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THIS TRANSCRIPT IS RAW

14 October AM

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Mr Mario ARVELO, CFS Chair

Colleagues and friends, good morning and welcome to Rome for CFS 46. For the delegates who are standing, I see open seats, maybe on the bleachers to the far right of you, looking at the podium. There are probably some seats in the balcony and there are additional seats in the red room where the session is being broadcast. The red room is two storeys below us in this building. I would everybody to note that the seating arrangement reflects the democratic, egalitarian nature of CFS.

Yesterday afternoon I came with the Secretary to see the room and the Chair made the executive decision to desegregate non-state participants so that, for example, FAO is seated between Ethiopia and Fiji, IFAD is seated between Iceland and India and WFP is seated between Vietnam and Yemen, and this is to show that we are all equal in CFS. Other non-state actors are also seated amongst the Member States. This happened yesterday.

I did not do the research on this but I believe, and I would venture the thought that perhaps this is a first in the UN system, the aggregation of everybody sitting together. We also sat Sudan right out here in front so that we start with Sudan and then go, of course, in alphabetical order by country name in English and that is because my predecessor as Chair was then Ambassador Amira Gornass from the Sudan.

And, lastly, on the seating arrangement, that distribution allowed us to have my successor as chair seated right in front of me, Mr Tien Sien [?] from Thailand. So, that was a happy coincidence. Now, before our formal programme begins, UN security regulations require us to watch a short instructional safety video. Let us all pay attention to it.

SCREENING OF VIDEO

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you for that. Now, today and in the course of the week we commemorate two milestones, 45 years since the establishment of this Committee and ten years since its trailblazing reform. In working through our ambitious agenda, let us keep in mind why CFS was born and why it was so deeply transformed. We have come a long way since the international community responded to the 1973 global financial and food crisis by creating an inter-governmental body, the CFS, to share information and promote policies to avoid starvation and ensure open access to market data on food and commodities.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development, IFAD, the consultative group for International Agricultural Research, CGIAR, and the global early warning system housed at FAO were also born from this response. When, in 2007/2008, another global food crisis necessitated a fundamentally different approach, CFS was transformed into a multi-stakeholder platform which is a revolutionary advancement

in United Nations architecture where governments, civil society, the private sector, scientists and others now sit together as partners and we are, for the first time ever, sitting together here in this room today.

This foremost inclusive platform of the international system is a stage for speechmaking but, more significantly, it is a brainstorming centre for crafting wise and effective policy approaches. While we have these milestones to celebrate, let us not forget why we are here and who we are striving to help. In this light, I wish to call for a moment of silent reflection in memory of the millions who have died of hunger and from diseases stemming from malnutrition since CFS 45. I would like to mention some special friends of CFS who we have lost.

Jacques Diouf of Senegal, who was director-general of FAO, championed the CFS and its placement in Rome, the United Nations capital for food and agriculture. Christine Ton-Nu of France, who served as vice-chair of CFS and was an active negotiator of the 2009 reform document. And all those travelling to a United Nations conference in Nairobi aboard Ethiopian Airlines flight 302, in particular my friend and interpreter extraordinaire, Grazie de Luis of Mexico, and her United Nations colleagues who also perished in that disaster. A moment of silence.

Thank you. I will now ask the CFS Secretary, Chris Hegadon, to provide administrative and logistical details for this forty-sixth session. Mr Hegadon leads the CFS Secretariat team whose tireless work and commitment to excellence is responsible for what will surely be a fruitful CFS week. Chris is also an old friend and colleague and was very active in the reform of CFS and actually is one of the founding fathers of the high-level panel of experts on food security and nutrition as he was the chair of the working group that created this science and evidence-based arm of CFS. Chris.

Mr Chris HEGADON, CFS Secretary

Thank you very much, Mario, Mr Chair, and good morning to all of you who have travelled far and wide. I want to start first by thanking the team that made this meeting come together. If the CFS Secretariat staff can raise their hands and identify yourself quickly, please give them a quick round of applause. This has been, of course, a team effort and they have done amazing work to make this all happen. So, let me start by announcing as well that the European Union is participating in this meeting in accordance with paragraphs 8 and 9 of Article 2 of the FAO Constitution and a declaration to that effect is contained in information document 6.

As of this morning, the number of Member States registered for this session is 126, with 111 in attendance now. That means our working quorum is 56 member states. The number of registered attendees in total is 1,875, which is a new record and reflects the very strong interest in the CFS. We have also confirmed, since CFS 45, the membership of Myanmar amongst the member states.

To confirm that your name will be included in the list of participants, please visit the registration desk located by the pavilion. This year, again, CFS is going paper smart. That means we are encouraging the use of electronic versions of documents. If you still need paper copies, please send an email to the dedicated address on the CFS web page. Limited printed copies will be available at the CFS 46 document pick-up point at the messenger's desk in plenary hall, to the right of you as you face the podium.

Requests for printing will be handled in the order received. Your collaboration on this initiative will continue to ensure CFS remains environmentally friendly. We will also be piloting a series of survey tools through the week, intended to solicit your feedback to improve future sessions. Thank you in advance for your time and your constructive thoughts on this session.

Last, and also for a first for CFS, there will be a meditation session each day from 9.45 to 10 a.m. in Room A250 on the floor below us. Mr Chair.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Chris. I hope I'll be able to attend one of those meditation sessions. We now proceed to agenda item I, Organizational Matters. The CFS Bureau discussed and approved the provisional agenda and timetable in consultation with the advisory group. For the first time, the Secretariat has prepared a guide to CFS 46 with detailed information. You can find it online. To have lively and interactive debates, I strongly discourage reading formal statements. The full agenda requires rigorous time management. Therefore, speakers are requested to keep interventions brief, articulating your points concisely. I suggest you dispense with diplomatic pleasantries as the Bureau has established a maximum of three minutes per speaker.

The Bureau has exceptionally allocated up to five minutes for minister, vice ministers and delegates speaking for regional groups as well as spokespersons for the civil society and the private sector mechanisms. A clock counting down the available time will be shown on the screens left and right and also on the podium and I will give a 30-second warning to conclude, like so. That is my meditation bell that I have brought here.

This year delegates have the option of recording a video statement instead of taking the floor in plenary. Those interested in taking advantage of this possibility should contact the CFS Secretariat. They all had their hands raised and you know Chris here. Delegates wishing to see their statements posted on our website can email them to cfs@fao.org. While I take for granted that everyone is familiar with the agenda, the Secretary asks me to highlight the political decisions we must take during this CFS 46.

On Thursday morning we will debate, and I am confident we will approve, a multi-year programme of work for the period 2020 to 2023. This is what we call the MyPoW. This four-year programme of work resulted from an inclusive, transparent and intensive process and follows recommendations of the CFS independent external evaluation. That is on Thursday morning.

Then on Friday afternoon... Rather on Thursday afternoon, under item... Well, we will deal with when in just a moment but just take a note that item 12 a), b), c) and d) are for decision. We will be appointing a new chair and bureau for the next two years. Also, the current bureau is submitting a request to elevate the status of FAO, IFAD and WFP in the advisory group to become *ex officio* members. That is to say the three Rome-based agencies will in practice be permanent advisors to the CFS Bureau.

Before submitting the provisional agenda for approval, the Secretary has a point to make. This is a clarification that I need from Mr Hegadon. Chris, please.

SECRETARY

Thank you, Mr Chair. In fact, I will make an announcement as well as the point you asked me to make. Friday morning there will be a youth special event in the Red Room. Youth delegates from different constituencies are working hard to make this event as lively as possible. They will report back on their impressions of this plenary and side events and they will be shooting short videos. If you are asked to do a short video, please support this activity. Youth delegates will also place two magic boxes at the back of the plenary hall where you can insert your answers to a very important question, what actions and steps can be taken by governments and other actors to ensure youth are involved and engaged in food security and nutrition policy making in their national context?

Last, there will be a pre-event survey to align expectations before that event, available in English, French and Spanish. It will be paperless and I understand QR codes will be circulated soon. Youth delegates seek to involve all of you in the Friday events and we encourage you not to miss this opportunity. On the matter the Chair mentioned, there is a proposed amendment to the agenda for item 12 under Other Matters to approach sub-item a), that is amendment to the CFS Rules of Procedure on Thursday afternoon starting at 17.30 instead of Friday afternoon. This is the item the chair just referred to, on the status of FAO,

IFAD and WFP as permanent members of the advisory group. Bringing this item forward will allow a decision to go to Drafting Committee, which will meet only once, on Thursday evening. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Chris. Can we adopt the provisional agenda and timetable so that they become the official agenda and timetable? Thank you. Now the Secretary will give us the proposed composition of the Drafting Committee for CFS 46.

SECRETARY

Based upon regional submissions, the following countries have been nominated to serve as Drafting Committee members: Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, France, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, New Zealand, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Sudan and Switzerland. Sanna-Liisa Taivalmaa of Finland will chair the Drafting Committee. Ms Taivalmaa is senior advisor on rural development at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Helsinki. The European Union will participate in the Drafting Committee in accordance with paragraphs 8 and 9 of Article 2 of the Constitution and on matters within its competence will exercise on an alternate basis the membership rights of the EU member state nominated to the Drafting Committee. The Drafting Committee meets on Thursday at 6.30 p.m.

II. SOFI, ITS POLICY IMPLICATIONS and the SDGs

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. The Committee may appoint the chair and membership of the Drafting Committee by acclamation. **So decided.** We will now ask the VIPs to come into the room. Bear with us for a few seconds. The principals of the RBAs and Assistant Secretary-General Spatolisano and HLPE Chair, our Monsieur Caron, are in the Caribbean Room, that is next door, and they will be making their entrance momentarily. So, now we will have the High Level Session for CFS 46.

I welcome to the podium Assistant Secretary-General, Maria Francesca Spatolisano, who will deliver a message from United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres. We also have the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, Dr Qu Dongyu. We have the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, Gilbert Huongbo. We have the Executive Director of the World Food Programme, David Beasley, and we have the Chair of the Steering Committee of the High Level Panel of Experts for Food Security and Nutrition, Professor Patrick Caron.

I will ask now Ms Spatolisano, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations, to deliver a message on behalf of the Secretary-General Guterres.

Ms Maria Francesca SPATOLISANO, Assistant General for Policy Coordination, UNDESA

Good morning. The message from the Secretary-General. It is a pleasure to greet the Committee on the World Food Security on the 45th anniversary of this vital and inclusive multi-stakeholder United Nations platform. At last month's Sustainable Development Goals Summit, I called for a decade of ambitious action, to deliver the SDGs by 2030. Accelerating our efforts to end hunger and achieve food security will require transformative steps. I welcome your focus at this session on crucial areas as data, inequality, gender and youth and on innovations such as agroecology.

Agricultural and food systems are central to tackling the challenge of sustainable food production, improved nutrition and protecting the climate. The reason for action could not be more clear. Hunger is, again, on the rise. Climate emergency is an increasing threat to agriculture and two billion people are overweight or obese, undermining wealth and wellbeing.

Through the preparation of evidence-based policy guidelines, your Committee is well-placed to advance coherence in the realms of food systems, healthy diets and environmental sustainability. This would also be a key contribution to a 2021 Food Systems Summit. I commend the Rome-based United Nation agencies for their ever stronger collaboration within the Committee on Food Security. Strengthened partnerships with all stakeholders will continue to be essential to meet the challenges of climate change, malnutrition and poverty in the context of the 2030 agenda. I wish you all a successful meeting. End of the Secretary-General's statement. Thank you.

Applause

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Ms Spatolisano, and please convey to the Secretary-General our gratitude. And now, as is customary, the Chair of the CFS will speak.

Mr Mario ARVELO , CFS Chair

On 26 June 1945, 147 delegates from 50 countries assembled in San Francisco on the Pacific Coast of North America to inscribe signatures on a document titled Charter of the United Nations. Four were women.

One of them, Minerva Bernardino, represented the Dominican Republic. A coalition of likeminded ideologues had attempted to conquer the world, unleashing war in the name of racial and cultural predominance, exclusion and hate. The victorious alliance understood that stability and wellbeing, which are necessary for peace among nations, required global institutions for promoting rights-based economic and social development. Three and a half years later, on 10 December 1948, Member States adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It was Bernardino who proposed that the original formulation, Rights of Man, be changed to Human Rights.

And so it is that the international community agreed to enshrine the fundamental human right to food. This is the foundation upon which the Committee on World Food Security is built and the source of legitimacy for everything we do. We all know the causes of food insecurity. Even if the experts kept them in secret, common sense would soon reveal the reasons for the persistence of hunger and malnutrition. The main drivers are the ravages of climate change and armed conflicts and the migrations they provoke. And yet we continue generating the carbon emissions that have triggered and continued to exacerbate a climate crisis that is already upon us, as every food producer knows too well.

Family farmers are the engine of food production, responsible of 80% of global output. Instead of investing in them by developing seeds, fertilisers, pesticides and other inputs as public goods, the trading weapons promotes perverse incentives. Then, in the face of war and weather extremes, the most vulnerable are forced to make a choice, either succumb to hunger or migrate to seek survival somewhere else.

Enter the demagogues, peddling fear to conceal that they can offer no solutions. It is here, in this unique space, where we find the proven manner for building a better world, agreeing on common goals and advancing together steadily. This week we will bring forward a set of guidelines on nutrition and food systems, promoting healthy diets from a holistic perspective. The science is clear. Overconsumption of sugar, salt and trans fats are poisoning us. Legislators must intervene so that consumers can make informed choices. We will discuss the 2009 report on the state of food security and nutrition in the world, which is populated with cold statistics, reveals alarming trends and poses formidable challenges. The SOFI Report also presents ways forward.

We will commemorate the International Day of Rural Women in a special session I have asked CFS Vice-Chair, Valentina Savastano, to conduct. We will tackle the challenges of urbanization as the world cities come up with pioneering approaches for sustainability. We will promote multi-stakeholder partnerships that mirror the inclusiveness of CFS. We will also commence working on innovative approaches such as agroecology. We will showcase the pillars of the Decade of Action on Family Farming.

We will take stock of how CFS policy recommendations are succeeding at country level as they improve the livelihoods of smallholders by expanding their access to markets, and we will debate a truly ambitious four-year programme of work for CFS to address gender, youth, data systems and inequalities.

We have just over ten years for achieving zero hunger and the other goals. It has been said that 2030 will constitute the most consequential turning point in history as the full potential of humanity is redirected from the struggle to eliminate hunger and all forms of malnutrition.

When the history of this coming decade is told, the things we are about to do here this week will resound much like what others before us did 74 years ago. Thank you.

Applause

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. And now for the speech by the Director-General of FAO, Dr Qu Dongyu.

Mr Qu DONGYU, DIRECTOR-GENERAL (FAO)

Honourable ministers and vice ministers, ambassadors, head of delegations, distinguished participants and observers, excellencies, good morning, ladies and gentlemen, it is a pleasure for me to welcome all of you to the 46th Session of the Committee on World Food Security, my very first CFS as FAO Director-General.

We are here today because we are committed to end hunger for the insecurity and malnutrition. The food security and nutrition in the world, as the SOFI Report released, gives us some discouraging news. The 2019 edition of this report shows more than 820 million people are hungry in 2018. It revealed that the global food insecurity is actually a more alarming problem than we all thought. Two billion people in the world experience moderate or severe food insecurity because they do not have regular access to nutrition, sufficient food throughout the year. The globally obese number and trend amongst others are also a worry. That is even more serious.

What is increasingly obvious is that our collective efforts to achieve the sustainable development goal to zero hunger and perhaps others are coming short. We cannot expose this situation, continue doing business as usual. We need to look critical at what we are doing with our organization. As a member of the CFS we must come up with a new idea and innovative bold action. Through the last two and a half months we had an informal consultation with the member countries here and colleagues of other international organizations in New York, in DC and in Geneva and others.

We initiate, through the hand to hand initiative effort to have more impact where it is most needed, in countries, especially in the poorest countries, the least developed countries, small islands, developed states and countries affected by the conflict and internal pressures.

We promised during my campaign to offer a timely [?] service, to have people in the vulnerable regions. FAO has intensified efforts in countries. FAO has given priority to the provision of policies, technical support to the countries on key issues of food security, nutrition within a sustainable development perspective.

FAO has established a partnership with all key players for greater synergy, effective and inclusive. FAO will continue to facilitate the cooperation and the exchange of resources and the knowledge between the developing countries.

As the Secretary of CFS, FAO strongly commit and believe that this Committee is a unique, global platform to collectively address the concerns identified by the SOFI Report and to catalyse our perspective agency work on these priorities. It has been ten years since the CFS was reformed and we need to really revisit and restart.

It is time to consider how CFS can unleash its full potential and have us reach our SDG goals and with a proper way and complementary functions. We can all sit and do better at deploying CFS products. We can also look at the pilot in future and learn from other countries' experiences and we can have the Secretary communicate with our colleagues back home. Especially FAO systems, regional office, country office can offer the concrete support to the CFS activities.

However, CFS will succeed if, and only if, you member countries, with the support from other stakeholders, take the step of policy framework as appropriate into your national dialogue, legislation and

your country and regional plan. CFS's work should continue to be guided by vulnerable countries and the needs of those most affected by the food insecurity and malnutrition, the poorest, women, youth, smallholders and other voluntary groups.

