

## **USG STATEMENT:**

- Thank you very much. The United States looks forward to working with other CFS members to produce a clear, concise and effective set of policy recommendations on data collection and analysis tools for food security and nutrition.
- The importance of data for farmers and policymakers cannot be overstated. Without it, we are lost. For farmers around the world, better data helps them make better decisions in planting, harvesting, marketing and everything in between. Better data allows for farmers to increase conservation and sustainability.
- Data is so important that in the United States, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has multiple mission areas whose primary focus is the collection of food and agricultural data. The USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service alone issues over 9,000 reports and news releases annually on virtually every facet of U.S. agriculture from production to wages to demographics.
- We want to thank the High Level Panel of Experts for this extensive report. They have covered many of the most important issues on data and agriculture. As the report says, data must be at the forefront of diagnosing and informing food system transformations. And it is extremely important to recognize the lack of data in food and agriculture in so much of the world. The report calls for increased and sustained investment in data collection at the disaggregated, local and sub-national levels.
- This is an important opportunity to advocate for improved national data systems and to create a greater demand for evidence-based decision making. This report underscores much of the important work performed by the 50x2030 Initiative for Data Smart Agriculture, of which USAID is a key partner, and will ultimately move us closer to achieving the goals of zero hunger, global food security, improved nutrition, and sustainable agriculture.
- We do need to make sure that the eventual policy recommendations remain focused within food security and nutrition and do not stray far outside the

mandate of CFS. Specific policies on how private data should be stored or shared with governments or other groups should not be a focus on this workstream—these are policies that are being debated and discussed by experts in other UN and international organizations.

- Finally, we need to reiterate that we want to see a clear, concise set of policy recommendations. If CFS products are to be effective for policy makers, they need to be short and to the point. Endless reports that try and cover every aspect of data will not be helpful. We all spend a lot of time and resources negotiating these products and we want to see them succeed.
- Thank you.