

**Statement of the Republic of the Philippines
AGENDA III-Strengthening Coordinated Policy
Responses to the Food Crisis – The State of Food
Security and Nutrition in the World 2023 (high-level
debate)**

**51st Session of the Committee on World Food Security
(CFS 51)**

23 October 2023, FAO HQ, Rome, Italy
*(for delivery by Ambassador and Permanent
Representative to Rome-based UN Agencies,
H.E. Nathaniel Imperial)*

My greetings to all participants and organizers of this 51st plenary session of the Committee on World Food Security.

1. We note with concern the 2023 report on the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World, which presents that while there are encouraging signs of economic recovery from the pandemic, a decline in poverty and hunger is being tempered by rising food and energy prices. It is therefore prudent to address the drivers of rising food and energy prices.
2. The Philippines wishes to highlight key policy responses that the international community needs to strengthen coordination and cooperation on in this regard:
 - a. Keep trade transparent, predictable, and fair.
 - b. Address the threats of climate change - working towards immediate fulfillment of obligations

under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement.

- c. Invest in boosting the productivity and resilience of agri-food systems, especially investing in research and development, technology and infrastructure for agri-modernization and improved access to food.
- d. Empower people -- women, youth and other marginalized groups included -- to be food secure and contribute effectively to a food-secure world.
- e. Promote Data and Evidence-Based Policy Making and Program Development. We note recent research showing that for every dollar invested in data, an average of \$32 in economic benefits are generated.

3. With regard to the presentation's focus on the issue of urbanization, we note the policies and solutions to leverage agri-food systems transformation for healthy diets across the rural-urban continuum, and wish to share some efforts that the Philippines is doing in this regard:

- The Department of Agriculture has spearheaded an Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture Program to improve production supply of local fresh vegetable products, reduce "food miles," promote healthy living by eating more vegetables, and to contribute to the local economy, social integration and environmental stability;

- The President of the Philippines consolidated this program with the Department of Interior and Local Government so that the program can be implemented nationwide at the “barangay” level – the smallest territorial and administrative district in the Philippines.
 - The Department of Agriculture is also partnering with the private sector to build more urban agricultural sites nationwide.
4. The Philippines recognizes that achieving sustainable food and nutrition security requires a whole-of-society approach with government utilizing multi-sectoral and multi-level platforms.
 5. The Philippines recognizes that the “new normal” is challenging agri-food systems to deliver nutritious, safe and affordable diets for all. With the new normal of agri-food systems remaining highly vulnerable to shocks and disruptions arising from conflict, climate variability and extremes, and economic contraction, indeed, we have no option but to redouble our efforts to transform agrifood systems and leverage them towards reaching the SDG2 targets of zero hunger and food security.
 6. International engagement, cooperation, exchange, and action are vital for our shared success. The Philippines stands ready to do our part and work with you all. #END#