So, I would like to take this opportunity, with tomorrow being United Nations Women's Day, to launch an FAO Women's Committee officially, as promised. Because I already established a Youth Committee last month and tomorrow I will establish a Women's Committee to take care of the women's rights politically, economically, culturally and biologically.

CFS work will continue to be guided by the demands of countries and needs of those who most need it. Presuming you will approve the draft multi-year programme of work this week, CFS will focus on four very important areas where the ideas of CFS can be put into practice jointly with FAO support and ongoing work to produce a guideline of food assessment and nutrition could not be more relevant to both our joint efforts to organize a Food Summit in 2021.

Excellencies, FAO will continue to support CFS together with IFAD and WFP as a priority for RBAs collaboration. It is a big platform for RBAs to make influential impact jointly, collectively, synergetically. We have other small platforms but I consider this one is the big one. FAO will continue to ensure that CFS pilot framework will be a central part of its own work here in Rome and in the field network where we support the application at a national, regional and global levels.

Excellencies, we have a huge challenge in front of us to eradicate hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition. We can achieve this challenge if we work together hand in hand, including within the FAO and CFS. FAO will play its part and devote all its resources to support the countries to achieve the sustainability development goals.

I reaffirm FAO's commitment to a strong CFS, has impact added value to achieve the SDGs. We need to design bigger, do concrete and aim at good. I wish you all to have a fruitful debate and some serious concrete solutions come out. I am waiting for that, to work with you for my term. Thank you.

Applause

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Dr Qu, for your inspiring words. We will now listen from the President of IFAD, Mr Hougbo. Please.

Mr Gilbert HOUNGBO, President, IFAD

Excellencies, delegates, chairperson of the High Level Committee of Experts, ministers and dear ambassadors, ladies and gentlemen, please allow me, first of all, to congratulate the Committee on World Food Security on the celebration of its 45th anniversary, which actually coincides with the tenth anniversary of its reform, a reform which, in our humble opinion, really does deserve being pursued in order for it to be even more effective as a Committee.

Today we are here to discuss a need to step up progress under the sustainable development goal. In order for this to happen, however, each one of us has a prominent role to play in the transformation of food systems. At the same time, however, we need to continue to improve the impact of our action. It is clear that in this pursuit we must all stand together in our engagement towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

Just a few weeks ago in New York, the high level political forum drew the attention of the whole world on the crucial importance of food security and nutrition. This week in Rome, the 46th Session of CFS is an

opportunity to really build upon this élan. We all know that the progress towards SDG2 is stagnant right now. Equally, we understand that to the inclusive and sustainable nature of food systems is at the very heart of many sustainable development goals, especially that which seeks to end poverty, gender, good health and wellbeing, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, climate action and many more.

Consequently, the fact that we are falling behind with regard to the achievement of SDG, actually is challenging the fulfilment of the whole of the 2030 Agenda and we simply cannot allow for this to happen. What is it that we can do or, I should say, what is it that we must do. First of all, it would seem to me that we need to further invest in the resilience of smallholder farmers and family farmers.

If we take target three of SDG2 as a priority, then we will be able to double the agriculture productivity and the incomes of small-scale food producers. Smallholder farms already produce over 50% of the total of food calories on 30% of the agricultural land on the planet and we can only, therefore, imagine the impact on food security if we were capable of doubling this productivity and this level of production.

Secondly, we can continue and continuously increase the quality and the impact of our action in the ground and, thirdly, we can commit, both individually as well as collectively, to build momentum for change. This momentum should lead to a decisive mobilisation at the political level and it should also encourage the scientific community to embark on further agricultural research and actually make it a priority. It is for all of these reasons, ladies and gentlemen, that I am truly convinced that in order to achieve the zero hunger goal and all the other goals, for that matter, we absolutely need to transform our food systems and place smallholder farmers at the very centre of our action.

We are very glad to be able to cooperate with all of you attending this event here so that this plan of transformation can become a sustainable reality for us all. Thank you.

Applause

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, President Hounbo. We will now listen to the intervention by Executive Director Beasley. Please, sir.

Mr David BEASLEY, Executive Director, WFP

Thank you, and it is always great to follow my tremendous working colleagues here in Rome and, Mario, thank you for all the hard work these past couple of years and it seems like we have been making so much progress all over the world. It is hard to believe that actually in the last 40 years we have reduced the number of people per day, 137,000 people per day, have been reduced from poverty. Now, that should be a headline in every newspaper on earth but, unfortunately, in the last couple of years we have slid backwards, from 777 million people on earth that are chronically hungry are up to 821 million. So much progress was being made - 200 years ago a billion people at 85% extreme poverty to today, with 7.5 billion, less than 10% in extreme poverty.

So, we have built systems because of the work of many men and women like you who understand systems and understand institutions and understand technology and understand the poverty that impacts any nation and the pain and suffering for any individual. So, yes, progress has been made but now we are sliding backwards. Although progress has been made, try explaining that to the 821 million who are not quite getting the help they need. Obviously, the question of why we are going backwards is not so complicated. Manmade conflict. Compound that with cyclones, weather patterns changing, flash flooding, droughts, coupled with extremism, particularly in certain sections of the world, like in the Sahel, then you have got problems that we have not faced in the past.

But I have absolute confidence that this team, when I see many of you coming from all over the world, different colour skin, different cultures coming together with one common dream and that is to end hunger all across planet earth.

But sometimes we get too much into the weeds of division and we need to stay focussed, as we would say, with regard to the Titanic on the icebergs. How do we end hunger? How do we come together? I know many of you were very concerned when you had a Chinese head of FAO and you had an American head of WFP. I can assure you, you do not need to worry about that.

Applause

We are friends. We, together, the three Rome-based agencies will lay aside our cultural differences, our political differences, and yet take advantage of our experiences bringing together the success stories from all over the world, from Africa, yes, from Asia, yes, from the Americas, and how can we together work to solve problems. Because we have got problems. When you look at the amount of waste in the world today, 1.3 billion metric tons of waste, a value of US\$750 billion at least, maybe US\$1 trillion worth of waste, that can save two billion people as we concern ourselves with growing populations in the future. Waste alone is a major solution. What are we doing about women? I think it is fantastic we have a day committed to women. Because why? At the World Food Programme we understand of a world where women get the same access to credit and finance, just as men do. It would lift 150 million people out of poverty. But they don't get the same financing. That must change.

At the World Food Programme we are working directly with women all over the world. In fact, in our cash-based transfer system women alone now 51%. That's US\$2 billion. Women who normally did not handle finances or oppressed in cultures. Women now are involved in the financial decision-making of their family all over the world and that, my friends, is not just a small number of people. That alone is 12.5 million women that are impacted by the World Food Programme because of your support of understanding in the past when we just did commodities, now we are changing modalities to empower communities. Yes, we are working with women in many other different ways but the cash-based transfer system that many of you have been pushing and working with us, US\$2 billion now, in the world today, that we working with you because donors are saying we want to empower communities.

So, we are buying now more of our food inside Africa, for example. US\$1.2 billion alone, just inside Africa. So many of you donor countries understand that, yes, while we are bringing food in from developed nations, we are now buying so much more inside the developing nations, empowering communities, opening up markets. But that alone will not solve all of the problems. Africa, 60% of our operations are in Africa. 65% of the uncultivated arable land left in the world is in Africa. Africa imports US\$35 billion inside when it should be, by 2030, a US\$1 trillion food industry. If it has happened in the West, if it has happened in Asia, there is no reason it cannot happen in Africa.

We have got a lot of work to do but we have the answers. We have got to end these wars, we have got to take advantage of the technology that is available to us today and, last but not least, we have got to engage the private sector in ways we never have before. The private sector must be involved at the smallholder farmer level which is critical to the future, middle-sized businesses and big companies as well. For so long we have shunned the private sector in the United Nations but I think those days are long past. I believe we now understand how and why we should integrate that entrepreneurial spirit.

When the three Rome-based agencies together, when we go out in the field with no longer just handing out food but truly changing the dynamics, where it is no longer just humanitarian but it is also a humanitarian piece in so many of the countries where literally we have over ten million people involved for food for asset programmes.

I have seen women stand on a hillside and say before we were just receiving your food and we appreciate that but we do not want just a helping hand, we want a hand up. We want you to help us. And I see them stand there and say, we no longer need your support because you work with us on a food for asset programme, went from humanitarian to development, no longer needing our assistance. You see, this is where we must go.

Where are the success stories? How do we scale up? You must provide the attention to country by country. For so long, from the World Food Programme, because of conflict and destabilisation, we have been spending so much time on the countries at conflict or war and neglecting the countries that need development.

And if we do not give attention to those countries that need development, they will be countries at war one day. We must address root causes across the planet. My friends, the young people in the world, they need our experience and expertise. We need to inspire and encourage them and we need to come together in ways we have never come together before.

So, Mario, thank you for all the hard work. I think there is a lot more work that needs to be done. I appreciate each and every one of you. Hold us accountable for higher standards. Hold us accountable for better success and productivity as we march together to end hunger by 2030. And if we end the wars, I have no doubt we can end hunger on every single planet, every single country on this wonderful planet we call earth. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, executive Director Beasley. We will now listen to the intervention by Patrick Caron, the Chair of the HLPE. Monsieur Caron, s'il vous plait.

Mr Patrick CARON, Chair of HLPE Steering Committee

Mr Chairman, Director-General of FAO, President of IFAD, Executive Director of WFP, ministers, excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, alas, hunger remains a major concern, as also stressed in the SOFI Report, and the triple burden of malnutrition has now turned it into the main world problem when it comes to public health. No society, no country can escape it, whatever its level of development, and if nothing is done, the current trends, in particular the explosion of obesity, will lead us to a true catastrophe.

I am therefore extremely happy that you have considered the critical and emerging issues identified by HLPE in the four-year programme of work of CFS for 2020/2023, and I also rejoice about the fact that its 2017 report on food systems and nutrition has led to the development of voluntary guidelines that will be implemented by 2020.

I am eager to participate in the session that is going to be devoted to this and to find out what the outcome is going to be. I am here this week for the last time in my capacity as chair of HLPE. Allow me, therefore, today and the days to come to share with you, one, my awe when faced with the amazing innovative richness of HLPE, which makes it a gem; two, some lessons learned over the past four years; and, three, my vision of the role that it should play in the years to come.

We shall celebrate soon the tenth anniversary of HLPE, which was explicitly created with regard or in reference to IPPC on food security. How can science and understanding and knowledge help us to make policy decisions in our world, which is so uncertain today? This is truly a major challenge.

Actually, without a very deep transformation of food systems, we are not going to be able to solve the scourge of malnutrition. We are not going to be able to rise to the challenges of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, because food and human health and that of ecosystems, climate change, health

of the economy, social justice and peace are so closely related to each other and I really do urge those that are not yet convinced of this to listen to what our children have to say.

HLPE showed last year that the participation of all is absolutely necessary. The public sector, the private sector, civil society united to build a common future at the level of each country but also locally. Of course, not in any condition and this report will contribute to reflections this week on how everything is related and the role played by livestock breeding or investments in family farming.

The report of the HLPE on agroecology and other innovative approaches that was published in July and that is today available in several languages is interesting because it can be adapted to each situation. We will talk about it on Wednesday but I am already happy to see the process of convergence of policies announced by the Chair of CFS.

We therefore, of course, need to undertake bold measures because inaction not only would transmit a terrible legacy to the future generations but it would also have a very high cost. I would not be able, and I cannot sit back and just listen to the prophets of doom and remain inactive because I am truly convinced about the utility of the contribution provided by science. We have to go beyond rhetoric and that is why the scientific community has to do the same and guide the way forward in the world through a critical analysis of facts and debates and through the understanding of uncertainties and through the drawing of possible trajectories, understanding the main factors that have caused controversies, conflicts of interest and asymmetries.

Other groups of experts, and notably the IPPC and IPBS today are dealing with issues that have to do with food and nutrition and we are happy to see that. We need to work together and if the perspective of the World Food Summit is confirmed, we will have to try to build a key. And what we have learned and what we see in the present, indeed the synthesis report for the tenth anniversary should nourish and feed our debate in order to build a common vision for food security and nutrition by 2030.

Let us do this and on behalf of HLPE I would like to thank you for your kind support and I wish us all a very fruitful meeting and fruitful discussions this week. Thank you.

Applause

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Mr Caron. Again, I, for everybody, thank the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General, the FAO Director-General, the IFAD President, the WFP Executive Director and the HLPE Chair for their statements. I invite all of them to remain, if they can. I am sure that they have a full agenda. As we move on to item II of the CFS Agenda, I guess that probably you need to go back to your offices. You have a very full agenda, yes, I know. So, we thank them with applause.

Applause

As the Assistant Secretary-General and the principals of the RBAs take their leave, Monsieur Caron remains with us because his agenda includes remaining here with us. We also welcome to the podium Maximo Torero, Assistant Director-General for the Social and Economic Department here at FAO, as we move to item II of our agenda.

CHAIRPERSON

Item II is state of food security and nutrition in the world 2019. This is the SOFI Report. Under this agenda item we will examine the policy implications of the SOFI Report in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Five agencies prepared this report: FAO, IFAD, WFP jointly with the UN Children's Fund, UNICEF, and the World Health Organization. The 2019 version was launched in July, at the High Level Political Forum in New York, and the SOFI, I will very briefly say, measures progress toward achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2 of Zero Hunger, and it estimates how many people suffer from hunger and malnutrition and where they are located. This is the famous 821 million number that we keep listening to. That is one in every nine persons on this earth being food-insecure.

The 2019 report conveys bad news. SOFI has found, for the third consecutive year, that this number I just mentioned has been consistently on the rise and most of those suffering from hunger and malnutrition are women and children across the so-called global south. The report also points to the drivers of hunger and malnutrition which are mostly man-made - climate change, armed conflicts and the migrations they provoke. I referred to that in my speech a few minutes ago.

So, I will ask Mr Torero, the ADG for Economic and Social Development, to make a presentation on the SOFI Report. Mr Torero, please.

Mr Maximo TORERO, Assistant Director-General for Economic and Social Development

Thank you very much, all excellencies and ministers. It is a pleasure to be here. What we are going to do today is to present the state of food security and nutrition report in the world for 2019. This report, as all of you are aware, was launched already in New York in the High Level Political Reform in New York. We decided to launch it in New York because we wanted to influence that decisions that were going to be made there as part of this report.

The report shows that we are not on track, as it was mentioned before and it was mentioned by the principals on the 2030 SDG2 indicators of ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition and provides us several sets of policy recommendations that will allow us to change and to move forward to try to achieve this goal.

The presentation today will highlight some of these issues and will especially try to bring what we need to do to be able to improve. So, it will be different to the presentation of the launch because we will go in more detail in many of the aspects that we believe are really important and want to take into account. So, let me first start by summarising what the report says in terms of numbers. First, world hunger is still not going down, after three years. It is around 11% and this has not changed in the last three years.

And the absolute number, because, of course, the population growth is 120 million people which are still hungry today. But clearly hungry is more than just the count of how many people are undernourished. It also needs to account the quality of the food that we are eating and how good access to food we have and how much sufficient food we have. So, in this year we went a little bit beyond hunger and we were able to measure what we call the food insecurity experiences scale, not only in the severe but also in the moderate level, which brings these other elements which are especially important in terms of access to safe nutritious and sufficiently quality of food.

And when we look at that, our number goes up to two billion people which do not have regular access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food. Again, this is taking into account all these multiple dimensions of availability of food and quality of food that we are trying to eat. We also look at the indicators of childhood stunting which are decreasing, which is positive, but still they are not decreasing at the rate we need them to decrease to be able to achieve the 2030 target of the SDGs.

And, finally, we look at a very important topic, which is central, which is the global epidemic of overweight and obesity, which creates a significant effect and potential effect which is another form of malnutrition which is increasing at extreme rates and we need to work to try to control this epidemic as soon as possible. It's important that all these dimensions are taken into account to be able to assess the situation we have.

Now, the report also looks at the regional differences and what we find in the regional differences is that African nations share the greatest burden of child malnutrition and hunger especially. Importantly, the largest numbers of undernourished people, 60% or more than 500 million out of the 820 million, live in Asia. 30% of all undernourished people in the world live in Africa. The situation is most alarming in Africa as hunger is on the rise in almost all sub-regions, making Africa the region with the highest prevalence of undernourishment in the world at almost 20%.

Together Africa and Asia bear the greatest share of all forms of child malnutrition by accounting for more than nine out of ten of all stunted children and nine out of ten of all the world's children are nearly three-quarters of all overweight children worldwide. So, all the multiple forms of malnutrition are present in this continent.

The prevalence of overweight is the highest in North America, Oceania, Latin America and the Caribbean and Europe, between 67% and 59%. However, no region is exempt from the overweight crisis. All regions have experienced an increase of roughly ten percentage points in the prevalence of overweight among adults since 2000. Among school age children it is particularly steep in Africa and appears to be accelerating. So, the sub-regional differences are extremely important.

Now, what are the drivers behind this? And I think many of these have already been mentioned by our principals. So, progress has slowed down in many countries because of three major drivers that will look consequently in the different three SOFIs - 2019, 2018 and 2017. Conflict has been increasing. Climate variability, cyclones and extreme situations which create and put people in severe situations. And economic downturns and slowdowns, which was the second in-depth topic of the SOFI of 2019.

