



Statement on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States

**50th session of the Committee on World Food Security
(Hybrid meeting, 10-13 October 2022)**

Item IV c) Theme of the 2024 HLPE Report

Madam/Mr Chair,

1. I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.
2. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Serbia, Türkiye and Ukraine align themselves with this statement align themselves with this statement.
3. We are grateful to the High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) for the reference document prepared with options for the theme for the 2024 report, and to the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Secretariat for having prepared the draft conclusions. We are also grateful to the Bureau for the discussion on the topic.
4. Considering the options, the EU and its Member States support the theme “Strengthening urban and peri-urban food systems in the context of urbanization and rural transformation”.
5. This preference is in line with what the EU and its Member States said in 2019 when the CFS discussed urbanisation and rural transformation. At that time, we recommended starting to prepare concrete terms of reference for an HLPE report to be presented to the CFS during the 2024-2027 Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW).

6. Indeed, we still think that addressing the topic requires an innovative, comprehensive, interdisciplinary, and inter-institutional approach. This is now even more urgent than in 2019 as the climate crisis has recently led to extreme weather events and natural disasters. We should develop and implement proper policies, through increased dialogue between rural and urban actors at all levels, enhanced involvement of young people and women, and greater responsible public and private investment.

Thank you, Madam/Mr Chair.
