



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

47th Committee on World Food Security

(Rome, 8-11 February 2021)

Item II: ‘Food Security and Nutrition: Building a Global Narrative Towards 2030’

1. I am honoured to speak on behalf of the EU and its 27 Member States.
2. Since its reform in 2009, the HLPE has contributed to significantly improving the international community’s knowledge on hunger and malnutrition. Its inclusive approach, based on a transdisciplinary dialogue between experts and a wide range of stakeholders, ensures wide recognition of its products while guaranteeing their independence. Today, the HLPE is a unique instrument for making appropriate, comprehensive, science and evidence-based analyses to help countries and other relevant stakeholders to take the best decisions to combat food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms and to move towards sustainable and resilient food systems.
3. We welcome the HLPE’s report ‘Food security and nutrition: building a global narrative towards 2030’, which clearly highlights the urgency of engaging food systems in an in-depth transformation. The current COVID-19 pandemic has confirmed the urgent need to transform food systems to make them sustainable and resilient and achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As we have entered in the last decade before 2030, the report rightly highlights the need to implement effective policies to achieve the SDGs, while keeping in mind the strong interrelations between SDG2 and the rest of the 2030 Agenda.
4. For these reasons, we support the priority given to sustainable agricultural practices such as agroecology, sustainable intensification and climate smart agriculture, and we agree with the need to have a broader approach to hunger and malnutrition in all its forms, as well as science and evidence-based policy recommendations. We thus strongly appreciate the prospective dimension of this report.

5. We note the HLPE's proposal to integrate the dimensions of sustainability and agency/stakeholders' participation into the conceptual framework of food security. While recognising the importance of food systems to become more sustainable and resilient to achieve food security and nutrition for all at all times, we continue to consider at this stage the generally accepted definition of food security, based on the four dimensions of availability, accessibility, utilisation and stability, as a practical and workable concept, and strengthen established concepts such as the right to food and sustainability. We need to focus on action now by all stakeholders.
6. In this context, the UN Food Systems Summit represents a great opportunity to accelerate the transformation to sustainable and resilient food systems. The Committee on World Food Security and the HLPE are unique and inclusive instruments that provide recognised expertise. The HLPE reports provide key insights for the Food Systems Summit. We call on CFS as a unique multi stakeholder platform, and its HLPE, to play a key role in the preparation and follow-up actions of the Food Systems Summit. In this regard, the FSS Secretariat and in particular the Science Group could further build on the widely recognised expertise of the HLPE.

Thank you, Mr. Chair