In the last two years we have reported that there are three key drivers, as I mentioned before. Now, on conflict and violence, it is a key driver because it increased in several parts of the world and especially because over the past decades conflict has been increasing substantially. And climate and variability is something that will keep going, as we know.

We just came from the Climate Change Summit in the United Nations, but this is something extremely important especially because of the extreme events and the variability and volatility that they will create and what we found in this report is that economic slowdowns and downturns in countries is also central and especially it is extremely important in countries which are highly dependent on non-primary commodity export revenues and, for example, any potential conflict in trade could affect substantially these countries and could increase the numbers we are facing today.

In the last two SOFI reports we looked closely, as I mentioned before, to the drivers of conflict and climate change and extremes. Today, in this SOFI, we are looking at economic slowdowns and downturns.

Now, hunger is increasing in many countries where the economics are lagging and that is where we mentioned were the slowdowns and lagging in these economies. Particularly middle-income countries, for countries that rely heavily on international trade for primary commodities and where inequalities are greater, the economic slowdowns and downturns undermine food security and nutrition.

Again, let me emphasise the importance of being able to move commodities from one location to the other and if we are depending on these specific commodities, the effects will be larger and the level or the size of effects are significant and that is nothing we need to improve and avoid in the future to have problems of lack in the mobility of goods from one location to the other.

Now, what needs to be done and how we can start fast-tracking the way to be able to achieve the 2030 SDGs for SDG2? First, economic resilience must be strengthened to safeguard food security and nutrition against economic adversity. We require multi-sectoral approaches to address the burden of overweight and obesity globally. We require transforming our culture and food systems to live a sustainable and healthy diets. We need to be concentrated, look a lot into equality and all forms of malnutrition and equality of our diets and we have to look at double-duty actions that address both problems of undernutrition and obesity simultaneously.

Economic resilience must strengthen to safeguard food security and nutrition against economic adversity. There are short-term actions that we need to take in place. Countries need to protect incomes and purchasing power and this can be done in extreme situations, through social protection programmes, through public works programmes, through health sector policies and through policies to reduce excessive volatility of food prices. All of them needs to happen at the same time.

The long-term actions are countries need to reduce economic vulnerabilities and inequalities and for this we need to build capacities to withstand shocks, create healthier food environments, inclusive transformation to get away from commodity dependence and fostering poverty reduction. All these measures require investments and require savings, and that is substantial, but we need to improve also the effectiveness of the measures that we are doing today to be able to achieve the goals that we want to achieve.

Now, how to safeguard food security and nutrition? We need to tackle inequalities. One of the topics that we do not look too much when we touch the pro-poor policies and multi-sectoral policies is the importance of inequalities. To be able to move a household out of poverty sustainable, we need around US\$7 PPP a day, and we are looking at extreme poverty, which is around US\$1.9. So, to be able to achieve that, we need to reduce inequalities and there is an SDG on inequalities that we need to tackle.

And let me bring up an important issue that this SOFI brings, that the SDGs cannot be taken alone. They are interactive to each other, they are related to each other and there is no way we can achieve SDG2 if we do not achieve SDG1 and especially if we do not look at inequalities. So, for us tackling inequalities is central to be able to achieve the goals that we want to achieve. If not, we will not be able to be sustainable.

It could be that we could move a household out of hunger or undernutrition but the next year, because of hard shocks, it will come back. So, we need to find ways to really tackle inequalities, reducing gender inequalities and social exclusion of population groups and we need to bring them as part of the development of our economies.

Now, the crisis of overweight and obesity is a central topic and the numbers are big, as you can see here. We are facing a growing epidemic of global overweight and obesity. This problem has important policy implications. Food insecurity is often associated with overweight and obesity, particularly in the middle and high-income countries.

And this may appear to be a paradox, however, the higher cost of nutrition foods, the stress of living with food insecurity and physiological adaptation to food restrictions also help to explain why food-insecure families may be at higher risk of overweight and obesity. In many countries there is a persistence of undernutrition coupled with raising overweight and obesity and, as I mentioned before, this is specifically the case in sub-Saharan Africa. So, these are issues that we need to tackle together and we need to find policies to resolve this.

Now, how do we tackle overweight and obesity? We think that we need to bring a multi-faceted and multi-sectoral approach. This cannot be only one sector. This cannot be the Ministry of Agriculture, it has to be the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Nutrition and especially the Ministry of Finance because they are the ones that will be approving the resources to be able to implement things. We need to transform agricultural and food systems. We need to be sure that we have the equality and the standards

of food that we need to put in place. The standards are extremely important. Food safety is extremely important but the quality of food that we eat is extremely important.

And we need to safeguard the nutritional equality of our diets and there is whereby the university also could play an extremely important role in all these actions. So, again, it is important to forget the siloes of each sector and to work together and linking all the different sectors to be able to achieve a solution. And that is complex. Many countries are trying to do this but that is an area where we need to improve and we need to put strong work.

What are the policies that we can put in place? So, we have divided, in the SOFI report this year, in three types of policies. The first one is availability of food and what policies we can put in place to bring the availability of food. For example, regulate levels of salt, sugar and fat in products; standards for healthy school meals; provision of free access of safe, piped drinking water, an element which is central in all our diets and we normally do not talk too much about water and water quality; accessible fresh food markets; banned/restricted sugar-sweetened beverages in schools. There are many policies that will help to improve the quality of the food that is available and we need to take those into account.

The second group is linked to policies that will bring restrictions, like fiscal and pricing policies. For examples, taxes on sugar and sweetened beverages or food high in salt and fat and sugar. Food coupons for vulnerable groups for fresh produce markets. Grants/tax breaks for vendors to provide healthier options. The idea, again, is to find a best practice on what works well and what doesn't work well. So, these are options of policies but all of them require evaluation and require to be adjusted to their own context to be able to see what are the best practices that can bring them up. And that is a main role that all the United Nations agencies, of course including the RBOs, can play because we learn from different realities and from different countries, so we can bring up policies that will be best practice in our locations and try to transfer to locations with a proper adjustment and proper validation.

And, finally, we have policies on information, education and marketing, and these policies are essential because it will help to change behaviour of the consumers. We have been very successful in fostering promotion but there are many other policies of information-sharing that we need to bring up to be able to reduce this image of information that we face as consumers. For example, in the case of Chile there has been this policy of improving the way food is being labelled which has been successful. There has been an impact evaluation and we know it is successful. Just that information helps consumers to make better decisions. So, we need to find ways in which we can assure that there is better information to consumers to be able to come up with potential solutions into this.

Now, as I mentioned, we have double-duty actions that we need to put in place because we are facing situations in which we have both overweight and obesity and also undernutrition and we need to find solutions to both problems at the same time which occur in the same country, in the same village and in some cases even within the same household. You can have a parent which is suffering overweight and a kid which is undernourished. So, imagine the complexity of changing that behaviour to be able to achieve the goals we want to achieve.

And, for example, school food and nutrition programmes can help to provide this and also can help to improve the information through kids to be able to modify the behaviour of their parents and to improve the way we do nutrition. So, let me just finalise by saying that this presentation only highlights some of the key findings and recommendations for policy and programme action from the 2019 SOFI Report but there is much more information and analysis on the food security and nutrition challenges that countries face and we will need to do an intensive amount of work to keep moving and bringing policy recommendations to allow us to change this off path that we have right now in SDG2. Because the trend is not going in the correct way and we need to change the trend to be negative again and we need to accelerate the process where we achieve the goals of 2030 SDGs.

Online you will find the full report, as many of you already have it, but also, more importantly, the data is available online now with all the quotes in case the information want to be replicated. FAO is moving into a transparency policy of data availability so that we can correct if there are mistakes and we can improve the quality of the data that we have in place. Thank you very much.

Applause

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Mr Torero, for the explanation. I have heard you giving this explanation several times and each time I can tell you that I am a bit shocked about the bad news but also optimistic about the parts in which we can look forward to grasping what's going on and how we can contribute for reversing these trends. I will now ask my special guest, European Commissioner, Neven Mimica, for his reaction to this year's SOFI report. Commissioner Mimica has held the portfolio on international cooperation and development for the past five years and his tenure will conclude with the mandate of the outgoing Juncker Commission. I bear witness to the fact that Commissioner Mimica has been a steadfast supporter of CFS and a driving force, advancing and consolidating the European Union's contributions to food security and nutrition in the world, especially through the CFS. Commissioner, please.

Mr Neven MIMICA, European Union Commissioner

Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. Excellencies, distinguished delegates, dear colleagues and friends. From the very start of my mandate in the European Commission, I have put sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition at the heart of our work on international cooperation and development because it is absolutely clear that solving the hunger question is decisive for our work on all 17 sustainable development goals. However, this year's SOFI Report is a stark reminder that we are not making progress and that we have to change course. There are too many people still going hungry, too many people without access to safe and nutrition food and too many stunted children. Having adequate food for all demands an integrated outlook on agriculture, food security and nutrition and a true transformation of food systems is of utmost importance.

Over the past few years we have been moving in this direction. I have made it a priority to drive an inclusive sustainable and climate-relevant agenda and in this context, let me mention three recent European initiatives which I firmly believe are helping to transform agriculture and food systems. One such initiative is DSIRA, Development of Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture. The European Union is mobilising EUR270 million to boost development-smart innovations in the context of climate change, working in close cooperation with the EU Member States and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Actions range from agroforestry to planned breeding and from water management to agroecological intensification. Many of the DSIRA draw a crucial link between climate-relevant research and innovation and development initiatives. Secondly, by revolutionising our way of working with the private sector, we are raising more investment for smallholders and rural agriculture businesses.

As we are here in the ancient of Rome, let me say how proud I was to launch earlier this year in this city the RV Business Capital Fund with IFAD, AGRA and Luxembourg. The Fund is a unique way of leveraging financing for small investments, making it accessible to farm organizations and cooperatives.

Finally, the third initiative I would like to mention is a subject I hold dear. At the start of my mandate I pledged to be the most vocal male feminist in the European Commission because I firmly believe that empowering women and girls will determine our success in eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable

development for all. This is why I have made it my mission to mainstream gender equality in as many development programmes and projects as possible. By doing so, we are tackling deeply entrenched social norms and behaviours lying at the heart of gender inequality.

In the areas of agriculture, food security and nutrition, the share of EU programmes and projects focussing on gender increased from 37% in 2014 to 57% in 2018. With that said, let me end on this note. When looking at the global picture on agriculture, food security and nutrition, huge challenges remain. However, we have opened a new chapter in how we look and deal with the problems. By pursuing and scaling up the initiatives, like those I mentioned on research and innovation, on private sector engagement in development partnerships and on gender-relevant programmes, then by investing in resilience of rural women, rural youths and rural communities, by continuing to draw those important links between food systems and a wider sustainability and climate-relevant agenda, we can make progress in the years ahead.

We can do more than dream about a world free from hunger. Together, we can make it a reality. Thank you very much indeed.

Applause

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Commissioner. Let us now move to delegation statements for which our time is very limited. If you click the bottom of your microphone, the Secretary will receive the information here and can compile a list of speakers. I would remind everyone of the Bureau decision that speaking time be limited to three minutes, with a maximum of five for ministers, vice ministers, delegates speaking for regional groups and the civil society and the private sector mechanisms.

We have made every effort to communicate the procedures regarding speaking times and have arranged to post statements online and to offer video recording for those with longer statements. When 30 seconds of speaking time remains, the Chair will sound the bell you already heard, to alert the speaker. Although the Chair has been extremely reluctant to cut anyone's microphone, the Bureau has spent a whole year insisting that the Chair must prevent a repetition of what happened at CFS last year when speeches beyond the allotted time forced the convening of an evening session for which, to make matters worse, we came short of a working quorum.

Consequently the Chair has no option but to enforce the expiration of the allotted time. And please remember to dispense with pleasantries. We will, the Secretary has already compiled a speaker's list. We will listen first from the Ministers from the United Arab Emirates, Nicaragua, the Sudan, Venezuela, Mali, Libya, and yes, United Arab Emirates please.

United Arab Emirates

Thank you Chairperson. Friends, just ten days ago, the UAE celebrated a historic moment. Our first Emiratis astronaut completed his scientific mission to the ISS and returned to Earth safely with his fellow astronauts. The whole nation, families, children, everyone was watching their screens and holding their breath as the shuttle touched down.

An ambition, our founding father the late Sheikh Zayed was achieved. A dream he had in the 1970s when many thought the idea was crazy or not achievable. Yes we are ambitious in the UAE, and yes, our aspirations are high. And we will work hard to overcome challenges and take our role seriously.

We are taking our role seriously in food security too. Our country has put food security as a national priority and a minister in charge. Being here with you today shows our commitment and we are here to share our experiences and step up our efforts.

So, we have challenges in the UAE. We are a relatively wealthy country. We are located in a part of the world with a harsh and arid climate that makes crop growing and animal rearing particularly difficult. But as said, we take up our challenges head on.

Up until recently the UAEs policy to ensure food security for its citizens was predominantly one of food trade which effectively delivers 90 percent of the country's food. Over the years it had become increasingly apparent that the UAE needs to find ways to boost its domestic food production and to reduce its dependency on food imports. And so we developed the UAEs first national food security strategy to ensure increased level of food security for its citizens through boosting domestic food production sustainably and also change the behaviour of its citizens.

See, the country also takes its role seriously on an international level and wants to be globally recognised as a contributor to meeting the UNs SDGs. Now since we do not have much time, I want to focus on three fundamental aspects of our strategy and show you explicit examples of what we have done.

Number one is technology. So, the food security strategy has a target of increasing domestic food supply through technology enabled production by 30 percent by 2121 with research and development as a key.

We have also been able to remove barriers to the introduction of agtech to the UAE by establishing a number of initiatives. For example, a unified agtech licence, building codes for closed system farming, a database for potential agtech investors, a sustainable national agriculture label. This concerted effort to create an ecosystem to innovate for innovative food production is already bearing fruit. We are already home of a food market which is boosted by the produce from many climate controlled greenhouses, sustainable fish farms, and soon to the largest vertical farm operated by our famous Emirates Airlines.

Internationally the UAEs growing expertise in R&D has seen a number of projects. I want to focus on one very unique and new project which is the most recent agreement between the UAE government, the FAO and private sector that will be future energy company Masdar. This is the first agreement of its kind as FAO/government/private sector partnership. The project will see a network of solar powered irrigated systems providing 1,500 women in Liberia with sustainable resources for the production of poultry and vegetables providing both food security and nutrition. So please, those of you who are interested in this partnership we are happy to share our experiences.

The second point is the youth. The UAE has a Minister of Youth and has setup many youth circles. This is how we get our youth to be incorporated or have conversation in the policies. So, empowering the youth is the key, and also we just launched three weeks ago, a global foodtech challenge. It aims to find innovative solutions to challenges across the whole food supply chain for climates such as the one that we have in the UAE.

The challenge is open for all. We invite you all to take part, get the youth involved. It will run over five months. And basically four teams will be finalists at the end and there is a one million prize dollar for this global foodtech challenge.

Third is partnerships. Let me give you some examples. We are working hand in hand with the World Food programme just to get a food waste movement going in the UAE. Also with the support from the FAO our office has introduced the nutrition labelling policy. The Cabinet just approved this last month. We also have a sugar tax that is going to come up in December.

So we have a lot to share and I want to say to the Chairperson and to everybody here at the CFS, we are committed. We want to share our experiences with you. and we want to work hand in hand with you to make sure that we achieve the UN SDG 2. Thank you very much.

Chairperson

Thank you. Thank you Minister Al Mehiri and thank you also for the substantial financial contribution that your country is making and that is currently in the pipeline from Abu Dhabi to Rome. Thank you for that.

Now we will listen to Nicaragua.

Nicaragua

Thank you very much Mr Chairperson, honourable ministers, representatives and heads of delegations. I wish to convey the fraternal greetings of the Republic of Nicaragua, Commander Daniel Ortega Severa and Rosario Murillo the Vice President, and please receive our thanks for the invitation to participate at this 46th session of the Committee on World Food Security of FAO.

Mr Chairperson, food is a gift that has become a privilege for just a few as defined by his holiness Pope Francis. We are now gathered here in this important forum, while out there over 820 million human beings are suffering from hunger. This should be a good enough reason to urge us to continue a reflection that we have reached as different nations and countries to eradicate this scourge for humankind.

This terrible figure shows us that in spite of the different breakthroughs achieved globally in the field of science, technology and communications, the world also needs to evolve to an economic system globally that is capable of expressing greater fairness, greater solidarity and more equity, more human world.

The government of Nicaragua believes that the actions that will guarantee the achievement of the objective, or the goal, to eradicate hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition, as well as promote a sustainable agriculture, requires the implementation of development policies that are geared towards the meeting of the needs of the most vulnerable. And that can be, and that enjoy the backing of partnerships and cooperation practices at the international level.

Mr Chairperson, my country is continuing its efforts because we really do believe in the importance of creating a better world. And that the government reconciliation and national unity under the leadership of our Commander Daniel Ortega has defined a model for the achievement of food sovereignty and nutrition. Which recognises as a fundamental human right, the right of all the people in Nicaragua to food.

In this sense, Nicaragua has been recognised by FAO as a country throughout the world that has made great efforts to reduce hunger and poverty. In 2013, quite ahead of time, we were actually capable of achieving the ambitious target of the World Food Summit. Which was to halve the number of hungry people before 2015. And this has been achieved thanks to the backing or to the support of a creative and enterprising family farming which accounts for more than 70 percent of employment and 40 percent of our GDP.

