

**Keynote by Friedrich Wacker,  
Head of the Directorate-General for EU Affairs, International  
Cooperation and Fisheries,  
on behalf of the German Federal Minister  
of Food and Agriculture,  
Julia Klöckner**

Virtual 47<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session of the  
Committee on World Food Security (CFS 47)  
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**Dear Ministers,**

**Dear Chairman Thanawat Tiensin,**

**Dear Ambassador Hans Hoogeveen,**

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

***I. Opening remarks***

- I am honoured to deliver this statement on behalf of Federal Minister Klöckner.
- In line with the endorsement by the EU and its Member States, I congratulate the Committee on World Food

Security (CFS) on adopting the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition.

- For more than three years, we have been working together, intensely, to finalise these guidelines.
- With the adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines by the CFS, we as the global community are sending out a strong signal with regard to sustainability within food systems and for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.
- They are also a strong reaffirmation of a human-rights-based approach to food security and nutrition, recalling the right to adequate food as the guiding principle of these guidelines.
- We have heard these past days that the world is “off track” to achieve SDG 2.
- Therefore, these guidelines play an integral part in our future work: regionally, nationally and internationally.
- They underline the importance of sustainable food systems for healthy diets. And make clear that food and agriculture must become sustainable and must be integrated into a wider food systems approach.

- They remind us that we need to look at the entire value chain from production, processing and trade to consumers and disposal, consider their interrelations and take into account the impact on our populations and the environment.
- We need to mainstream biodiversity, climate adaptation and mitigation across agricultural sectors and integrate these aspects in all other food and agricultural policies.

## ***II. Committee on World Food Security performs essential tasks***

- The CFS is a globally unique, inclusive body dedicated to urgent questions of food security and nutrition, in which civil society, private sector, academia and governments work together closely in a cross-sectoral manner.
- This mutual exchange involving all stakeholders is of particular importance to Germany.<sup>1</sup>
- It is essential to make sure that we take into account regional, cultural and local specificities.
- The SDGs can only be fully achieved by 2030 if all actors work together.

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<sup>1</sup> Germany made available a financial contribution of approx. 500,000 euro to enable, among others, the organization of regional conferences and translation.

- The CFS plays a central role in this regard.
- By developing its Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, the CFS has delivered the core for the upcoming UN Food Systems Summit which will be a key event for the future orientation of global food systems.
- We therefore encourage the UN Food Systems Summit and all actors involved to actively engage with this document, build policies upon it and implement them.

***III. After the adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines, our joint work will continue***

- With the Voluntary Guidelines, the global community has now been provided with an effective set of rules enabling it to take suitable measures to combat hunger and any other form of malnutrition and, thus, to achieve SDG 2.
- All actors who have reached this agreement on basic recommendations for action to promote the further development of sustainable food systems have committed themselves to cooperation.
- Certainly, these guidelines contain compromise solutions in some places which may not be satisfactory to everyone. But compromises are the essence of multilateralism, of

multi-stakeholder exchange, of political debate, and of common progress.

- It is now our task to review the principles agreed upon in line with our national policies and policy decisions that have already been made, and to commit to further efforts.
- For Germany, the Guidelines reinforce our national and European approach of thinking and acting in a more holistic manner.
- Germany has committed itself to promoting diets that are
  - based on sustainably produced food,
  - health-promoting,
  - affordable, and
  - environmentally sustainable and climate-friendly.
- In this context, especially in view of the COVID-19 pandemic and the challenges of “building back better”, we need to be aware of how important the work undertaken by the CFS is:
  - Especially with regard to the need to achieve sustainable and healthy diets and sustainable and resilient food systems.
  - And to achieve these aims, we need a pro-active CFS.

- In which all stakeholders participate.
- Germany has been supporting this long and challenging process from the very beginning.

#### ***IV. Concluding remarks: call for action***

- Now is the time to take action!
- And these guidelines are a key element of our joint action!
- This process needs all actors.
- To achieve the goals we have set ourselves:
- To end hunger and any other form of malnutrition by 2030 and to strengthen food security and nutrition worldwide!
- For a growing world population.
- And for a healthy planet.
- Thank you.