

**PSM Plenary Session – CFS Voluntary Guideline Endorsement**

**February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**Rick White**

(BE PREPARED FOR SPONTANEOUS COMMENTS)

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the Private Sector Mechanism, we support the adoption of these Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition. It is an important moment and the first major product of CFS in many years.

While the process to arrive here has been long and difficult, we should appreciate the process that got us here. In particular, our thanks to Ambassador Hoogeveen and to the whole CFS Secretariat for their tireless efforts. We have taxed you day and night with this discussion. We would also like to note the work of the Former Chairperson of the Food Systems and Nutrition Workstream, Dr Liliane Ortega of Switzerland, whose efforts also contributed immensely to today's achievement.

Thank you all for your patience and fortitude.

It is now our job to turn to the uptake and implementation of these Voluntary Guidelines. Our PSM members have pledged to a wide range of actions towards improved nutrition and food systems. These actions span from commitments on marketing, product formulation and innovation, reducing Food Loss and Waste, GHG emissions, and promoting sustainable packaging, supply chains and farmer livelihoods.

And **now** we are pleased to announce that the PSM has raised the resources of its members to conduct an information and training campaign. This will include 3 webinars in different time zones to help further the use of these guidelines. We welcome the engagement of CFS, member states, CSM and all others in this process.

At the same time, we will be highlighting this product in the discussions for the Food Systems Summit and other fora to shine a spotlight on the good work of CFS.

Mr. Chairman, it has been a long and arduous road, but we have arrived, and we stand ready to get to the real work of improving food systems and nutrition.

Thank you.