We also try to include women and policies of this kind have been absolutely crucial for the transformation of the social and productive processes and Nicaragua today ranks fifth worldwide when it comes to the Gender Equality Index. Nicaragua will continue to fight against poverty and will implement all efforts

that can guarantee the food security and good nutrition of our people, the strengthening of family farming and creative and enterprising economy both in the field and in the city.

We also will continue to make investments in infrastructure and guarantee the rights to health, education, security and we shall safeguard our mother Earth. This 46th session of the Committee on World Food Security is an excellent opportunity to generate synergies and the necessary consensus as countries to effectively face the causes of hunger. And we really do need a commitment on the part of countries to generate financial mechanisms to compensate especially people who are the victims of unilateral coercive policies that attack the dignity of people and the sovereignty of countries. We really do hope that a future will come when people will no longer suffer from hunger or poverty.

Chairperson, in order to fight hunger we have to undertake braver actions and certainly not indifference before these catastrophes. Thank you very much.

Chairperson

Thank you very kindly. Thank you Minister [unclear name 01:41:10] from Nicaragua. And now I would like to recognise Sudan. So, Mali you have the floor.

Mali

Thank you Chairperson. Good morning everyone. Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen it is a great honour for me to be with you today at this session in Rome to be part of this 46th session of FAOs World Food Security the theme of which is to step up the implementation of SDG 2.

In my capacity as Minister in charge of food security of my country which is heavily affected by food and security, I find that this is a very appropriate forum for me to make you aware of the difficulties we are in in Mali. Ladies and gentlemen in Mali 30 percent of households suffer from food insecurity and 70 percent of our people depend on markets to have enough food.

This year, therefore, the government of Mali through my department has engaged in a broad platform throughout the country. 21 tons of cereal has been made available, or million. And four million tons have been distributed in partnership with WFP. And I would like to thank WFP on this occasion.

Ladies and gentlemen in spite of this exceptional state mobilisation food and security in certain areas continues to be constant and this is a threat that is affecting over three million people in my country. Ladies and gentlemen it is our common responsibility to mobilise first in order to provide sustainable food to our populations. Because for my country, this is a formidable and even vital challenge.

This is an opportunity to actually pay tribute to all the partners involved especially FAO, the European Union, IFAD, WFP, Italian Cooperation, Sweden Cooperation Agency, the Japanese Cooperation Agency and others, who have been supporting my country for a long time and have given great hope to our people. Thanks to these synergies my country has been able to adopt a policy on nutrition which is a framework of reference in this area in Mali and this means that all the actors involved in this arena respond to this common framework.

I would like to express a heartfelt thanks to the Chairperson of CFS for giving me the floor and allowing me to speak. This national policy that was adopted in my country aims to ensure food security to develop food resilience in many areas and to relaunch a sustainable agriculture in order to alleviate hunger and to

achieve the goals under the 2030 agenda, which of course are perfectly in line with the theme of this session. The total budget estimated for this policy is 2.7 billion in our local currency.

Ladies and gentlemen in this platform I wish to launch an appeal to all of the partners that are active in the Sahel to support peace, food security, our fight against obscurantism and terrorism. Because all of this makes our population and others extremely vulnerable and therefore they become easy recruits for terrorism. That is why we must all get involved in order to integrate food security and nutrition in our development policies.

Ladies and gentlemen, finally, I would like to very kindly thank you for this kind of invitation which has allowed me to speak and to share with you the situation in my country as well as our hopes. Thank you ladies and gentlemen.

Chairperson

Thank you. Thank you very much Minister Nango. And now I would like to recognise Venezuela please.

Venezuela

Please receive warm greetings on the part of our legitimate President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Nicolás Maduro. Venezuela is a country with a population of over 32 million people, of 7,492,000 families that require food amounting to 38,663 tons each day. We have millions of food which is produced every day and we have food which is imported as well. Each day 13,222,000 tons of food each year which generates a deficit at the moment of 782,904 tons for each year.

In 2015 we organised an agro-food policy and evaluation, a three year evaluation in 2013, 2014 and 2015. We achieved progress despite the irresponsible and criminal sanctions that the government of the United States of America has imposed on our country, irrefutable proof of this damage done by this sanction is linked to the seizure of 4,836,000 dollars of which 2.981 billion dollars were allocated to the purchasing of food and inputs for our people for the sowing plan which is undertaken each year in our country. And over a billion dollars were also withheld, and this was devoted to the procurement of medicines and also school materials for our children.

Despite all of these difficulties our government is implementing 19 large scale nutrition programmes one of the most important of which is the so called 'clap programme' which involves the local Procurement and Sovereign Production Committee reaching a coverage of six million families or 80 percent of the families in our country. And these families receive 112,000 tons food every 21 days and our target, our goal is to bring this programme to every 15 days, or twice a month throughout the country.

The second programme is the School Feeding Programme, 23,439 schools and a population of 5,337,000 children receive food amount to 40,000 tons every month.

The third programme is the Animal Protein and Iron Programme. And we have coverage here of 2,693 days throughout the whole territory reaching a distribution of 150,910 tons of animal protein.

The fourth programme is linked with technology, research, capacity building training and extension work. We have science and technology programmes in relation to research and we also seed productions programmes improving agricultural practices, technology and the protection and preservation of food. This programme also assists thousands of families which also make sure that vegetable crops are being

improved. In this programme we would like to say, we thank the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for their assistance in providing rice seed production technology.

And finally, we would like to raise the possibility for a strong statement against unilateral actions from one country against other countries which affect the food rights of other peoples. We reject any interference against sovereignty and self-determination of nations around the world and we support all initiatives of this body which promote agriculture and food which is healthier more sustainable for the whole planet. Thank you very much.

Chairperson

Thank you much Minister from Venezuela. Libya you have the floor.

Libya

Chairperson, excellencies, heads of delegations, ladies and gentlemen Libya attaches great importance to the topic of food security and ending the hunger through the achieving of the SDGs notably SDG 2 ending hunger. Despite successes in some countries, the results of other countries, and from the reports of the Organization we note an unsatisfactory level of implementation.

I take this opportunity to reiterate our support to FAO in its efforts to accelerate achieving the SDGs and ending hunger. Libya lives and suffers from deplorable events and situations, conflicts and divisions which have adversely affected its status and its aspirations. As such Libya suffers in terms of agriculture with the halting of development programmes and the spread of pests and animal and plant diseases. As well as that the situation has prevented the farmers from reaching their farms and fields.

We look towards FAO to help us addressing many of the agricultural and ecological problems which hamper the achieving of SDGs. Because of the current situation we have difficulty in border controls and the spread of pests and the arrival of commodities which are not conformed to international safety criteria and standards. We look forward to regional and sub-regional cooperation to address these problems.

We also look to exchange knowledge and expertise in many areas. Agricultural research, cross border problems, transboundary disease, assistance to small farmers to increase productivity and production, and the use of natural resources in a safe and sustainable manner. We look to the international community to assist us to remove the mines that prevent the farmers from reaching their fields and achieving food security.

Food security and rural development remain our main aims and goals. We would like to thank FAO for this opportunity, and we hope that CFS will reach its goals in ending hunger in this world. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you Minister and especially for keeping your intervention under three minutes. That is very useful for all of us. We will now listen to the Minister from Brazil please.

Brazil

Chairman, members of the Bureau, ladies and gentlemen, as the Minister of Health from Brazil I am honoured to represent my country at this plenary session of the World Food Security Committee. We

have here a privileged opportunity to strengthen the inter sectorial dialogue in the field of food security and nutrition and to share experiences with high level participants from governments, civil society, private sector and other actors engaged in finding solutions to these global issues.

Currently Brazil is not part of the hunger map, but the Brazilian government remains vigilant to ensure the sustainability of this achievement. Brazilian inter sectorial policies aim to ensure access to adequate nutritious and healthy food in different lifecycles and according to people's daily needs. The right to health and the right to food are inalienable, indivisible and interdependent human rights. And in Brazil they are constitutionally guaranteed.

Our national health system, the SUS, is one of the largest public and universal systems in the world. It provides access to health for over 200 million people promoting equity and comprehensive care. Chairperson, in the last decades we have witnessed an important demographic transition and various transformations in the lifestyles of the populations. As Minister of Health, but above all as a physician, I can witness the impact of these changes on the epidemiological and nutritional profile of the Brazilian population.

In Brazil chronic non-communicable diseases are the leading cause of death in adults. Among children, we experience an intense reduction in stunting while facing a significant increase in overweight and obesity besides other outcomes of malnutrition. Among the causes that led us to this scenario are the excessive intake of salt, sugar and fat, the increased consumption of ultra-processed foods combined with more sedentary lifestyles.

We also know that unfortunately, these elements are not unique to Brazil or the Americas. Obesity and overweight are also global and growing challenges to the public health and the wellbeing of our populations.

This is what the state of food security and nutrition in the world presented here to today reports. Dear colleagues, nationally we are strengthening to promotion of physical activity, health, diet and healthy lifestyles. Our dietary guidelines for the Brazilian population has innovated by promoting healthy eating based on food and processes which integrate the entire food system so that every citizen can make conscious choices in personal health and lifestyles.

Technological innovations and scientific evidence must be used in favour of the necessities of our populations. They must take into account different food cultures, the specific needs of women and groups in the situation of vulnerability, physical and financial accessibility to food, seeking the harmony between quantity and quality and adequate and sustainable production practices.

Ladies and gentlemen, given the growing challenges asserted by the SDGs and a decade of action on nutrition, I am convinced that the world efforts toward achieving food security and nutrition for all, will be strengthened on the international agenda in the years to come. I take this opportunity to reaffirm Brazil's commitment to the healthy food systems agenda, to food security and nutrition, and to the human right to adequate food. Thank you very much.

Chairperson

We have finished with the list of Ministers. The Minister from Sudan has not yet arrived in the room so we will listen to him a bit later on. We are now going to listen to the speeches by the Deputy Ministers and Secretaries of State. The list at the moment is, Russian Federation, then Norway, Bangladesh, Hungary and South Sudan. The Russian Federation please.

Russian Federation

Chairperson, colleagues, the Russian Federation as a responsible member of the international community and international development donor, is deeply concerned about the situation surrounding food security. On the one hand, despite significant efforts, the world continues to see an increase in the number of people suffering from chronic malnutrition. At the same time, one third of all food produced in the world is being lost every year.

At the same time, we are seeing a dangerous increase in overweight and obesity. Of great concern is the increase of this indicated among children which leads to the onset of non-communicable diseases. And this affects life expectancy, the quantity and quality of labour in the workforce, and economic development rates in countries. At the end of the day, this poses as threat countries achieving sustainable development by 2030.

The international community continues to analyse the impact of globalisation and its consequences on states and their populations. However, there is one clear conclusion. Resolving these issues requires coordinated and collective efforts from all stakeholders. This is why the Russian Federation attaches great importance to the work of the CFS.

Chairperson, we thank the FAO Secretariat for its contribution to preparation of the report entitled 'The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019', and we call on countries and stakeholders to pay particular attention to the countries which recently left the category of least developed countries and to middle income countries in relation to which there is a change in the process for the provision of international aid. According to data on one of the indicators for SDG 2 most of the two billion people who lack permanent access to safe and nutritious food in sufficient quantities live in these countries.

For our part we plan to focus on Africa. In ten days on 24th October, the city of Sochi will host the first Russia-Africa Summit. This summit will provide an idea of the shape and development of our cooperation with African countries in the long term including in the area of food security which will have a particular set aside part of the forum allocated to it.

Of no less importance is reviewing existing food systems. This is necessary in order to determine the best ways for them to be transformed to ensure the stable production of micronutrient rich and healthy food for people especially children. It was precisely this subject which was one of the main themes of the Russian Agricultural Exhibition, Golden Autumn 2019 and the first International Agro Industrial Forum which concluded just the other day in Moscow.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the FAO Director-General Mr Qu Dongyu for his active participation in this event and for his interesting and helpful statement. Chairperson, we attach great importance to the development of the agro industrial sector as an important player in resolving food security issues.

In Russia, there has been a breakthrough in this area. Over the past five years total agricultural production has increased by almost a quarter. Russian farmers are almost completely meeting the country's need of the production of the main food groups. Labour productivity is on the rise. And our agriculture is now less vulnerable to market fluctuations and climate variations. We play a very important role in ensuring food security at the global and regional levels. In the framework of global partnership SDG 17, the Russian Federation actively provides financial and technical development assistance to countries in need.

In 2018 our country allocated over a billion dollars for this purpose. We are committed to cooperating constructively with all stakeholders including with the Rome based agencies, FAO, WFP and IFAD,

which we believe to be time tested and forward looking partners of Russia in resolving the problems of food security and nutrition at the global level.

Thank you Chairperson for allowing me to take the floor and I wish us all every success in our work. Thank you.

Chairperson

Now we will have Mexico.

Mexico

Thank you Chairperson, delegates, civil society representatives. The government of Mexico would like to congratulate the new Director-General Mr Qu Dongyu. We express our commitment to the objectives of the CFS and we commit to putting an end to inequality, and hunger, and poverty, and we commit to actions to promote development to fight against the causes of migration which are poverty and food insecurity.

And also, in Central America, we are committed to this in Mexico. We have a malnutrition situation which is quite unique. We have anaemia throughout the population as well. And we have also overweight which affects 80 percent of the adult population. This fact is the result of liberalism which has come into our country over the past 30 years under the idea that the markets expand and lots of people are leaving their land and we have a complete opening up of our boundaries to other products. And we have toxic chemicals as well which have come in and this has affected our agriculture.

In December with the arrival of the new President, we implemented a new plan to put an end to the corrupt situation that has been thriving in our country between 82 and 2008. So, here we are looking at the fourth transformation, historical transformation in Mexico. We need to here, fight against poverty and malnutrition. We have decided on the following things. We have taken the following decisions.

In the first year, of the sixth of this government the first is to establish agriculture as a national priority. We need to get rid of the situation of being dependent on agricultural imports. We need to also support the agro food export industry. We need to support fisher folk to make sure that we support the priorities and livelihoods of our smallholder producers. We have a green transition towards a new type of agricultural production.

We also have a policy to build a new agro food and nutrition system which is fair, healthy and sustainable. And among the actions of our government we have a transformation which involves making sure we can guarantee a food basket for rural population and ensuring that we have sufficient food for producers. And also, having a national reserve of food stuffs, we also have a national wellbeing programme helping two million smallholder producers. We also have a nutrition programme involving organic produce and food. And also a programme which channels funds to millions of people in rural areas, 15 million dollars and we have a wellbeing bank which is being created to assist people in rural areas.

We also have free internet for rural populations which is planned to be implemented over the next two years and also the implementation of a programme against certain types of wheat production and against ultra-processed foods. This is part of our strategy to fight against the epidemic of overweight and obesity. In this context we believe that the CFS needs to remain a reference to addressing these issues and

SOFI 2019 report goes to a lot of these issues. And we also look forward to the voluntary guidelines that are being planned to be put in place.

We support the CFS and we call on all members to provide funds for its activities over the coming years. Thank you very much.

Chairperson

Thank you. Thank you Secretary Suarez. We will now listen to Norway.

All delegates please remember, that you should, you can and you should send your statements by email to the CFSrome@FAO.org email address so that they can be uploaded on to our website. And please note when you are giving your statements that they reflect what is actually in the statement that is uploaded on to the website.

Norway you have the floor.

Norway

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, important progress has been made on the road to 2030 in a number of sectors. But when it comes to food security we are failing. You have heard this before, but it needs to be repeated.

Hunger is still on the rise for the fourth consecutive year. Globally every fifth child under the age of five is stunted. All across the globe small scale farmers are finding the struggle to secure livelihood harder by the day.

Less than a month ago, at the UN January Assembly, Secretary Guterres told us, that in order to reach the SDGs we must step up our efforts and we must do it now. There can be few areas where this is more critically needed than in the area of food security.

Over the past year Norway has drawn up a new action plan on sustainable food systems. It was launched just before the summer. The action plan takes a whole of government approach. No less than seven government ministers have been involved in its development. There are good reasons for this. How we produce food, the kind of food we produce and whether or not we have enough food are all questions of vital importance for our survival and wellbeing. There are also vital questions when it comes to promoting political stability, the resilience of local communities and opportunities for individual people.

The action plan takes an integrated approach to increasing food security through the development of sustainable food systems. We know that food systems affect and are affected by a wide range of different factors including climate change, environment, infrastructure and institutions. Food systems also have important socioeconomic impacts on local communities and society as a whole.

Norway is intensifying its efforts relating to food systems and our aim is to play an active and effective role in reducing food insecurity and malnutrition. We look forward to continuing to develop our already close collaboration with the Rome based agencies. We would like to commend these agencies for the clear leadership they have shown on SDG 2 and their strong commitment to achieving all the sustainable development goals. Norway will remain a consistent partner in our joint efforts to reach SDG 3 and the 2030 agenda as a whole. Thank you very much.

Chairperson

Thank you very much Vice Minister Ulstein. Now for Bangladesh please.

Bangladesh

Honourable Chairperson of the session, honourable CFS delegates and observers, ladies and gentlemen, I am honoured to speak on this august session. Let me first thank CFS, FAO for inviting me to share the Bangladesh achievements in the food and nutrition security FNS agenda. I would like to take this opportunity to express our applause to CFS for the accomplishments [s.l.] of SOFI 2019.

