;
- Committing to promote and protect the critical role of dairy in delivering sustainable agri-food systems that ensure nutritional security for all;
- Recognizing the role of trade and the international rules-based system that underpins it and promoting the development and adoption of science-based international standards and guidelines that support the trade of dairy products;
- Supporting transparency and inclusivity in policy making by ensuring an active role for the dairy sector in shaping local, national, and global policies and programs that affect the sector;
- Supporting local, national, and global policies and frameworks that provide for sustainable productivity growth by dairy, and for economic social and environmental dimensions of policies to be addressed in a balanced way informed by local circumstances;
- Championing dairy's efforts to improve environmental sustainability, ensure the safety and equitable treatment of all people earning a livelihood in dairy, and to demonstrate dairy's continuous commitment to animal welfare;
- Embracing the value of voluntary, industry-driven solutions as well as multisectoral collaboration to meet global sustainability challenges;
- Pursuing incentive-driven approaches to supporting the scaling up of sustainable dairy practices without distorting markets; and
- Expanding career pathways and leadership opportunities for the next generation of dairy across all peoples and cultures, particularly through the greater engagement of women and youth in the dairy sector.