

Session II.

## MINISTERIAL SEGMENT: COORDINATING POLICY RESPONSES TO THE GLOBAL FOOD CRISIS - THE STATE OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE WORLD 2022

Thank you Chair.

### **1. The global food crisis is also a nutrition and health crisis.**

- The SOFI 2022 report outlines that even before the current crisis, the world was off track to reach the global nutrition targets and related Sustainable Development Goals.
- 149 million children still suffered from stunted growth and 45 million were wasted in 2020; Moreover, 39 million children were overweighted and over 670 million adults were obese in 2020.
- The current food/multidimensional crisis is likely to further increase the number of malnourished people, especially women and children, and put the global targets further out of reach.
- There are great concerns about the impacts of the crisis on a potential reallocation of nutrition budgets and reduction of services needed for preventing and treating malnutrition, such as the life strengthening severe acute malnutrition (also known as child wasting).

### **2. A coordinated policy response needs to address both, i) the urgently needed short term humanitarian assistance, including for nutrition, AND ii) needed structural changes in our food systems for long-term sustainable impact, leaving no one behind.**

- In addition to co-authoring SOFI, WHO, in partnership with UNICEF is working with countries to produce context-specific treatment policies and protocols for the prevention and treatment of child wasting.
- WHO also advocates for a One Health approach to food system transformation, so that all people can access nutritious and sustainable diets.
- A fragmented policy response to the global food crisis weakens the impact of all efforts undertaken. Fragmentation risks failure of impactful delivery of humanitarian support along with longer-term structural food systems transformation.

WHO is committed to work with the CFS, and in line with the mandate of CFS, towards a comprehensive multi-sectoral policy response at all levels that will save lives and bring about sustainable food systems that enable the health of people and planet.