

As delivered in plenary.

- Given the urgency of the climate crisis and the growing world population that will reach nearly 10 billion people by 2050, the global community needs to focus on more sustainable approaches to food systems. We must work together to end hunger and malnutrition in an increasingly complex world, that faces multiple, serious challenges.
- COVID-19 has created renewed urgency around the importance of strengthening resilience across food systems. By maintaining this focus, and working in partnership across sectors, and with a diverse set of stakeholders, we can drive lasting change.
- 2020 marked the 10-year anniversary of the United States' global food security initiative, Feed the Future – which was, itself, born out of a food crisis – the 2007-2008 food price crisis – the effects of which reverberated around the world, pushing millions of people into hunger and causing instability and unrest. So while we commemorated progress made toward greater food security and nutrition in vulnerable communities around the world, we are also building on this foundation, adapting our programs, and rededicating ourselves to the work ahead.
- The global community must step up to help communities deal with current shocks, mitigate long-term harm, and prevent backsliding on years of development and economic gains.
- We must work together to expand data-backed, scientifically proven options to empower farmers, communities, and nations. We must acknowledge the diversity of context-specific agricultural approaches in building more sustainable food systems and in accelerating progress towards ending hunger. We cannot waste any more time – the challenges ahead are real, and the stakes are high.
- The United States acknowledges the work of the HLPE in producing this report and its recommendations on such a complex issue.
- We commend the report's recognition that more must be done to meet the goals of the 2030 agenda, especially SDG 2.
- However, we have specific concerns with the report in terms of both technical substance and organizational

mandates. Specifically, **we cannot support the HLPE Report's recommendation to make CFS policy guidance legally binding.** Voluntary uptake is at the heart of all CFS policy documents, which are negotiated and interpreted with the understanding that member states can choose to adopt the recommendations and guidelines that are most relevant for them.

- We also have concerns related to **trade**. One recommendation calls for member states to “ensure food trade is “equitable” and fair for countries that depend on food imports, for agricultural exporting countries, for producers, including small-holders, and for consumers.” The United States believes the **CFS is not the appropriate forum to discuss trade, and CFS should not offer policy guidance that could contradict World Trade Organization rules and procedures.**
- In order to achieve the SDGs, and especially SDG 2, which calls for eliminating hunger worldwide, farmers need access to modern agricultural tools and technologies in order to produce food with fewer inputs, reduce crop loss, reduce impacts on climate, and ensure safe and affordable food for consumers. The fact is, to achieve true and lasting food security, we need to build and safeguard the entire food ecosystem – the land, the local economies, the supply chain, the farmers, and the communities that depend on one another to thrive.
- Thank you, Chair.