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

51ˢᵗ Committee on World Food Security
(23-27 October 2023)
¨Making a Difference in Food Security and Nutrition¨

FINAL VERSION

Item IVa: Global "Interlinkages" Dialogues: The 2023 SDG Summit and The 2024 Summit of the Future

Dear Mr Chair,

1. I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.

2. Iceland, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, North Macedonia, San Marino and Türkiye align themselves with this statement.

3. Let us first of all express our concern on the lack of progress shown in SGD achievements. Halfway to 2030, only 15 % of the SDGs are on track, and, some of them are even in reverse, especially SDG 2 and key interrelated SDGs, such as SDGs 8, 12 or 13, as reported in the SDG report presented at the UNGA78.

4. We reaffirm our commitment to multilateralism for the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and its SDGs overarching roadmap, to tackle intersecting global challenges and reverse these negative trends building partnerships for people, planet, prosperity and peace.

5. Building on the UN Food Systems Stocktaking Moment in July 2023, and in the run up to COP 28 in Dubai in December 2023, the UNCBD COP 16 and the Summit of the Future in 2024, we particularly underline that mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change represent an immediate and urgent priority, if we are to achieve global food security and nutrition. The EU will remain committed to consolidating international agendas in this regard, contributing over 40% of the global assistance.

6. We also highlight our commitment to the effective implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, recognizing that agriculture and food systems are essential to effective protection of global biodiversity and vice versa, biodiversity is essential for productive agriculture and food systems and therefore for achieving Zero Hunger. Specifically, we will work towards reducing the negative impact of pollution, ensuring that agricultural areas are managed sustainably and encouraging sustainable consumption choices including through reducing food waste.

7. We take this opportunity to express our alignment with the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly last September, and the call to '*accelerate actions to end hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition, and the realization of the right to adequate food, including through access to sufficient, safe and nutritious foods all year round, the promotion of sustainable and resilient agriculture and food systems, as well as safe, nutritious and healthy diets*.'

8. We also welcome the UN Secretary-General's High Impact Initiative on Food Systems Transformation: *Transforming Food Systems for a sustainable world without hunger,* launched during the SDG Action Weekend. We believe that the CFS should follow this initiative closely.

9. We will work with partners on food security and nutrition, climate change, biodiversity and, gender equality and women empowerment to step up action on the pathway to SDG 2 and related SDGs. In doing so, we will defend a rules-based international order, that respects the fundamental principles of international law and human rights, and, in particular, the right to adequate food.

10. Mr Chair, we recognise the unique and central role that the CFS plays in strengthening multilateralism and global governance to tackle food insecurity and malnutrition and its intersecting drivers thereof.

11. The EU and its members support a strong cooperation within the United Nations, between the CFS and the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) and other relevant stakeholders. Enhanced synergies are needed to avoid duplication in terms of financial, time and human resource matters. This will allow to move towards the effective sustainable transformation of food systems, to deliver for people in a way that improves access to healthy diets and is conducive to the realisation of the right to adequate food.

Thank you, Mr Chair.