Bangladesh achieved sustainable self-sufficiency in the turn of a few decades. Last year we had recorded record rice production and all credit goes to our indomitable farmers and our government led by Her Excellency Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Moreover, Bangladesh continued to maintain a strong GDP growth that is projected more than 8 percent this year. I would like to tell, yes, His Excellency, the Bangladesh government is committed by their election manifesto that ensuring safe and nutritious such food for all citizens and leaving no one behind. We targeted nurturing the vulnerable population in general and the pregnant women, lactating mothers, infants, adolescents in particular.

As such the Bangladesh Food and Nutrition Security programme is running in more than 11 districts under funding from European Union, USAID and UKAID and implemented by many international and national partners.

Bangladesh policy and intervention goal is very much in line with those highlighted and recommended in SOFI 2019. Bangladesh is justifiable proud in its progress in reducing poverty in all its forms and dimensions. In the 1970s the poverty incidence was about 80 percent rate, while by 2018 the poverty incidence had fallen down below 22 percent and extreme poverty below 12 percent.

To protect the incomes of the poor and vulnerable, the government is placing great attention to inclusive development and social protection. The social protection budget share is around 2.25 percent of our GDP and 15 percent of our national public expenditure. In this context we are to formulate a new Food and Nutrition Security Policy this year, aimed at achieving the relevant SDGs targets also. This new policy process follows the food system approach and covers inter ally priorities of the second country investment plan for nutrition sensitive food system.

Ladies and gentlemen as part of the larger policy framework for food security and nutrition, Bangladesh has also embarked on institutionalisation of food safety by improving the integration of national food safety control systems and by enhancing interagency collaboration and cooperation leading to greater consistency in enforcement of regulations and the safer food policy.

At this point I would like to mention that we are the first nation who observed 2 February this year as National Safe Food Day throughout the country.

Ladies and gentlemen Bangladesh recognises that a market economy like Bangladesh have the bulk of the economy is privately owned and managed should therefore aim its plans and regulations at stimulating the private sector. Nevertheless, there is an important compliment of the role for public sector investment programmes particularly in the areas like food and nutrition security of the poor and other social sectors. However, private sector is less interested to invest in.

We hope that our development partners and [unclear 02:17:55] will continue to join hands with the Bangladesh daunting task of ending hunger and establishing a sustainable food and nutrition security environment friendly food and agricultural system.

In conclusion I would like to assure you that on behalf of the government of Bangladesh that improving food and nutrition security is at the top of the political and inclusive development agenda in Bangladesh. With the sustained political commitment at the highest level we have achieved our target for reducing hunger by less than half before 2015. Likewise Bangladesh aspires to achieve the relevant SDG targets in the same way. Along with other ministries, the Ministry of Food is playing a more vital role in implementing plans for SDG targets and achieving Bangladesh's sustainable food and nutrition security. Thank you all very much.

Chairperson

Thank you Mr Shahahouvin [s.l] thank you. Now we will listen from Hungary please.

Hungary

Mr Chairperson, Director-General, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the Hungarian government I would like to express my appreciation for the opportunity to address the 46th session of the CFS in alignment with the statement of the EU and its 28 member states.

As we could hear from the presentation of the report on the state of food security and nutrition in the world, over 820 million people are going hungry. In addition, two billion people in the world suffer from various forms of malnutrition and its consequences, obesity and overweight.

In this respect I consider it indispensable to address the root causes of hunger, poverty and inequalities. In this regard recent work has an eminent role. We share the wise words of Pope Francis, 'A society that fails to work and does not care about those who work is doomed to atrophy and to the multiplication of inequalities.'

The above clearly indicates that the main global challenges are universal and the SDGs to address them are inseparable. Another aspect is the need to meet the increasing demand for food globally for the growing population. In this regard increasing production is not the only appropriate answer. Priority should also be given to decrease drastically the food losses and food waste. The post-harvest food losses can be reduced through the development of rural infrastructure. This would have positive impacts on rural communities to their improved livelihood and could contribute to sustainable management of their natural resources.

For similar reasons, developed countries should take severe measures to reduce food waste. In addition, the agricultural sector needs to overcome several other challenges. Adaptation to climate change impacts and reduction of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

Efficient climate actions are required to ensure food security in the world and to achieve SDGs. European agricultural ministers have shown strong commitment to increase soil carbon sequestration on agricultural land. With suitable cultivation methods, land use and forestation, land could absorb more carbon while also increasing the quality of soils and thus contribute to higher productivity.

Please allow me to mention some current Hungarian initiatives. In 2018 Hungary allocated over 12 million dollars to the implementation of the sustainable development goals through the implementation of 40 development cooperation projects.

Hungary launched its largest to date international development cooperation programme in the Republic of Uganda this year with a budget of nearly 16 million euros. Thus Hungary will contribute to the food security of Uganda.

As for the topic of food systems and nutrition, we wish to express our pleasure to have hosted the regional consultation in Budapest. We hope the findings of the regional consultation will contribute to the finalisation of the voluntary guidelines. These guidelines are expected to assist decision makers to ensure enabling policy environments and appropriate legislative framework to provide food security.

We are aware that most of the hungry and extremely poor live in rural areas and livelihood is based on agriculture. Thus it is essential to follow the approach of relying on the needs and capacities of local communities preserving the existing jobs, creating employment opportunities, establishing schools and services can contribute to making rural life more attractive in particular for the young. Hungary enables the local small producers through its legislation to deliver their products directly to local schools or kindergartens.

Research and innovation play an important role by improving the quality of life in rural areas. New technologies provide the opportunity to involve younger generations in the agricultural sector. We wish to emphasise that new technology should fully comply with the requirements of sustainability.

Let me say in conclusion that for us this year World Food Day is a special occasion. All of you know that we are celebrating World Food Day on 16th October, FAO's birthday. But probably, only some of you know that it was a Hungarian proposal. It was the Hungarian Minister of Agriculture 40 years ago during the FAO conference in 1979 to suggest establishing a day dedicated to food and those who produce it, the farmers. Thus this year's World Food Day has a special meaning for us.

We really hope that our joint strong commitment to ensure food security will accelerate the achievement of our common goals. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you Mr Shigo. We will be holding hands day after tomorrow celebrating World Food Day. Now our next speaker is South Sudan please.

South Sudan

Your Excellency, Honourable guests, ladies and gentlemen, I have the honour to join the company of this host of the world members nation to celebrate this occasion of Committee on Food Security.

South Sudan celebrates its recognition as significant of the event that we may maintain continuously the right to all people for sufficient quality, safe, nutritious food for healthy, active life and prosperity. South Sudan with a total number of land of 640,000 square metres and an estimated population of 12 million among African countries are being endowed with use of natural resources for agricultural protection. And it is characteristics with distinct agro climatic zones.

The recent 11 September report on IPC indicated the good security situation in South Sudan has slightly improved during the 2018 lean season compared to 2019 lean season compared to 2018. This

improvement has been driven by reduced conflict and improved access to livelihood markets and the humanitarian assistance. Despite the improvement an estimated 6.9 million still face food crisis and acute food insecurity.

The net cereal production in 2017 was 764,107 tons, but in 2018 there was a slight decline because of the conflict as well as the climate change. Which has created a gap of 482,000 tons. However, the [unclear 02:26:40] of the government of South Sudan Rural Minister of Agriculture is to fulfil the programme of food security for all the people of the country is by developing the master plan which could contribute to the improvement in agricultural production and food security in the country.

With reluctance the critical support including provision of economy of scale to farming households in South Sudan by partners such as the Food and Agricultural Organization including the World Food Programme, the situation of food and nutrition security can be arrested.

As mentioned earlier, the Minister of Agriculture and Food Security strives to make South Sudan fully food security compliant at the household and at regional level. To the extent of producing quality surplus, products for local, regional and international markets. Improving agriculture and extension services shall become a driving force for our national socioeconomic development.

The Ministry have to work to improve the livelihood of rural South Sudan without compromising the sustainability of its natural soil for future generations. However, to improve the present situation of food security in the country joint efforts are welcome in supporting the country to maintain the cessation of hostility and the implementation of a revitalised peace agreement.

A scaled up provision of humanitarian assistance including emergency nutrition, food, wash and health to those in crisis. And with scaled up and improved access to basic services throughout the year. And in all areas provide level of support to stimulate income generating activities.

However, to reduce the malnutrition efforts to ... as a way forward South Sudan alone can't do much in boosting agricultural production and productivity. It needs cooperation and support from other world bodies such as the FAO and the World Food Programme to improve the food security in the country. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you, Under Secretary Udo. Now the Secretary tells me that we will only be able to accommodate four more speakers in this morning session. All other speakers, and we are compiling the list as I speak, will be taking the floor on Tuesday, on this item on Tuesday afternoon at around 5 p.m. after we finish the multi stakeholder partnerships item.

So, the four speakers that will be taking the floor now as time permits are the Philippines. The Philippines speaking on behalf of Asia. Sudan speaking on behalf of the Near East. And then Germany and the United States. Philippines please.

Philippines

Thank you Chairperson. The Philippines has the honour to deliver this Asia Regional Group statement.

Out the outset we would like to appreciate FAO, IFAD, WFP, UNICEF and WHO, in producing the SOFI 2019 document which exemplifies their joint commitment in achieving the Agenda 2030 SDGs. Particularly, in ending hunger, poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition.

The Group, however, is deeply concerned with some of the revelations in the report among which are the following.

First, the number of people who suffer from hunger in the world has increased for several years in a row reaching 820 million in 2018. Across the regions the undernourished population is distributed unevenly with the majority living in Asia, Southern Asia still has the highest prevalence of undernourishment followed by Western Asia.

Second, the distribution of food insecure people in the world shows that from a total of two billion suffering from food insecurity 52 percent are in Asia.

And third, in 2018, Africa and Asia bear the greatest share of all forms of malnutrition accounting for more than nine out of ten of all stunted children, over nine out of ten of all wasted children, and nearly three quarters of all overweight children worldwide.

Such a bleak picture evidently makes it immensely challenging to reach the SDG targets. With around a decade to go towards 2030, how do we proceed. As emphasised in the report, greater and more targeted efforts should be exerted in addressing the three key drivers of these problematic trends. Which are conflict, climate and economic slowdowns.

In 2018 conflict remained the key driver of food crisis followed by climate and natural disasters and economic shocks. The Asia Group supports the report's focus and call for action on two fronts to safeguard food security and nutrition from economic downturns.

One, in the short term, protection of incomes to counteract economic adversity, and two, in the long term wise investments to reduce economic vulnerabilities and build capacity to withstand and recover from economic turmoil.

On the first front, a number of Asian countries are already implementing policy measures such as social protection programmes including cash transfers and school feeding, public works programmes that help reduce unemployment, stabilisation of food prices and protecting incomes by ensuring full coverage of essential health services.

On the second front, we concur that priority should remain in reducing inequalities in income and in access to basic services and assets as well as marginalisation of groups such as indigenous peoples and local communities, ethnic minorities and people with disabilities. This should also cover enhancing gender equality and empowerment of women and the youth.

Furthermore, we need to provide adequate targeted support to people in vulnerable situations such as small scale and family farmers, fisher folk and pastoralists including the provision of technical and financial assistance, access to and transfer of technology, capacity building and intensification of research in food and agriculture.

We recognise that it is critical for country decision makers to consider the impacts of trade policy on food security and nutrition given that some of these policies rarely consider healthy diets as an underlying rationale.

In both fronts we call on FAO and concerned institutions to boost their assistance to countries in pursuing policies and programmes to sustain economic growth and help improve resilience in the face of conflicts, economic and climate related shocks.

For instance, the Asia region is being hard hit by the African Swine Fever affecting around ten countries thus far. In this regard, we highly appreciate and urge continued support by FAO such as the regional TCP project on the ASF in Eastern South Asia in conjunction with the actions by affected countries. We

reiterate optimising the use of relevant UN declared use in decades, particularly the decade of action on nutrition and the decade of family farming in advocating the respective objectives of improving food security and nutrition and promoting smallholders and family farmers role in achieving the SDGs.

Finally, we stress that a multi stakeholder approach involving State and non-State actors including the private sector in civil society is essential in addressing the underlying causes of hunger, poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you. Thank you Mr La Feron [s.l.] from the Philippines speaking for Asia. Now speaking for the Near East we will have the Sudan.

Sudan

Thank you Chairperson. To begin, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for the way in which you have welcomed the delegations in this room. And thank you for the new positioning.

We would like to speak on behalf of the Near East Region. Most speakers who have taken the floor before us have stressed the important evidence contained in SOFI that was prepared in New York with the five Organizations that were previously mentioned. Especially, we now realise how the economic prospects deriving from the situation that they can have an impact on malnutrition or on food security.

Of course, the number of hungry poor in the world have increased, but poverty is progressing albeit slowly. Something has to be done otherwise by 2030 people are going to continue to suffer from Hunger.

Chairperson, the Near East would like to reiterate the message given by some speakers before us who talked about the close relationship existing between poverty and instability. In our region this is really quite evident. It is evident that there is quite a link between instability and food insecurity. And all economic and commercial progress in our area seem to be hindered by instability. And so our Group feels the need to place further emphasis on awareness raising as to the danger posed by conflict to all efforts made to improve nutrition and food security.

In all statistics I think that we should really highlight these consequences. The resilience, conflict resolution and the registration of peace are absolutely crucial to improving food security. Amongst those who are called to make further efforts the Rome based agencies need to make their voice heard throughout the world so that everyone can contribute to the solution of these conflicts.

SOFI stressed that the fight against hunger and food security requires a new multisectoral approach. And in this context the efforts promised and pledged by the RBAs to intensify coordination and partnerships between agencies is becoming more and more crucial and are welcome.

Chairperson let me just add something and speak for another minute or maybe a minute and a half. I would like to talk about a very important political decision that was taken in my country. Thanks to the efforts and sacrifice of the Sudanese people and of course also, thanks to the young people, the women and even the children who took part in these rallies that led to the establishment of a transition government that has made several promises.

This was recently stressed at the UN General Assembly. A representative has stressed that the transition government will spare no efforts in order to fully implement all the sustainable development goals and cooperate with all of the UN agencies including those based in Rome. We really do hope that all these

organizations will come together as hoped and pursue this ambition. The Rome based Organizations as we know, expressed a wish to visit my country and they will be welcome. Thank you Chairperson.

Chairperson

Thank you Sudan and speaking on behalf of the regional group of the Near East. And now I would like to give the floor to Germany.

Germany

Thank you Chairperson. Without wishing to interfere in your Chairmanship, I think it would be appropriate to have the Presidency of the European Union, Finland first to have the floor. I am happy to speak after Finland preferably today otherwise on Tuesday afternoon. Thank you very much.

Chairperson

Yes, five minutes for the European Union and Finland will be speaking and then three minutes for the United States and that is all we have. Finland.

Finland

Chairperson, Excellencies, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen. I am now to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 member States.

We welcome the SOFI 2019 report with its specific focus on economic slowdowns and downturns as drivers of hunger and malnutrition along with other drivers. In particular, conflict, climate change and natural disasters.

We are deeply concerned about the persistence of negative global trends with regard to hunger, malnutrition in all its forms and food insecurity. These negative trends call for continued political commitment and the acceleration of our concerted actions.

We fully support the call in SOFI 2019 to safeguard food security and nutrition through economic, environmental and social policies. And to tackle inequalities through comprehensive multisectoral policies.

The EU and its member States are strongly committed to enhancing food and nutrition security. In particular, by providing humanitarian assistance ensuring long term institutional support and making responsible investments to address the root causes of hunger and malnutrition. Poverty, inequality and marginalisation.

We welcome the fact that SOFI 2019 now makes full use of the food insecurity experience scale as an additional tool for estimating and monitoring the various dimensions of food insecurity. The FIE scale indeed makes a significant contribution to better inform policy responses.

We would also highlight the value of strong multi stakeholder partnerships at all levels in fighting food insecurity. The Global Network Against Food Crisis is a case in point. The first global report produced by the Network provides a shared analysis of global food crisis and can make an important contribution to improving the efficiency and the impact of crisis prevention and response.

In conclusion we reiterate our commitment to the CFS key role in raising the profile of global food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms analysing global and regional trends and their causes and developing and promoting recommendations, guidelines, initiatives and policies. In doing so, the CFS has a critical contribution to make to reversing negative trends observed in SOFI 2019 and delivering on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Thank you Chairperson.

Chairperson

Thank you Finland. A point of clarification? Have you spoken for the EU or have you spoken for your own country? The thing is that the Secretary and I are confused. Can you clarify that?

Finland

As stated in the statement at the beginning, I was honoured to speak on behalf of European Union and the 28 member States. Thank you very much.

Chairperson

Thank you, it will noted as such. Thank you very much Finland. And to close the list of speakers for the morning we will not have finished this item. We will continue as I said before on Tuesday. We will listen to the United States of America, please.

United States of America

Before I deliver my comments, I note that the United States opposes the participation of the illegitimate Maduro regime at the CFS.

The US delegation appreciates the work involved in preparing the SOFI 2019 report and remains committed to reducing hunger, poverty and malnutrition globally. The United States believes that to accelerate and protect progress on this front, we must address the drivers of food insecurity, strengthen resilience, support the safe and appropriate use of relevant technologies and tools as well as market based solutions and learn from past results.

