



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

**174<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of FAO**

**(4-8 December 2023)**

**Item 12.: Report of the 51<sup>st</sup> Session of the Committee on World Food Security (23-27 October and 25 November 2023)**

Mr Chair,

1. I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.
2. [XXX align themselves with this statement.]
3. First of all, we would like to thank the CFS Chair, Mr Gabriel Ferrero, for his inclusive leadership and extensive efforts, both when chairing the 51<sup>st</sup> CFS Session and throughout his entire chairmanship. We would like to make the following comments.
4. We value the continued high quality of the SOFI reports. We have great concerns about the negative global trends of increased food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms, as outlined in the latest SOFI-report. The report clearly shows that we continue to be off track to achieve SDG 2.
5. Global food security and nutrition were already under pressure due to multiple drivers, in particular poverty, economic inequalities and slowdowns, conflicts, the climate- and biodiversity crises, the COVID-19 pandemic. Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine further exacerbates global food insecurity and market instability.
6. The EU and its Member States welcome the comprehensive discussions and the spirit of compromise and multilateralism throughout the 51<sup>st</sup> Plenary Session. We are committed to working together with the CFS, highlighting its important role as the central, foremost inclusive, multi-stakeholder, intergovernmental platform for promoting world food security, nutrition, sustainable and resilient 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 firm sign of shared vision and effective RBA cooperation.

8. The EU and its 27 Member States especially welcome the endorsement of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment (GEWE) in the context of food security and nutrition. We particularly welcome that the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism joined the consensus. We also welcome the Policy recommendations on strengthening collection and use of food security and nutrition (FSN) data and related analysis tools to improve decision-making in support of the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security. The adoption of these two new products illustrates the capacity of the CFS to deliver and encourages us to further an inclusive collaboration with a constructive spirit so as to overcome the challenges ahead us. We also welcome the endorsement of the strategic CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) 2024-2027 in line with the achievement of SDG2.
9. 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, as agreed in the MYPoW, recalling it is first and foremost the responsibility of CFS member states to foster implementation of CFS products.
10. Finally, we would like to congratulate the new CFS Chair, Ms. Nosipho Nausca-Jean Jezile, and express our full support for her leadership.
11. With these remarks, the EU and its 27 Member States welcome the Report of the 51<sup>st</sup> Plenary Session of the CFS and support its submission by CFS to Conference for endorsement.

Thank you, Mr Chair.

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