



Statement on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States

172nd Session of the Council of FAO

(24-28 April 2023)

Item 12.: Report of the 50th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (10-13 October and 19 December 2022)

Mr Chair,

- 1. I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.**
- 2. The following FAO Members align themselves with this statement: Albania, Georgia, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, the Republic of North Macedonia, San Marino, Serbia and Ukraine.**
- 3. First of all, we would like to thank the CFS Chair, Mr Gabriel Ferrero, for his inclusive leadership and extensive efforts, when he chaired the 50th Session of the CFS and we would like to make the following remarks.**
- 4. We appreciate the continued high quality of the SOFI reports and would like to express our great concern regarding the negative global trends of increased food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms, as outlined in the latest SOFI-report. With only 7 years left, the report clearly shows that we are not on track to achieve SDG 2.**

- 5. Global food security and nutrition were already under pressure as a result of poverty, economic inequalities and slowdowns, conflicts, the climate- and biodiversity crises, the COVID-19 pandemic and other factors. The food crises have been further exacerbated by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine which has resulted in soaring food prices and disrupted global food value chains. It has also caused increasing problems with the availability and accessibility of global food commodities, fertilizers, and other agriculture inputs.**
- 6. The EU and its Member States are committed to working together with the CFS, highlighting its important role as the foremost inclusive, multi-stakeholder, intergovernmental platform for promoting world food security, nutrition, and sustainable food systems and for coordinating global policy responses to the multiple dimensions of the food crisis and for realizing the right to adequate food.**
- 7. We call on FAO to strengthen its support to the CFS together with the other Rome-based agencies, as a symbol of joint ownership and effective RBA cooperation.**
- 8. The EU and its 27 Member States welcome the endorsement of the CFS Policy Recommendations on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition. We would also like to welcome that the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism joined the consensus. We encourage FAO and the RBAs to provide full support in implementing these guidelines, and to promote further uptake, dissemination and use of CFS policy recommendations and voluntary guidelines, recalling it is first and foremost the responsibility of CFS member states to foster implementation of CFS products.**
- 9. The EU and its 27 Member States reiterate their commitment to an inclusive and consensus-based process for finalising the CFS**

Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition and their subsequent endorsement at CFS 51, We appreciate the use of UN agreed language as a valuable basis to build consensus and underline the voluntary nature of these guidelines.

- 10. We welcome the development of the CFS Policy Recommendations on Strengthening Data Collection and Analysis Tools for Food Security and Nutrition. We are committed to work together with other CFS members and stakeholders to ensure the adoption of an ambitious document at CFS 51.**
- 11. Finally, we acknowledge with appreciation the CFS HLPE-FSN Note on Critical, Emerging and Enduring Issues for Food Security and Nutrition in preparation for the CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work 2024-2027, which is to be submitted for consideration and approval at CFS 51.**
- 12. With these remarks, the EU and its 27 Member States welcome the Report of the 50th Session of the CFS and support its submission by CFS to Conference for endorsement.**

Thank you, Mr Chair.
