

CFS51

VI. Leveraging the use of data for driving food security and nutrition policy

DATE: 24 October 2023

TIME: 15.00-18.00 (exact time to be advised)

LOCATION: FAO Headquarters, Rome

Statement by Veronica Papacosta, Chief Executive Officer for the Seafood Industry Australia and member of the Private Sector Mechanism of the CFS

Mr. Chairman, Your Excellencies, and esteemed colleagues,

On behalf of the Private Sector Mechanism, let me thank you for the opportunity to speak at this timely and important event dedicated to hard work that led to the agreement and endorsement of the CFS Policy Recommendations.

First and foremost, we would like to extend our gratitude to Mr Muriithi in his personal capacity for his time and dedication and to the Kenyan government for their commitment to the issue of improving data for increased food security and nutrition. Throughout the entire policy convergence process, all CFS members benefited from his leadership and dedication, and we would certainly not be here, with the output we have at hand if it weren't for him.

The PSM welcomes the content of the recommendations, which provide concrete guidance to countries for the greater use, collection, sharing and utilization of data for better decision-making.

Thankfully, the recommendations also highlight and recognize the need for inclusive collaboration among the various stakeholders to close the data gap. We look forward to

turning to their update in collaboration with governments, international agencies, civil society and academia.

(In fact, this very morning PSM had the pleasure of convening a side event on *IMPROVED DATA MANAGEMENT FOR INCREASED FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION*. We are pleased to have shared concerns and best practices in data management policies from the farmer's perspective to promote data-driven decision-making. The rich discussion on the various challenges and opportunities for improved data management is the type of collaboration we hope to continue with all CFS multi-stakeholders as we pivot to the implementation of the CFS guidelines on data.

It is vital to promote and leverage data and new technologies for food security nutrition-related programs, while protecting the rights of farmers by adhering to principles for proper management of data. These principles should address, among other concerns, issues of control, transparency and fairness. The recommendations reflect this generally and although the voice of farmers could have been more prominent, we look forward to providing this insight to increase their efficacy and promote greater food security.

Lastly, chair, we would just note that we appreciate the recognition of the role and the contribution of the Private Sector towards collecting and applying data for agricultural stakeholders' benefit through improving both the availability and accessibility of inputs, credit, and market services.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for this opportunity.