

STATEMENT

BY

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**AT THE FORTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE
ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY "MAKING A
DIFFERENCE IN FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION"**

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**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

- 1.** I am honoured to address you at the Forty-ninth Session of the Committee on World Food Security, held under the theme: **“Making a Difference in Food Security and Nutrition.”**
- 2.** As you will recall, the 2021 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) -- convened under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) last July -- reviewed the global situation regarding SDG 2 on zero hunger.
- 3.** It concluded that -- even before the COVID-19 pandemic -- the world was off-track to achieve zero hunger by 2030. It further noted that healthy diets were inaccessible for a significant part of the world’s population.
- 4.** The Forum estimated that the pandemic might have pushed **83 million** to **132 million** more people into chronic hunger in 2020, adding to the **690 million** in 2019.

5. The UN Secretary-General, in his report **“Our Common Agenda”** recently released on 10 September 2021, has warned that **“humanity faces a stark and urgent choice: a breakdown or a breakthrough.”** To achieve a breakthrough, he implored us to embrace transformational change and launch bold collective actions to spur us forward in our development path.
6. It is worth repeating one of the key messages of my inaugural address as President of ECOSOC on 23 July: **“that global solidarity, multilateralism and cooperation are our greatest assets. When we work together, our ability to overcome hardship is strengthened.”**
7. The CFS is a unique platform where the world’s Governments, civil society organizations, international organizations, businesses and experts come together and engage in dialogue on global food policy convergence. Importantly, it is notable that the Committee prioritizes the right to food.

Excellencies,

- 8.** The July HLPF and the “SDG Moment”, held on 20 September, showed the continued unwavering commitment of countries and peoples to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- 9.** The same commitment was further demonstrated at the just concluded UN Food Systems Summit, which was held virtually also in September and had a staggering number of over **22,000 participants** from **183 countries**.
- 10.** Participants at this ‘**People’s Summit**’ called for countries to accelerate their commitment to realizing the SDGs. They also urged countries to take a systems approach to food -- aligned with the 2030 Agenda -- that addresses the complexity of our world.
- 11.** It was pleasing to note that **147 countries** confirmed that they were launching “**national transition pathway**” dialogues, to pursue transformational change.

- 12.** The nexus between integrated food systems, food security, poverty, climate change, water, sustainable agriculture is but one example where synergies can be leveraged to maximize the impact of actions across all 17 SDGs.
- 13.** I welcome that the Secretary-General has announced that the Rome-based Agencies -- FAO, IFAD and WFP -- working with the UN system, civil society and business, will jointly lead a coordination hub that will draw upon UN system capacities to support the follow-up to the Food Systems Summit.
- 14.** We have much to learn from the CFS approach to ensure science and evidence-based and inclusive dialogue among all key stakeholder groups impacted by food systems.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- 15.** Let me conclude by noting that since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) -- convened under the auspices of ECOSOC -- has brought together all actors to analyze progress on the SDGs, address setbacks, examine data and scientific findings and provide high-level political guidance and recommendations.
- 16.** In 2022, our theme for ECOSOC and the HLPF will be: ***“Building Back Better from the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) while Advancing the Full Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”***
- 17.** I intend to use this theme to ensure that the international community identifies the bold and transformative actions we need to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, and to embark on the path to achieve the SDGs.

- 18.** This will be another opportunity to look at SDG 2 and integrated food systems, given their relevance to all SDGs and the continuing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 19.** I underline here that we must maintain a strong partnership between the CFS, ECOSOC and the HLPF.
- 20.** With those remarks, I wish you a successful session.

I thank you.