

MALAYSIA'S INTERVENTION
AGENDA ITEM 3(A): PRESENTATION OF THE STATE OF FOOD
SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE WORLD 2023 REPORT AND
DEBATE ON COORDINATED POLICY RESPONSES TO THE
GLOBAL FOOD CRISIS: FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson and distinguished delegates,

Malaysia is alarmed by the reality and challenges ahead of us that has been reported in SOFI 2023 on the current state of the world's food security and nutrition. Malaysia acknowledges that the world continues to face the unprecedented catastrophic levels of acute food insecurity and the significant need to reverse this trend towards sustainable and resilient global food systems.

In Malaysia, we spare no effort to ensure national food security and nutrition and Covid-19 pandemic had a silver lining on raising the importance of urban farming in Malaysia. In support of this, Malaysian Government allocated USD11.3 million for the Community Farming which is an urban farming initiative that helps low-income households reduce the cost of living by producing food products either for their own consumption or for sale. Until December 2022, the Urban/Community Farming Programme has benefited a total of 212,263 people involving individuals, communities, schools and institutions at 36,665 locations nationwide.

In advancing towards sustainable agricultural practices, Malaysia has established Organic Farming Project, an initiative by the Area Farmers' Organisation together with farming community to increase the awareness of Malaysians towards the use of organic agricultural products by supporting food production projects that adopt sustainable practices while improving their capacities across a range of skills such as business management, financial planning, marketing, technical aspects of sustainable agriculture, food quality and safety, processing, and nutrition.

Malaysia has put in place plethora of efforts towards elevating the livelihood of smallholder farmers and food producers, and further attract the interest of more diverse demographics, such as women and youth for

their inclusive, meaningful and participatory involvement in food system value chain. In response to the demands and needs of youth, Malaysia has introduced Young Agropreneur Programme to provide in-kind contribution to participants and has facilitated 8,568 young entrepreneurs in various agriculture sub-sectors with a total grant of USD36.7 million between 2016 – 2022.

Malaysia assures its commitment to improve the nutritional status of its population through the National Nutrition Policy of Malaysia 2021-2030. One of the enabling strategies is to sustain food system for healthy diets where Malaysia is committed to ensuring food is accessible and affordable for the nation and encouraging consumers to make informed food choices. For instance, the implementation of the Healthy School Meal Programme to provide balanced and nutritious food during recess time benefited 762,244 students with an allocation of USD129.8 million in 2022. Additionally, Malaysia implements the Food Basket Programme in ensuring food accessibility among malnourished children from low-income families by providing monthly provision of food basket, nutrition assessment, growth monitoring and nutrition education to parents or caregivers to improve the child's nutritional status.

To increase exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life and reducing stunting among children under 5 years old, Community Feeding Programme has been implemented to ensure food accessibility of indigenous under five that resides in the remote areas.

Malaysia recognises CFS's roles, as an inclusive international and intergovernmental platform dealing with food security issues. In this regard, Malaysia would like to renew our commitment and readiness to work constructively with all stakeholders, including through the CFS and HLPE processes, to contribute to the development of food systems solutions according to national contexts, needs and priorities.