

II. Coordinated policy responses to the food crisis – the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2024

DATE: 21 October 2023

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

LOCATION: Plenary Hall, FAO Headquarters, Rome

Statement by Andrew (Andy) Macfarlane, Board of Directors, Fonterra and Global Dairy Platform on behalf of the CFS Private Sector Mechanism

Madame Chair, Your Excellencies, and esteemed colleagues,

The private sector recognizes the critical importance of transforming agrifood systems to ensure sustainable food security and nutrition worldwide. In light of the findings presented in the 2024 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) report, the private sector acknowledges its vital role in advancing both food availability, accessibility, affordability, and nutritional outcomes.

Business has and will continue to contribute to creating and advising on sustainable agrifood production practices, financial innovation and delivery of technological options that have potential to significantly address the rising challenges of food insecurity and malnutrition.

Through several initiatives such as financial support, capacity building and greater use of technology and innovation for farmers and those in rural communities, the private sector has helped to improve household incomes, food security, and the economic stability of smallholder farmers. Innovative approaches to the use of supply chain enhancements offer new pathways to reduce barriers to finance and boost production, benefiting both small-scale producers and larger agrifood SMEs.

For instance, initiatives like Dairy Nourishes Africa enhance value chains, stabilize income streams, and ensure that high-quality, nutritious food is available for vulnerable populations.

As the world faces ongoing challenges such as climate volatility and change, economic disruptions, and variable access to resources and markets, the private sector stands ready to play its part in creating resilient, sustainable food systems that support long-term global food security.

Thank you.