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OPENING REMARKS

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Nicola Dixon – Executive Director, General Mills Foundation

Full speech (video message)

Greetings, everybody, and a very warm welcome. I'm delighted to be here with you today for the 2021 Annual Convention of the European Food Banks Federation. My name is Nicola Dixon and I have the honour of serving as the Executive Director of the General Mills Foundation. As a leading food company that makes food in Europe and other regions of the world and a company that is rooted in a purpose and values focused on serving people and the planet, at General Mills we have an especially deep appreciation for the critical role that Food Banks play across society. We count ourselves so fortunate to be able to support and partner with leading Food Bank networks, like the European Food Banks Federation, in a wide variety of ways. Including the donation of our food, providing cash grants to help expand Food Bank capacity and of course, through the volunteerism of our employees every day.

Now, the current crisis has fully underscored the importance of cultivating strong charitable food distribution systems as part of broader food system transformation that is needed. Collectively though we have the opportunity to reimagine and bring about a food system that enables equitable and consistent food access for all people, greater resiliency to withstand shocks and crises, and one that can play a positive and significant contributing role as a climate solution through the adoption of practices such as regenerative agriculture principles on farms throughout the world.

I look forward to joining you in these vital discussions over the next two days, including how we can further elevate the Food Bank sector's role and impact, to increasing the strategic collaboration that will help to serve more people, while also contributing towards a strengthened global food system.



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Thanks so much for being here and thanks for the wonderful work you do every day.



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