The United States through our Food for Peace Programme is the largest donor of emergency food aid assistance around the world. Our global food security initiative Feeding the Future brings partners together helping developing countries transform their food systems to boost inclusive and agricultural led economic growth, opportunities, resilience and stability while reducing malnutrition in all forms.

To address current food security challenges, large and small farmers need access to modern agricultural tools and technologies to increase productivity. The most sustainable manner, scientific research and innovation are critical for the development and expansion of agricultural productivity to address core food security vulnerabilities.

Innovation including the use of modern agricultural tools such as biotechnology allows farmers to increase production with fewer inputs, using less land, less water, less energy while lowering carbon emissions. And we have 30 years of data to demonstrate that.

We must embrace research and innovation, strengthen market systems, reduce costly barriers to regional and global trade flows and unlock more investment in the food and agriculture sector, and work together

to tackle the entrenched drivers of hunger and migration as it persists throughout the global food security system.

In short, we can't reject the safe tools and technology essential to feed a growing population. If we reject science, we undermine our collective efforts towards food security and sustainable development. In the theme of cooperation and collaboration we look forward to being, a voice in the conversation shaping tools like agroecology as in its current form it does little to address food security, reduction in negative impacts to the climate, and it only intensifies the cycle of poverty experienced by smallholder farmers and communities.

So, we look forward to participating in a discussion in agroecology in making sure it is inclusive of all forms of agriculture.

As a government we see a necessary and appropriate role as a catalyser, an influence, and immobiliser. Huge funding gaps remain that donors and development agencies can't fill alone. Increased country ownership and policy engagement is therefore critical as is partnering with and learning from the private sector.

We can't deliver and impact at this scale we want without the partnership of Committee Members, including the Rome based agencies, civil society, academia and the private sector. We want CFS to be a practical body for advancing food security and nutrition creating opportunities for partnerships to advance security in helping each country realise its own journey to self-reliance.

In close, we must and will measure success not just by the development outcomes we achieve, but also by increases in country capacity and commitment and the ability of countries to plan and implement and finance their own solutions. By investing in long term solutions to food security today including the scientific innovations we can reduce needs in the future and help countries accelerate, protect progress and partnerships will be essential. Thank you ladies and gentlemen.

Chairperson

Thank you Ambassador. I have to shoulder the responsibility because I was, because all previous speakers had spoken for five minutes. This was the first one for three minutes and the two and a half minute thirty second ringing escaped me. So, I am very sorry to all of you. And now the Secretary tells me that we have interpretation open till 1.10 p.m. That means three more minutes. At this point we can give the floor to Germany. You have three minutes Germany please.

Germany

Chairperson, Honourable Ministers and Secretaries of State, Excellencies, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, I align myself with the statement delivered by the European Union.

We all have taken note of the alarming figures mentioned in the recent SOFI 2019 and the IPCC reports. Malnutrition is on the rise. Every third person is malnourished. The numbers have been mentioned I would like to recall them.

Worldwide more than 820 million people are today suffering from hunger. About two billion in the world experience food insecurity and around 700 million people are suffering from obesity. Following the successfully concluded evaluation of the CFS reform process and the subsequent realignment, I think it is

not exaggerated to say that the next year will be crucial for the CFS to demonstrate its regained unity, efficiency and continued relevance.

A successful development of the voluntary guidelines for food systems and nutrition in 2020 will be in light of the envisaged Food System Summit in 2021 of utmost importance and offers a unique opportunity not only for the CFS but also for the three RBAs as well.

To say it loud and clear and to echo what Secretary General Guterres stated in his message, the Committee on World Food Security as the only intergovernmental and multi stakeholder platform within the UN system dedicated to food security and nutrition having developed an excellent product such as these voluntary guidelines would necessarily become a cornerstone for the successful preparation of a substantial Food System Summit in 2021.

Germany is pleased to have contributed to the successful realisation of regional conferences this year with the substantial financial support of 500,000 euro. These regional consultations ensure the necessary inclusiveness of the regional characteristics to be taken into consideration in the drafting process of the voluntary guidelines.

Please let us never forget the comparative advantage of the CFA is its multi stakeholder structure and input. With this in mind, let us build on the good work we have already accomplished together in the past. Let us continue to join forces and to work strictly cross-sectorally.

I think it is well known anyway, but let me, nevertheless, highlight once again the significance that both the work and the wellbeing of the CFS as well as sustainable food systems and nutrition have for my government.

I wish all of us an interesting and inspiring week full of productive interaction and that we are able to break out of our respective siloes. Thank you very much.

Chairperson

Thank you Ambassador. We are now going to postpone the rest of this Item II until p.m. tomorrow. I am going to read the list of speakers. There are 17 of them. In the following order we will have: Spain, China; private sector mechanism, Finland; civil society Japan, France, Cuba; Bill and Melinda Gates, Switzerland, New Zealand, the UNSCW, Belgium, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia and Nigeria.

On the screen we are going to put the side events that are going to take place. They are going to start in the next few minutes. And the 54 side events are on our website and you can see where they will take place, what the subjects will be and for this information I now turn to the Secretariat.

Secretary

Chairperson. Just as a reminder, this year we are testing a new feedback system. The Secretariat has created a survey for each Agenda Item. We also encourage you to give the more general feedback on CFS 46 when you have attended all your sessions, plenary and side events. The survey takes about three minutes to complete and you can access it through the CFS 46 webpage. We will also use the Slido app on Friday to solicit your feedback on improving CFS preparations for next year. And one addition, we have South Sudan who I understand will be responding on Tuesday on behalf of the G77.

Chairperson

Also Thailand is a late entry into the list. Thank you all, and we will commence at 3 p.m. sharp.

The meeting adjourned at 1.10 p.m.

14 October PM

III. CFS and the SDGs

Chairperson

For the afternoon session, agenda item three, CFS and the Sustainable Development Goals, lessons learned. We will continue reflecting on how we can accelerate progress in achieving the 2030 Agenda. While a key principle is leaving no one behind, we must identify and overcome the challenges in translating this principle into concrete actions. What are the lessons learned in converting our intentions into reality? What is happening at the high level political forum? At the recent climate summit, on the ground at country level, how are CFS policy recommendations helping the people most in need?

We have brought Carin Smaller to moderate this item. She is the Director of Agriculture, Trade and Investment at the International Institute for Sustainable Development, an independent think tank with offices in Canada and Switzerland. One of their programmes focuses on gathering knowledge for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Ms Smaller has worked in Sub-Saharan Africa and in South-Asia and has published on contractual approaches for attracting responsible investment for agriculture, a CFS favourite. In one of her papers, I read about innovative solutions to ending hunger while addressing climate change by harvesting solar power and utilizing technology for, I quote, reducing the environmental footprint of agriculture, while at the same time enhancing the business of agriculture for the poor. You must not forget that SDG-2 is about zero hunger and, at the same time, for sustainable agriculture.

We will hear from the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to food, my good friend Hilal Elver. From the United Nations, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination, Maria Francesca Spatolisano. We heard from her earlier, during the high level opening of this session. We will also hear from Deputy Director of Global Partnerships and Multilateral Effectiveness of the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DfID) and former British Ambassador to the Rome-Based Agencies, my old friend and colleague, Neil Briscoe. Also, we have Roy Jay Dacumos of the National Economic and Development Authority of The Philippines, Saul Vicente Vasquez a familiar face in CFS, of the International Indian Treaty Council and Sean de Cleene of the World Economic Forum and Vice-President of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa.

Ms Smaller, you have the floor.

Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator

Thank you, Ambassador Arvelo and thank you to the CFS Secretariat for inviting me to moderate this very esteemed panel.

We are going to run this session in three parts. We are going to start with the keynote address by the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, followed by a question and answer session with Ms Francesca Spatolisano from UNDESA. I would like to call them to join the panel now and then, in another round, we will invite the other panellists to join us up here. Thank you.

Just a few introductory remarks, before I pass over to our keynote speakers. As we heard this morning, there has been quite tremendous progress in the last three decades in achieving a reduction or an almost halving of world hunger and although that progress has been uneven, it has been impressive.

We have also come a long way in our understanding of sustainable development, what it is, how we can measure it and how we can achieve it with the Sustainable Development Goals. It is a term that has

existed for many years and the origins started in the famous Bruntland Report, Our Common Future, in 1987, where this term was, more or less, considered an environmental concept and today we very clearly have a much more integrated and holistic understanding of this concept, of sustainable development, with Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, on that includes the economic, environmental, social, cultural and political dimensions of sustainability. Importantly, and this will be a key theme of today's discussion, the principle of leaving no one behind, to ensure both inclusive and equitable development.

But, the same year that the SDGs were adopted, in 2015, was the year that we have seen a return to rising levels of global hunger after 30 years of progress. A return to rising levels of global hunger driven by conflict, climate change and economic instability and that, compounded with rising levels of overweight and obesity as well as micro-nutrient deficiencies. We are not on track to meet the SDGs and in particular not SDG-2. The cost of our inaction continues to rise as we head ten years towards the 2030 deadline.

What is promising though, is that if you look at the CFS's future multi-year programme of work from 2020 to 2023, we see a very ambitious agenda covering all these themes and many more, from youth employment and youth engagement to women's empowerment and gender equality and putting human rights and the right to food at the centre of our efforts to achieve not only SDG-2 but, all the Sustainable Development Goals.

So, it is with great pleasure that I invite Ms Hilal Elver, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, to give us our keynote speech today. Ms Elver has served as the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food since 2014. She is an international law professor and a global distinguished fellow at the UCLA Law School's Resnick Centre for Food Law and Policy. She is also a research professor at the UC Santa Barbara.

Previously, she was the UNEP Chair on Environmental Diplomacy and she has taught at the University of Ankara's Faculty of Law. Ms Elver served the Turkish Government as the founding legal advisor to the Ministry of Environment and the General Director of Women's Status. Until very recently, she was also a member of the Turkish team at the climate change negotiations.

So, aside from being the Special Rapporteur, she, in a very unique capacity, bridges this divide between the social, the economic, the environmental and the human rights. Ms Elver?

Ms Hilal Elver, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food

Thank you, very much, Carin. It is a very generous introduction. It is my pleasure to address you today in my official capacity as the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food. As endorsed by the Human Rights Council, it is my responsibility to promote the progressive realization of the right to food and the fundamental rights of everyone to be free from hunger.

As my term as Special Rapporteur is coming to an end, I want to take this opportunity to express gratitude for our collaborative work of the entire CFS family, the Chair, the Secretariat and Friends of the Right to Food. I leave my position with high hopes for the future achievements of CFS. However, we have a great challenge in front of us, the alarming SOFI figures we heard this morning confirm that working to the progressive realization of the right to food is urgent and imperative if we are to achieve our goals and implement SDGs to the extent possible. We must use this SOFI data to inform our work, to help countries formulate and implement policies that effectively realise the human rights to food and SDGs. CFS featured plan, the multi-year programme of work for 2020-23 is compatible with all the targets of the 2030 Global Agenda.

As the member of the Advisory Group, I particularly express my support on gender equality and female empowerment and on youth in agriculture and food systems as I believe they are currently being left behind in the quest to realize the right to food. Women and youth are critical for reducing poverty, hunger and malnutrition throughout the world and they are the most affected by adverse impact of climate

change, disasters, wars and economic crisis. Moreover, they also lack adequate legal protections, limited access to assets, resources and opportunities and are excluded from decision making processes. As a result, they are at the greatest risk of human rights violation.

I also affirm my support for the proposed workstream on reducing inequality. More specifically, the inequitable distribution of food and productive resources is a fundamental barrier to the right to food. Addressing this inequality is a necessary step to implement the good policies that is under the domain of the CFS work. It is also central to the SDGs fundamental principles of no one left behind.

Distinguished guests, unfortunately, we heard from several speakers, the SDGs have not yet been able to catalyse the necessary and promised action or political will, nearly four years after their adoption. Reports from the high level political forum held in July 2019 found that progressive progress toward the goals is too slow and the world is facing setbacks, even regressing in some areas such as hunger and malnutrition. Addressing hunger to focus on SDG-2 should rank among the top priorities, yet with 821 million people currently experiencing food insecurity, SDG-2 appears to be an unreachable goal.

This reality indicates that the right to food is still a distant aspirational principle in far too many countries and that urgent action is needed. But, it is important to recognize that we cannot solve hunger and malnutrition by only focusing on SDG-2. We require a comprehensive transformative approach. In my latest report that I will present next week to General Assembly in New York, I explain that, if properly implemented from a holistic human rights based approach, the SDGs in their entirety have the potential to serve as a transformative global agenda and with the support of the CFS, this ambitious goal will contribute greatly to the realization of the right to food as well as other economic, social and cultural rights.

Let me share with you some of the findings relevant to today's discussion in my report. The first one is, states must afford greater attention to populations that experience heightened inequality to ensure that no one is left behind. The right to food requires that the food be economically accessible for all, but since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, global wealth has become increasingly concentrated in the top one percent while over 730 million people are still living in extreme poverty. The President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council noted that a lack of progress under SDG-10, which aims to address inequality between and within countries, remains a major obstacle to achieving the SDGs and threatens to derail progress on the 2030 Agenda.

Still not a single voluntary national review on progress under SDG-10 featured socio-economic data on refugees who, along with asylum seekers, account for 21 million people. Only three countries mentioned indigenous people who account for 450 million people. Actually, the representation and participation of the indigenous people in CFS should be enhanced as fast as possible.

We must also recognize the critical role that human rights should play in the implementation process. For too long, human rights have been side-lined in forums outside of Geneva. Even the 2013 Agenda, for example, does not explicitly recognize the right to adequate food and the term human rights appears only once in all 17 goals. Nevertheless, SDGs and human rights are closely aligned and mutually reinforcing. The principles of leaving no one behind is based on human rights principles of equality and non-discrimination. At the same time, achieving zero hunger, poverty eradication, decent work and climate change, to name a few, requires the realization of economic, social and cultural rights. All these areas of concern are implicitly or explicitly under the mandate of the CFS.

Even though ECOSOC's summary report from the HRPF recognized the crosscutting importance of human rights in the 2030 Agenda and called for the high-level political forum to enhance this perspective, human rights were pushed to the background at the SDG summit. For instance, economic, social and culture rights fell to the side with SDG-2 receiving some of the least support in the acceleration actions and the political declaration commits to the fulfilment of human rights, but does not express the need for greater integration. Governments must recall that it is their duty, first and foremost, to support the

progress of realization of right to food. Commitments made under the SDG framework supplement and enhance, but do not replace these obligations. This is especially important when engaging with private, public partnerships. However, to make sure, the companies should comply with the guiding principles for business and human rights and do not undermine the right to food in pursuit of sustainable development.

In conclusion, we must only look at the massive youth support for the climate change summit a few weeks ago to grasp this potential empowerment on behalf of a better human future for all. Children and youth exercise their fundamental human rights of assembly and freedom of expression, reminding us fundamental principles of sustainable and ecologically sensitive development must be done to respect future generations. The CFS must respond creatively to this activism and recognize the importance of involving the next generation. Youth will be the next leaders of the change. Our job is not listen only, but act with sufficient energy to move toward a world increasingly free from the curse of hunger and malnutrition.

We are challenged to achieve an ecological equilibrium that will be absolutely essential to maintaining the health of land and ocean food systems. We should do everything possible to fulfil the great potential of agro-ecology for its own sake and to help conquer poverty and hunger. Committing to a global agenda for change will require states to prioritize interests of the world over those of a single nation, to trade in market driven policies for human centric solutions and to allocate sufficient resources to support implementation of the goals. Finally, to attain these goals, a democratic, just and peaceful world is vital. Thank you.

Applause

Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator

Thank you, Ms Elver, for those excellent opening remarks. I am now going to open the floor to questions to the Special Rapporteur. I would like to just encourage people to ask questions directly to the Special Rapporteur and avoid making prepared statements. The floor is now open.

Okay, at the advice of the Chair, I have got a few questions for you, so in case there are not any in the next round, I will use my moderator's power to ask you some questions. But, I think we will have the second presentation and then we can open the floor to some more questions.

Our next speaker is Ms Maria Francesca Spatolisano from UNDESA. She is the Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs. Ms Spatolisano has over 30 years of experience in public service. She has served as the European Union's Ambassador to the OECD and to UNESCO. She was also a member of the European Union delegation to the United Nations, serving as head of its economic and trade section. Since 2017, she has been responsible for international Organizations and development dialogue with other donors in the European Commission's Directorate General for development cooperation. Francesca, you have the floor.

Ms Maria Francesca Spatolisano, Assistant Secretary-General, Policy Coordination, UNDESA

Thank you and good afternoon, everyone. I would like to thank, first of all, the Director-General of FAO, Mr Qu and the Chair of the World Food Security Committee Ambassador Arvelo for having me here today. The speaker has proceeded me for a very provocative and interesting statement.

I was set to say that I will present to you today an overview of the high level week which took place during the General Assembly in September in New York. There were five main high level events and I will try to give you a sense of what happened and in so doing, I liked the many ways in which food systems and nutrition are fundamental to the achievement of Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable

Development Goals and I say goals in the plural, not just SDG-2. As you can imagine, first of all, SDG-2, but not only SDG-2, which is about end hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture, so opens up a lot of other fields.

