

## VIII. Addressing multiple dimensions of inequalities

**DATE:** 26 October 2023

**TIME:** 10.00-13.00 (exact time to be advised)

**LOCATION:** FAO Headquarters, Rome

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Statement by **Ms Mandla Mabunda**, on behalf of the CFS Private Sector Mechanism

Mr. Chairman, Your Excellencies, and esteemed colleagues,

My name is Mandla Mabunda from South Africa, I am the CEO of a company called Masana Dieticians, specializing in the manufacturing of enriched food products and food safety training services.

Your Excellences, it gives me great pleasure to inform you that as the PSM, we welcome this important HLPE report on reducing inequalities for food security and nutrition.

We particularly like the **conceptual framework** which shows a visual presentation of the intersectional, intergenerational, and interterritorial inequalities and the systemic impact on the six dimensions of Food Security and Nutrition outcomes.

It is indeed a fact that climate change, conflict and other fast-evolving shocks worsen the inequalities within the food system. Unfortunately, and sadly; these have the most devastating impact on the already vulnerable segments of the population, including women, children, small scale farmers, migrants, indigenous people and those with limited resources.

The PSM highly commend the authors of the report for highlighting these issues.

The PSM agrees with the report findings which recognize and elaborate on **three broad areas of inequalities** in the food systems and their impact on the food security and nutrition. Namely, inequalities in the food production resources; Secondly; inequalities in food supply chains (including access to information and technologies, access to financial services, participation in value chains and market access and trade); lastly, inequalities in environment and consumer behaviour.

The PSM also supports the report's findings on the **major action items** to address inequalities such as enabling more equitable access to land, forests, fisheries and livestock; investing in agricultural and food systems research; adopting inclusive value chain approaches; developing labour-protection policies, strategies, and programmes for food systems workers; investing in storage, food processing and distribution infrastructure; and investing in improved information systems and digital technologies.

Given that PSM represents a **diverse group**; from small, medium, and large farmers and agri-food businesses across all production sectors; we fully agree that actions to address the drivers of food security and nutrition inequalities must be grounded in context specificity.

To address the inequalities within food systems the PSM believes that constructive, transparent, and accountable partnerships, and innovative financing models between NGOs, governments, other stakeholders, and the private sector are critical to mobilise the resources required to improve Food Security and Nutrition outcomes on the scale needed to achieve the 2030 agenda. Indeed, all stakeholders should do their part and share their responsibilities.

As PSM we do not only welcome the report, but we are also committed to continue to fully engage in the CFS policy process to develop guidelines on how these multidimensional inequalities can be addressed, reduced, and hopefully eliminated in time to achieve the 2030 agenda.

More critically, as the producers of most of the world's food the private sector is uniquely placed to deliver and implement outcomes based on those policy recommendations.

Thank you Chair.