



Permanent Mission of Iceland to FAO

Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

50th Session Rome, Italy 10-October-2022

Statement by

Ambassador Matthías G. Pálsson

on

**Agenda item II: Ministerial Segment: Coordinating Policy Responses to the
Global Food Crisis - The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World
2022**

Iceland aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union earlier today.

The world stands at a crossroads. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022 report reveals that despite the best efforts of so many people, states and international organisations we move backwards in the efforts to end hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition.

The Covid-19 pandemic, conflicts, most notably the war in Ukraine, climate change and natural disasters are the main reason for this development.

This development might delay our reaching our SDG 2 goal of ending hunger in the world, but the temporary drawback must not lead to our abandoning the goal. The stakes are high; millions of lives depend on the global community continuing the fight against hunger and malnutrition.

We must strengthen the ongoing efforts and look for further ways to fight hunger.

The Food System Summit (FSS) in September 2021 produced several Coalitions that might assist in this fight and we appreciate the work of the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub and its support to Coalitions.

Among the most prominent Coalitions stemming from the FSS is the coalition focusing on Blue Aquatic Food.

As an island nation which has lived through many difficult periods through the centuries, Icelanders know how valuable it is to have a food chest at your shores; without the fish from the N-Atlantic Ocean our small nation would simply not exist.

Fish and other aquatic foods form a fundamental part of healthy diets in many countries and provide the animal protein required to consume the least costly healthy diet. Small-scale artisanal fishers and fish workers, half of them women, produce a large portion of these foods and represent a large proportion of the workforce in many countries.

It is for this reason that we highly value the message and goals of the Blue Aquatic Food Coalition, which aims at full integration of sustainably harvested blue foods, generated through sustainable and equitable management of natural resources from a healthy ocean and inland waters, into our food system.

The Coalition intends to reach this goal by raising the profile of Blue Aquatic Foods in discussions in international fora and in national policy making, as well as by mobilizing support for Blue Aquatic Foods projects.

It must also be kept in mind that a staggering 35 percent of the global harvest in capture fisheries and aquaculture is either lost or wasted every year. This calls for our attention; when hundreds of millions of people go to bed hungry every night, it is unacceptable that one third of our blue aquatic food is wasted or lost.

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