

UK STATEMENT

Committee on World Food Security (CFS 50) 10 – 13th October 2022, FAO:
“Making a Difference in Food Security and Nutrition”

II. MINISTERIAL SEGMENT: COORDINATING POLICY RESPONSES TO THE GLOBAL FOOD CRISIS - THE STATE OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE WORLD 2022 (for information and discussion)

- Thank-you Chair and good afternoon to all CFS Delegates.
- We are meeting when nearly 50 million people in 46 countries are one step away from famine. 75% of those people live in just 10 countries and 1 region. We are witnessing the devastating impacts that climate change, conflict, and COVID-19 are having on local and global food systems.
- On top of this, Russia’s invasion of Ukraine is worsening an already grim picture for global food supplies. The UK calls for an immediate end to the war in Ukraine. As David Nabarro said this morning, we need everyone to work together towards peace. We say that in the context of further attacks today on Kyiv.

Mr Chair

- We have only 8 years left to reach the SDGs. On targets 2.1 and 2.2 on ending hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition, we are in reverse gear.
- We need to respond to the current crises **and** strengthen resilience against future food crises.
- Humanitarian spending will be a top priority for the UK’s aid budget over the next two years.
- Between 2022 and 2030, the UK intends to spend at least £1.5 billion on nutrition objectives that address the nutrition needs of mothers, babies and children, tackling

malnutrition in humanitarian emergencies and integrating nutrition across our wider development interventions.

- We are committed to meeting the G20 ambition of channelling \$100bn of Special Drawing Rights to support low-income and vulnerable countries.
- We underline the importance we attach to taking a *systemic and integrated approach* across agriculture, health, environment, energy, and economic sectors. This is why we put agriculture and sustainable food systems at the heart of our COP26 Presidency - that approach is needed because the food system is itself a major driver of climate change and environmental degradation.
- We welcome that *One Health* approaches are reflected in the report. But the concept - and particularly environmental interactions with agriculture and food systems - is missing from the draft conclusions and we request that this be better reflected.
- Innovations in agriculture - whether it's new climate resilient crop varieties; solutions to pest threats; or alternative fertilisers – should also be at the heart of our response. So should innovations in our financial partnerships.
- The UK recognizes the need to step up our engagement with the private sector. Our COP Presidency is promoting and supporting research and innovation through the agricultural breakthroughs agreed in Glasgow.
- We helped to establish the African Risk Capacity Group, which has already transferred \$1bn of disaster risk from African Governments to insurance markets.

- Our development finance institution, British International Investment, is supporting the food and agriculture sector through a \$560m investment portfolio which will continue to expand.
- The scale and complexity of the problem demands even stronger partnerships. Working with the rest of the UN system, IFIs, member states, civil society, and critically with the private sector, we need to step up our efforts to crowd in responsible investments that match the growing needs outlined in the SOFI report.

Thank-you