My first slide would be the list of the five main events I was mentioning earlier and let me say this, all running a week between the 21st and 27th of September and they sent a strong message to the international community. But, before we go there, I would like to highlight that there are two, if one has to be really synthetic, two main take away, or two main signals, which came out from all this gathering at the leader's level in New York.

One is that there is consensus and there is unity and there is re-commitment to the Agenda 2030. That is very important because in the current international environment, it cannot be taken as a given. So, we were pleased to note, as United Nations, that this is still the place where people come and talk and find consensus. This is not limited to the Governments and the leaders of the official institutions, this is open up and including all sorts of other stakeholders and I do not have to exemplify it here, you are a very open body, but this is not always the case in the same way. So, it was very important for us to have the commitment of other stakeholders, like local and regional Governments who came and pledged action on Agenda 2030 at their level, to have civil society Organization, to have youth Organizations and individuals and the private sector as well. All these actors will bring the agenda to the concrete level of implementation altogether, we hope.

So, these five events, you have read about it and I am sure you have, through your delegations, heard back, but let me go through them. The climate actions were very significant announcements by Governments and private sectors which kept and boosted the momentum in the lead-up to the COP25 at the end of the year. But, clearly demonstrated a growing recognition that the pace of climate action needs to be rapidly accelerated. If we do things as usual, we will not be able to keep the target of 1.5 percent degrees that we need to stay within and this was very clear, everybody was aware of that. Also, it was preceded by a youth climate summit during the weekend, during which many activists and movements and people gathered, the younger generation, the one that has to take over very soon, certainly from me and from some others of my age, to keep this going and they asked, and I am sure you have seen this on the social media and others, they asked for action and action now. There is no more time to waste and it is not only Greta Thornberg I am referring to. There is a movement. There is much more than the activist, the figurehead. In many cities, including Rome, in many different societies, this is very much in awareness now.

The second high level event, SDG Summit. This is the first SDG Summit held by the General Assembly. We have, for four years, I had high level political forum every year doing the review of the voluntary national reviews as you know. But, every four years is mandated to do this at the level of the General Assembly and this was very significant and the leaders committed to a decade of ambitious action to deliver in the Sustainable Development Goals and this is all there is left, a decade. So, we better do it now. The declaration was adopted unanimously and it commits to mobilize financing, enhance national implementation and strengthen the institutions which are needed to achieve.

There was another feature I would like to mention here, which is the acceleration action. We have opened that there is, at the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, has opened a registry where anyone who has an action ongoing and can show it is a reasonable impact on accelerating implementation, can have it inscribed. So, if you, as I think I have done something to accelerate the implementation of a Goal, please look into this registry and have your action registered. It will be visibility for your action but, it will be also inspiring for others who might find that they can do the same or something similar in their own country, in their own network. This is on the web page of the SDG Summit.

Then, the Financing for Development. This is a dialogue which was held in a very difficult environment. Financing is the challenge, certainly, but not the only challenge and what we found encouraging is that we had the presence of over 20 heads of state and Governments and many Ministers and, also, philanthropy

and business leaders including Bill Gates, who has always been very supportive. But, also, some new ones which you would not necessarily have expected, like Black Rock Foundation and others who are coming closer to accepting the idea that, yes, everybody has to contribute and to put sustainability into whatever they do. So, we were very, very encouraged by these announcements made by these leaders and private sector and others.

The universal health coverage meeting at the high-level NDJ was the first ever of this kind at this level in the General Assembly. It also adopted a very comprehensive set of health commitments and the next day, WHO and 11 other multi-lateral Organizations, which collectively channel one third of development assistance for health, launched a global action plan which ensures more streamlined support, and streamlined is the word I emphasise, to countries to help deliver universal health coverage and achieve health related SDG targets.

On the Friday, the last day of that momentous week, we had the small island developing state gathering, which is known as the Samoa Pathway High-level Review. The small island developing states are a very special group of states, as you know, who have very unique challenges to address when it comes to a number of policies and that is due to remoteness, exposure to climate change, difficult small economies and so on. So, this Samoa Pathway is the strategy of these countries to address, in their tailor made way, the challenges and to achieve the goals of sustainability and resilience. The strategy mirrors or is similar to the SDGs but, it started before. It is a process which started before, so it is there for the seeds in that way. Many new partnerships were announced during this high-level review.

Let me close this first part of my presentation by saying that food security, nutrition and health feature prominently in the discussions. The Director-General of FAO was there and made a very compelling presentation at the SDG summit calling for, I quote, better production, better nutrition, better environment and better life for the future and there were many food system special events in the margins of the General Assembly and, also, high level meeting introducing the new hand in hand initiative.

I am very confident that there will be more and more cooperation between the Rome-Based Agencies and the United Nations in New York. Our common commitment was reaffirmed in many, many ways and this was a common thread.

I will go now to the next slide. This slide is about evidence and analysis for a decisive decade ahead. How are we going to base our decision making? These are three reports which I would like to draw your attention to because we are entering a decisive decade where evidence based decision making, decisive actions and innovation, partnerships, knowledge, are of the utmost importance. This was acknowledged at the level of the General Assembly. Bringing the latest science and data together is fundamental to make the right choices and decisions in policy making to accelerate progress on the critical aspects of the economic, environmental and social sustainability.

So, United in Science is a synthesis report on climate science which was prepared for the Climate Action Summit. Then, the special edition of the Secretary-General's SDG Progress Report, not the word progress, we want to know what happened in this few years and there is a table, a sort of scorecard, at the end of this report which in aggregate presents some trends about each individual goal in how it is going in its implementation. Then, the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) which was prepared by an independent group of scientists, and I will come back to this one in a minute, and of course you know that we have also presented the VNR's synthesis report which gives a picture of what happens at the country level.

Together, all these reports pointed to challenges in food security and in nutrition, but, also, in other areas. Let me mention just a few. The greenhouse gas emissions are rising, over a quarter from agriculture, deforestation, desertification and land degradations are big challenges. Species loss due to human activity is increasing and inequalities unfortunately are on the rise. These are based on facts and findings you find in this report and they also tell us that time window within which to act is small, as I was saying, not to

mention the more graphic trends which will also, if you look in the perspective of time, make it more difficult.

Let us take, for a moment, the deforestation. We need to reverse that trend. It is known that agriculture is the main driver of deforestation, accounting for more than 70 percent of tree covered loss. In the perspective of feeding more people, one can see the reasons why but, if this results also in land degradation and desertification, what happens is that there is a reduction in agriculture production, it could be up to 10 percent globally by 2050. This is what we read in the reports. So, in addition, moreover, I would say, without attention to forests, the ability to decarbonize and keep the global warming below 2 percent and, actually, 1.5 percent, will not materialize. So, what we say is, an integrated approach which links agriculture, food security and deforestation is essential and action should be taken. I know FAO is working on that, so I am confident we can work together on that.

My next slide would be about the sulphur, but I am not going to go through this because it was given to you, a very good presentation this morning. Instead, I will draw your attention to the Global Sustainable Development Report. What is this complicated and really not very visible chart? It is in the Report itself and what this group of scientists, 15 independent scientists did, was to find ways to explain what we can do according to the review of, an assessment of existing studies in an effective way and in the short time left. Let me say that this is a first of its kind report. The General Assembly, which usually receives a lot of reports from the Secretariat and we try our best to be consistent and precise, this time said, okay, let us not listen to you Secretariat, let us have an independent report and this is the report I am talking about and this scientific group of 15 people focused on interlinkages and action which can be taken to generate positive synergies between goals and targets. But, also, they focused on trade-offs. They understand and they make us understand that they cannot be done all at the same time. There are, sometimes, difficult choices, policy options, that you have to manage and this is what this table is about.

On the top you have what they call the six entry points for action towards the SDGs, one of which includes human wellbeing, sustainable and just economies, energy, decarbonisation and then it says building sustainable food systems and healthy nutrition patterns. So, talking about us, about you, actually. These entry points, what do they mean, these are the areas which have potential, which are very strong and have the potential to resolve the trade-offs and accelerate actions if they are taken in the right way or create more spill over effects if they are not.

On the left of this table, you have what this group of scientists called the levers. What are these? This is how, these are the tools that can be used to have an impact. So, you have there, governance and then economy and finance, individual and collective actions and science and technology. Let us take governance, governance, if you use a good, efficient administration, informed and accountable, and you work with it as a tool, you can have an important impact on reality and change things on the ground and this is what it means and I think this Committee has an important role to play because you are elaborating voluntary guidelines. This does not have to be compulsory, but it is certainly very important.

I think my time is about to finish. I would like to deep dive into many other entry points and give you more information about the process and what next but, I think you may want to ask questions and I will try to answer. Thank you, very much.

Applause

Chairperson

I will ask the moderator, Ms Smaller, to sit here so that she can best liaise with the Secretary and continue conducting this agenda item. So, please, Ms Smaller, please?

Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator

Thank you, to the Assistant Secretary-General, for that overview of the outcomes of the recent SDG Summit and, also, other events that have happened around the SDGs in the past few months. Before I open the floor, maybe just to summarize some of the key points.

I think we heard, first from the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, some really important points around the problems in inequality and inequities in the food system and that this inequality threatens to derail progress on Agenda 2030 and yet, if we address these inequalities, they could potentially have a transformative effect on helping to achieve that agenda. The importance of the participation of indigenous people and enhancing the participation of indigenous people in the Agenda. The disappointment that human rights was not as strongly integrated into the SDGs and into Agenda 2030, as it could have been, but that still the Human Rights Agenda and the SDG Agenda are very closely aligned and mutually reinforcing and, perhaps, a call to the CFS that they could play a stronger role in integrating that right spaced agenda for achieving the SDGs, given the mandate of the CFS.

We heard from both speakers about the importance of youth activism and youth mobilization around the climate summit and the importance of that movement and to build on that movement and to give it the space and for that to be a vehicle for engaging youth.

From the Assistant Secretary-General for UNDESA, positive response from the global community in support of the SDGs and Agenda 2030 and a strong commitment to achieving those goals. Important progress in the Financing for Development Agenda with more than 20 heads of state and Ministers and important, encouraging participation from philanthropists and the private sector in financing for development.

She also presented some of the new reports that have come out around the SDGs and around the current status of science in deforestation, environmental issues, global emissions and then, finally, an interesting slide on the different entry points and levers for achieving the SDGs and the different sets of tools available and places where progress can be made.

With that summary, I would now like to open the floor and Chris is going to help me in this respect.

CFS Secretary

For those wishing to comment, this is a chance for a quick round of questions. The idea is to keep them very short. These are not statements but, rather, questions to the speakers, no more than a minute. Please identify to whom your question or comment is directed and also, please, if you are at a seat and you have a question, please push the button now so I can see who is interesting in asking, thank you.

Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator

I am going to start with New Zealand. No, New Zealand does not want to take the floor. Mexico and then the CSM and the PSM and Cuba. So, we will start with Mexico and then Cuba and then the CSM and PSM.

Mexico

Yes, thank you. I have a question for Ms Elver and Mrs Spatolisano. Unfortunately they converge upon the fact that progress has not been satisfactory over the past few years in order to eradicate hunger and malnutrition internationally. During this time, three strategies have prevailed, the strategy of food aid programmes, that of free trade treaties and this so-called market solutions. Nevertheless, there has not been significant progress on any of these fronts and what we are going to be faced with over the next few

years is an even more sensitive and thornier situation because of climate change impact, because of possible economic slow-down all over the world and because of the prevalence of certain protectionistic trends.

So, my question to you both is, with all due respect, do you think that we should, maybe, rethink things and think about placing at the centre of the strategies to combat hunger and malnutrition cooperation, development cooperation arrangements or programmes and this, in order to get to the root causes of these phenomena and not the expression of food insecurity and hunger. That is the question that I would like to put to both of you, with all due respect. Thank you.

Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator

Cuba

Cuba

Thank you. Thank you, very much, for your presentations and I thank both distinguished representatives of the United Nations System. In our case, we see that the right to food is definitely a human right, a basic human right, and the 2030 Agenda also calls upon us not to leave anyone behind. So, along the lines of what Mexico just said, we would like to know what we can do, and I am actually turning or addressing you, the Special Rapporteur, on the right to food. I wonder if you could look into how economic sanctions and unilateral measures are preventing many member states from the United Nations to achieve and to make any progress towards the attainment of SDG-2 because of these economic sanctions and unilateral coercive measures are affecting a large number of people in several countries. On many occasions, a Government has made great commitments in order to fulfil the right to food but, nevertheless, they are encountering many obstacles along the way. For example, because money transfers cannot be effected or because of lack of access to international food markets and other impediments to trade which actually have a lot to do with SDG-2, SDG-17 and many more. Could you kindly, please, refer to this, I would be very grateful to you both. Thank you.

Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator

Thank you. The CSM?

CSM

Thank you. My name is Elizabeth Mpfu, from Zimbabwe, representing the Civil Society Mechanism. I was just listening to all the presentations and we are, very much, in agreement that no one is going to be left behind. But, what is now missing is about the declaration of peasant rights and people working in the rural areas which was adopted by the United Nations Human Rights Council in New York. Since it is silence now and we are now running to other issues forgetting this declaration as a major tool, also, to achieve the SDG goals.

So, my question is, where are we placing this declaration in the guiding of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals? Thank you.

Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator

Thank you. PSM?

PSM

Good afternoon. My name is Caroline Emond, I am the Director-General of the International Dairy Federation and speaking for the Private Sector Mechanism. We have a gender balance, very diversified group with us this week, from farmers to different association and happy to be here. I have two question to each speaker. The first one to the Special Rapporteur. I would like your bit about the right to food but, also, the right to nutritious food. So, what kind of discussion did you have about the nutrients food contribution to eradicate hunger and malnutrition? The second question is to Mrs Spatolisano. We were wondering if you could tell us, how strong was the commitment in New York from the different Governments to invest in agriculture sector and make sure that they provide the adequate environment to favour partnership to deliver the SDGs. Thank you.

Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator

Thank you. I am going to take a few more questions and then I will come back to you. So, I have Hungary, Switzerland and Afghanistan on the list. So, Hungary?

Hungary

Thank you, very much, and congratulations on this very nice event and the two presentations. I would like to just remind that the right to food guidelines were adopted exactly 15 years ago in the FAO Council and, as many of the colleagues in the Plenary Hall remember, we had a very good and interesting event, a thematic event last year. Since there were no official outcome paper of this event, I very much would like to appreciate that the special rapporteur has prepared her own summary. We could read this and I recommend it to all the colleagues to read and my question is to Hilal Elver, if she could consider these outcomes still valid and if she could just mention one or two key messages from that thematic event that would have an importance and relevance, also, today. Thank you.

Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator

Switzerland?

Switzerland

Thank you and thank you for this opportunity to ask questions on this event. I would like just to reiterate what previous speakers said. We are not on track in reaching the SDGs by 2030 and time is pressing. We have only ten years to go to achieve the 2030 Agenda and we think that this requires a transformative change of food and agriculture as we know it today and Switzerland would like to highlight two elements that we believe are central in this regard.

Firstly, a sustainable food systems approach. We need a more integrated and holistic approach to address today's and tomorrow's challenges and we really need think and act in a sustainable food system approach that stretches over the whole food chain to the consumer and beyond. The currently developed voluntary guidelines on food systems and nutrition will be a reference document in this regard.

Secondly, multi-stakeholder partnership. These are powerful action oriented mechanism to achieve a dynamic yet systemic interaction between all stakeholders addressing policy makers and field actors alike. However, and I would like to make the link to tomorrow's session, we need more evidence and date on multi-stakeholder partnerships that are still limited and, in this regard, we are looking forward to agenda item seven that we will discuss tomorrow.

This being said, Switzerland has two questions to the UNDESA representative, Francesco Spatolisano, regarding the outcomes of the SDG Summit. One, data and statistics, these are crucial to assess the effective implementation of the SDGs, how can UNDESA increase its support in this field. Two, how do you perceive the link between the SDG implementation and United Nations Development System reform and are you satisfied with the current state of the implementation? Thank you, so much.

Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator

Thank you. The last speaker on the list is Afghanistan and then I will close the list and there will be another round when we have the panel.

Afghanistan

Thank you and good afternoon and thank you to both panellists for their presentations. I have got a very brief question and that is, is pro-poor policy adequately reflected in the design of the SDGs? Either of the panellists may answer to my question. Thank you.

Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator

The question was, is pro-poor policies adequately reflected in the SDGs? So, maybe, this time round, we can start with Ms Spatolisano and then we will end with the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food.

