

**Media Call by Dep. Secretary Jewel Bronaugh from Rome**  
**7/28/2021**

**OPENING REMARKS:**

- Leading US delegation “very proud”
- UNFSS brings world together – why? What’s the Goal? Bring world together to end hunger, to end malnutrition by building world system; through FSS “refocus world’s attention on ending poverty/hunger” and building more sustainable, equitable, food systems
- Leading up to Sept in NY – building coalitions and consensus around world
  - o Hunger/nutrition
  - o Climate change
  - o Inclusion and equity
  - o Fundamental principles –
    - Leading with science and innovation
    - Enabling trade and
    - Focus on rural infrastructure and investment
- Few highlights of past three days:
  - o Been exciting week
  - o Food security and nutrition – very proud to highlight to intl colleagues – US is largest provider of ag economic and industry food assistance, incl assistance for school meals.
    - School feeding programs- key to ending world hunger, work on gender.  
Global school meals coalition – will launch at summit in September
      - Expand school nutritious meals to make available to all kids through 2030
  - o Climate – investments needed to meet SDGs
    - Join us in ag innovation mission AIM for climate – preparing partnership with UAE at COP26 in Nov
      - Increasing & accelerating global food systems
      - Support from Australia, Brazil, Denmark, Uruguay, (UK COP presidency?), couple others
      - Burkina Faso, Ghana, Hungary, Rep of Korea, Ukraine, Mexico, Vietnam – expressing interest
      - Excited about elevating global innovation and partnership. Wants all to encourage us on this journey on historic, one of a kind initiative
  - o Reducing food loss and waste
    - Food Is Never Waste Coalition – looking forward to joining (Brazil, Indonesia, Italy)
    - In line with commitment to reduce domestic food loss and support capacity development internationally
  - o Inclusion and equity
    - Strengthening capacity of all participants
    - Brought together and engaged science, business, policy, private industry, academia, indigenous people, youth and other

stakeholders – particularly those in marginalized communities  
(youth, indig. and women)

- \_\_\_ Proud to have three dialogues in US ahead of summit
- o \_\_\_ She shared results with leaders at pre-summit

### **QUESTIONS FROM MEDIA:**

**HELENA BOTTEMILLER EVICH – POLITICO – Broader coalition to expand school meals to 2030. Are we looking to do universal free meals domestically? What is US commitment? Will US be making other specific commitments leading up to Sept?**

**Domestic work does not include universal free meals.** International goal. Engage nations so we can provide nutritious school meals for all youth. Think about how important it is to get proper nutrition in younger years, middle school very imp't strengthening girls (gender equity issues). as a world and internationally, if we can ensure we can provide school meals, can create healthier young people moving forward in future.

**JERRY HAGSTROM – HAGSTROM REPORT – when are you expecting out of summit in NY in Sept? talk of commitments? Financing? What do you make of criticism of innovation/science as western institutions will dominate food systems agenda?**

We are still working to shape coalitions, don't have firm commitments on coalitions going forward. Will be more discussion. **Discussion around coalition – in US – emphasize global school meals coalition, food loss and waste coalition, AIM for Climate coalition (promoted significantly) and worked hard to create coalition on innovation.** **We feel innovation is imperative to address needs and goals outlined.**

**In terms of science and innovation – we see that as a positive way of making decisions on how we'll have a strong and sustainable food system and address climate change.**

**Unaware of criticism of science and innovation** – many member states shared and use of science. Data driven and decision making. We saw as very positive and essential to meeting our goals.

**Jacqui Fatka – Farm Progress – Foreign investments don't resonate with farmers, for US producers, what do you want them to know you're doing at pre-summit and what you plan to come together for this fall?**

Want farmers to know that their voices are represented and that there is a great appreciation for their contribution to resilience of food system. Their utilization of... science and innovation needed to make safe and sustainable food supply.

Great benefit to the work we do in US – do it with farmers – and private industry partners. Message we have pushed forward at summit.

**Follow up: standards?**

**No standards. Everyone has different approach.** Power of diff approaches. Many diff approaches, no one way to do this. No way to solve some of the challenges our farmers face. Need to use all tools that they have to reach our goals. Affordable food, protecting environment.

**Liz Stark – CNN – seeing wildfires, extreme droughts in US, what is USDA's long term plan as West runs out of water? What impact will have on US Food Systems and what commitments can we make for upcoming summit?**

Important work need to do in climate change. Importance of forests in sequestering carbon. Seeing forest fires in western US and in Midwest as result of drought. We've deployed as many resources as we can to address wildfires and need to manage our forests effectively. Will be putting resources to forest mgmt. to protect us from future wildfires. As result – need to engage, protect ag, protect forests, protect climate generally.

**Bill Thompson – Agripulse – curious: if no intention to commit to new standards or solid goals, how do you know if American farming is actually being more sustainable in cutting down ozone/emissions? Europeans putting together carbon border tax, is that something USDA supports?**

In terms of first Q – volunteer coalitions of action. Those are coalitions on how we'll focus our attention both domestically and internationally. Haven't set specific goals at this time, as we focus on coalitions of action, Sec Gen said goals forthcoming. Not at that point yet at pre-summit. Don't have specific details of summit. Will talk about specific goals.

Second question – EU setting standards is not something we follow. We do not support any standards set by EU.

### **Closing remarks:**

We had positive convo with EU commissioner and in that convo, we acknowledged we do have differences in how we move fwd with practices in terms of food system, but acknowledged differences and made commitment to continue working together to use science and innovation to move together to meet shared goals of addressing food security and climate change. Positive convo. And potential collaboration we look forward to engaging with in the future.

Very positive experience at UNFSS. Engagement and people who are willing and interested in working together to address these goals is important. Did excellent job of highlighting US's contributions to feeding world and working together to address climate change. Felt we had a very successful summit. And this is just the beginning of where we're going. Thanks to all who have been engaged, look forward to more convos, really paved the way to success as we move toward the summit in September.

**Call ended – 12:24 p.m.**