Ms Maria Francesca Spatolisano, Assistant Secretary-General, Policy Coordination, UNDESA

Thank you, very much, for your attention and your questions which are all very pertinent. Let us start with the first one, which was asked by Mexico in a very broad way indeed, should we rethink what we do? The answer is yes. Of course, we cannot do business as usual, as we all said, I think, and how should we rethink? He suggested putting development cooperation at the centre of our action. Certainly, I would agree with that and you have heard this morning, also, David Beasley, who spoke of the nexus between humanitarian development and peace. Humanitarian actions feed people, of course, and it is very important. But, what we need to do, he said, is to transition and he had good examples he brought, towards the ability of people to not need that kind of help anymore. It is very important that we bring the knowledge and the ability for people to sustain themselves and, of course, peace has a lot to do with that because there are conditions which do not allow people to leave their own business in peace. But, also, there is the climate impact of many phenomena which are stronger and accelerated. So, there are many elements in the root cause which we always refer to and which would allow to transition from the urgent immediate needs towards the long term development, the sustainable development and we certainly agree on that and now how to do that, of course, this is what this meeting and the many others we attend are about. The best policy making base, as I was saying, on knowledge, on science, on data and a good balance of the various interests and priorities in place. This is very difficult to do but, that is what we are set to do. We need to do that, to use the science, we need to use a nature based solution, we need all the components and this is different in each country because, as I was talking you take the seeds, you will have to address some priorities first which are not the same as if you are in the Horn of Africa or you are in another region of the world and you need all the actors. The private sector, I was referring to, just to take that example, and I do not mean the private sector, only as a source of funds. Of course, we definitely need those existing funds which are not employed in a sustainable way to shift towards sustainability but, it is not only that. It is also the knowledge and the presence of many companies who could really make a difference and if they adopted sustainability as their own goal, not as a way to help us, the international Organizations, to do good. This should become their own goal, in their everyday action, and this is an

ambition we have, which is difficult, is a challenge but, I think we can pursue and should pursue that that approach as well.

Shall we shift a little bit?

Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator

Do you want to answer some of the other questions addressed to you?

Ms Maris Francesca Spatolisano, Assistant Secretary-General, Policy Coordination, UNDESA

As you wish. Switzerland asked about the United Nations Development System reform and data and statistics. The United Nations Development System reform is gaining speed and has been implementing now for a year or two and is a very big priority. It means, let us lead the dragon aside, it means working more effectively, more cooperatively together on the ground and the tools, the main actors of this are the new resident coordinator system which you probably know about and the country teams which have to pull together their resources and their knowledge in each country so to provide a more integrated advice and support to the Governments and the other components of the society where they operate. There is a lot of traction, we believe, everybody is very supportive of this priority of the Secretary-General and we are committed to make it work and I do not mean it just in an ideal way, but in a concrete way. In DESA, for one, we are working very closely with the Department of Coordination Office and with the one overseeing the resident coordinator system and we provide all the knowledge and support we can to the colleagues who are on the ground. I think there is, obviously it is a process in its beginning, but there is a good traction and we think it is going to work very well.

The next stage which members have worked with us very committedly, is the voluntary national reviews. As you know, the next stage, next cycle of 40 years, is going to start now and we would like to encourage everyone, this is something I had no time to say before, to keep reporting through this voluntary national review, including on your action on SDG-2. It is important that this is in there and we think that, through the integrated national financial frameworks which are going to be developed, this will bring implementation even more to fruition and the resident coordinator is there to help countries to navigate this new system of financial frameworks. Thank you.

Ms Hilal Elver, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food

Thank you, very much. I will answer as much as possible in a short period of time. I have a few minutes but, I will do my best. Starting from Mexico, you are absolutely right, we had several failed policies to eradicate hunger and malnutrition. The old policy was the food aid and now the international community understood food aid is not eliminating hunger and malnutrition. Actually, it is extenuating it. So, this is an old policy, it is only the disaster or emergency period it helps to us and World Food Programme actually really made a very progressive revitalization of the programmes that aid should come with development and development should come with connection with the local participation and the social activities and, also, I can go from there. The root causes, as you know, we all know that conflicts and disasters and the economic failure.

Economic failure is basically the national Government's responsibility but, as much as a free market economic system, how are they going to adjust, especially less developed countries in a very difficult situation. International communities should help less developed countries to make the system for them much friendlier. Of course, climate change is a totally global project and we all have to participate in, without thinking about national interests. That is very important, as I said in my talk. If we really start

from the national interests, we are never going to make the global problems to be solved. It is very clear in the climate change.

If we go to Cuba's question, it is a very serious issue. Cuba is one of them that suffered from the economic sanction and also other countries are suffering from economic sanction. It is mostly political issues and some of them are bilateral sanctions, some of them are much more global. I am not dealing with the global sanctions, but bilateral sanction, as you said the problem is the sanction. It seems to be a dating that it will solve the issue, whatever it is, but, unfortunately, it hurts significantly ordinary people. We see them in Cuba, we see them in Iran and we see them in Iraq and Syria or many places. The people are already in a very difficult situation and the Governments are not able to respond because of the sanction. It should be really dealt with the United Nations, maybe Security Council; that would be the way to respond. How they make the sanction is really against economic and social rights and human, basically vulnerable peoples protect. That is a very important issue and we can discuss quite a long time here. But, maybe, we should deal with this in some other meetings.

Of course, this SDG-2 and SDG-17 is very much connected. Responsibility is not only countries but, also, international community has role to eradicate malnutrition and hunger. That is why we are here, that is why are talking, that is why we are trying to find the solution. Zimbabwe's question, peasant's rights declaration is very new. As you know, international law goes very slow. We have to time to make it over and over again. Every platform to remind the countries that they can get the ownership of the declaration and the civil society get the ownership of the declaration to push it further, to give them, actually, many parts of the world. They do not even know, when I mention sometimes, when I go to mission, do you know the declaration of the peasant's? They do not know. So, it will be a time to make this declaration much more powerful and known, which will definitely help SDG-2.

Private sector mechanism, of course the right to food is right to adequate food. Right to adequate food, if you look at the Article 11 of the International Covenant, this little word of adequate gives us an important access to put all the nutrition inside of the right to food. As we know, we all talk about it, hunger is increasing while malnutrition is a universal problem. It is a very important issue and, in malnutrition, everyone should work together, not only Governments, but civil society and the private sector should work.

Hungary, it will be a long speech to say but, basically, last year when I talk, I repeated some of the issues on why we are talking about a right to food, why we are celebrating voluntary guidelines. They seem to be the voluntary but, these voluntary guidelines are accepted by all the countries with consensus. So, being voluntary, also have a very strong commitment. This commitment should be implemented at the national level. Many countries, they make these changes but, still a long way to go and more importantly, accountability mechanism is very important when we talk about the right to food or human rights as such or participation in the decision making. That is why the important things that I try to talk in last year and I always talk everywhere.

Afghanistan, finally, pro-poor policy. If you look at SDG-1, has to be eliminating poverty. As you know, millennium development goal was rather successful in only one area, to get rid of the extreme poverty. But, still, we have the extreme poverty. This morning, Mr Beasley talk about it. But, having said that, SDG-1 should be cooperated by all the other SDGs. It is the most problematic are of the SDG. We still talk about it, we have to do it together. But, when we work, either international level or a national level, we do not look at all the 17 SDGs together.

Thank you, for the question and you can reach me any time to discuss further.

Applause

Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator

Thank you, to our two speakers and thank you for all the very stimulating and interesting interventions from the floor. We are now going to move into our second part of this Plenary Discussion and this is a panel presentation with four panellists, who I would now like to call to the floor.

While they are coming up, I am going to explain how this is going to run because we have not only got a panel presentation but, we are going to introduce to you what I believe is a new technology to the CFS called Slido, which is an online question/answer software that allows people in the room to instantly provide their feedback or their answers to certain questions. We are going to test that. Also, for anybody who is watching this by livestreaming or by the webcam, I also encourage you to participate in our online survey. But, that is going to be a bit later when we move to the question and answer part of this panel.

For now, we are going to start with a panel discussion and our panellists are all here. Welcome, thank you for coming. For the panel discussion this afternoon, we are going to be focusing on two questions and our panellists have kindly agreed to only focus on one question each. We have two questions that shape this panel discussion. The first is very appropriately around the 2030 Agenda principle of leaving no one behind, which we heard quite a bit about in our earlier presentations and the question to the panellists who will answer this question is going to be around four years down the line, what are the challenges that you face in translating this principle into concrete action for your country or for the constituency that you are presenting and how do you think they should be addressed?

That is our first question and we have two of our panellists who are going to answer this question. The first panellist is from the Civil Society Mechanism, his name is Saul Vicente Vasquez. He is from Mexico and represents the International Indian Treaty Council and is part of the CFS's Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples Mechanism (CSM). His areas of expertise are on the rights of indigenous people, the right to food and food sovereignty, intellectual property and biological diversity. Saul, I am going to pass over to you to answer this question about leaving no one behind. Thank you.

Mr Saul Vicente Vasquez, International Treaty Council, CSM

A very good afternoon to you all, ladies and gentlemen. I am very grateful for this invitation from the Chair of the CFS to take part in this event and I am also very grateful to the FAO D-G. Thank you, very much.

The Civil Society Mechanism and indigenous people, we have been taking part in the discussions of the CFS in the high-level political forum and we have been providing our views on the progress in relation to the SDGs. In relation to the question on the challenges and how we should address them, firstly, I think we need to recognize that the contributions of this CFS to the high-level political forum are very clear and are based on a consensus based discussion mechanism and they go to achieving the SDGs. We have been hearing from family farmers, fisher folk, rural women, indigenous people and our common vision is to have a world without hunger in which everyone has a right to food and a work in which we have organic and ecologically friendly farming and we also have voluntary guidelines of the CFS and that these voluntary guidelines be implemented at the national level. The CFS has not received the relevance that it deserves at the international level. There is very little level of visibility.

We are concerned that we are actually lagging behind when it comes to achieving SDG-2 and the data from various fora show us that we have shortcomings in governance and we have heard about this this morning in the SOFI Report which showed that hunger is continuing to increase. The OPCC shows us that desertification and salinity and increasing and climate change affects food security. According to the IPBES report from this year, there is a loss of biodiversity which is unprecedented in history and a report also shows that food crisis continue to go on and we also have a threat to human rights in areas where climate change is being affected. We also have an increase of violence around the world.

This is a very inclusive international forum, inter-governmental forum as well, and if we want to have a summit on food in 2021 then we will want the CFS to play a very important role. They will also have a report that will come out soon on value chains and we are also looking at seeing the development of a new system for food systems as well, a transition. Faced with this situation, we need to promote a radical change in the provision of food and the supply of food. We do not need to have celebrations, we need to have a change of direction and next year we will have the review of SDG-2. We cannot continue to fight against hunger with the same system, we know what the results are. They are the results we have seen in the most recent reports on food security. We need to change the system with a circular economy based on solidarity. For example, the current climatic crisis is leading to food crises and so we need to change the system to promote a different model using, for example, agro-ecology. This is a proposal to face climate change here.

Amongst the ten elements of agro-ecology, which FAO is putting forward, we can see this concept of circular economy and I would like to say the following as well. We should propose to this CFS that it play a more important role in the 2030 Agenda. It could be one of the groups, for example, we could have these political commitments should be put in place and we should have monitoring processes as well based on human rights and that is why we recommend that the CFS request its members to tell them what the immediate actions are that they are putting in place to ensure food security and how they are proposing to act in relation to the summit on food. The CFS needs to be a very important player working together with civil society and we need to achieve a change in food systems and all of this work needs to be done here at the headquarters of the CFS as the main inter-governmental platform which is very inclusive in relation to areas on food security and nutrition. Thank you, very much.

Applause.

Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator

Thank you. Our next speaker represents one of the countries who is going to be presenting some of the main messages from the voluntary national reviews that they have undertaken and it is a representative from the United Kingdom, Neil Briscoe, who is Deputy Director and Head of Global Partnerships and Multilateral Effectiveness at DfID. I think it is really important that the UK has actually done one of these voluntary national reviews and that you are able to bring some of the key messages from that review to the CFS to increase the synergies between the process happening under the SDGs and what is happening at the CFS. Thank you.

Mr Neil Briscoe, Deputy Director and Head, Global Partnerships and Multilateral Effectiveness Department, UK

Thank you, very much, Chair. I am very happy to be here and to see some old friends. We have had a number of comments already about the importance of leave no one behind. The department I head in the UK had the team that delivered and coordinated our voluntary national review. I am going to talk a bit about what that meant for the UK domestically, as well as internationally, and draw out one or two of the priorities that became very clear as we worked on this.

Leave no one behind is arguably the most important component of the sustainable development goals and it also presents the greatest challenges. We heard references earlier to the Millennium Development Goals but, unlike those, we cannot declare victory if half the population still remain with severe hunger, not least because the remaining 50 percent are often the most vulnerable and often the most left behind.

Another distinguishing features of the SDGs is their universality and that helps shine a light and helped us shine a light on the most vulnerable in every country. So, that was one of the important principles that

underpinned our own voluntary national review. Just to set the context, our voluntary national review decided to cover all 17 goals, although each year there is about four or five that are particularly prioritised at the United Nations and in the high-level political forum. It included Government, something like 16 Government departments, business, civil society, Parliamentarians, faith groups, unions and others. We held over 35 engagement events around the country. We worked with 350 Organizations and we received over 200 case studies through an online consultation. Further to that, because a lot of domestic policy making in the UK is devolved to the Governments of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, we also worked with what are known as the Devolved Administrations and, as a result, on some indicators, we were dealing with three to four sets of data responding to different local priorities and sometimes using different methodologies.

Just to underscore, while I am here representing the UK Government, the voluntary national review was fundamentally a UK product. If you look at it, you will see case studies provided by civil society, by individuals, by local authorities and so on. In case you are interested, the review at www.gov.uk/sustainabledevelopmentgoals. The result was a report of 235 pages, 110 data boxes and a whole online statistical annex that measured and recorded what we have on the indicators. As I said, in line with VNR guidelines, it was fundamentally domestically focused. Although, in each chapter, we had some of our international work, including on food security under SDG-2. Leave no one behind was a thread throughout and it included attention to the most disadvantaged members of society including those suffering significant food insecurity.

We have various ways of approaching this in the UK. In domestic legislation, we have an equality act dating back to 2010 that tackles various groups within society at risk of being left behind and internationally, we have signed up to the inclusive data charter and our policies and programmes in the area of development are informed by country diagnostics that consider the issue of inclusion. As we have heard already, it is absolutely critical to get the data right, data and disaggregation. Unless we can do that, we are unable, accurately, to measure and report progress or the lack of it and we cannot tell where to target our efforts and resources.

Even though the UK is reporting against more of the SDG indicators than almost any other country, we are still only able to cover 74 percent of the roughly 242 SDG indicators. Domestically, the way we approach this was, we sought non-official data sources to strengthen our reporting. For example, we do not routinely record the prevalence of stunting within the UK and, in cases like this, our Office for National Statistics worked with topic experts to identify the best data source available within the UK. We are also working with NGOs to get a more detailed understanding of the links between food bank use in the UK, unemployment and poverty.

In order to improve the understanding of household food insecurity, we worked with food security experts, including from FAO, to introduce a new set of food security questions into our domestic family resources survey. These replicate the internationally recognized adult food security survey module. It has also been a challenge to assess progress since 2015 as we do not yet have sufficient data points for some of the indicators. As a result, in some areas, our voluntary national review is essentially a snapshot and it will only become easier to assess progress when we undertake another one and can gauge how we have done in the intervening period.

Added to that, on disaggregation, currently we are reporting against 180 indicators, 70 percent of those have disaggregation by at least one level but, most do not have more than that and if you are looking at the various ways in which you can disaggregate data, whether it is by gender, by ethnicity, by disability, you have to be able to dig deeper beneath the data to understand what the impact is on individual groups. Disaggregated data is absolutely critical for addressing the needs of those left behind.

Internationally, we have funded the development of the new SDG-2 outcome indicator, the food insecurity experience scale, which is led by FAO. We are encouraging uptake in our bilateral programming and the scale is now being rolled out in both public and private sector programmes. We are

also sharing our experience and expertise to a number of development partners. Bilaterally, both Rwanda and Ghana were two of the first countries to replicate our national reporting platform through training, through data cleansing and we are very much hoping that they and we can continue to assist other African countries develop similar platforms.

More widely, accurate data, as we know, is vital for some of our priorities in international development, whether it is tackling the scourge of malnutrition, supporting the strengthening of land tenure in line with the voluntary guidelines and preventing a global crisis in human and animal health as antimicrobial resistance spreads. In this, multilateral Organizations play a pivotal role and we are very keen to see successful replenishments in the coming year, including at IFAD12.

Finally, one conclusion is clear from our international work on SDG-2, namely that we all, including our multilateral Organizations, need to strive for more and better impact and value for money in tackling the challenges of SDG-2. As we have heard, it is off track, it is alarming that food insecurity is continuing to rise. We need to all focus on our areas of comparative advantage given the scale of the challenges ahead of us. There is more than enough work to do and we need to build on the progress that we have all achieved so far. Thank you.

Applause

Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator

Thank you, Neil. Two very powerful presentations from our first two panellists on the issue of leaving no one behind. From Mr Vasquez, a very clear message of the importance of the CFS and the way the CFS operates as a very inclusive and representative body to be at the heart of the discussions around how to achieve SDG-2, particularly now with the announcement of the food systems summit for 2021, a call for the CFS and the CFS's way of operating to be central to that food system, as well as a very strong call for a change of direction and not to continue to fight hunger in the same way that it is being fought in the past, but to have new ways to change the system. With a circular economy, based on solidarity and a different model, including through using methods like agro-ecology but, a very strong call for the CFS to play a much more important role in ensuring that this principle of leaving no one left behind, actually becomes a reality in Agenda 2030.

From Mr Briscoe's side, a very interesting case of how the UK is trying to implement this principle of leaving no one behind, very much nationally but, also, now increasingly internationally. With the equality act, with the inclusive data charter, a very strong message on the importance of getting data right and particularly data disaggregation because without good data, we cannot tell where to target and how much to target and that even a country as developed as the UK is still only able to track, I think your figure was only 74 percent of the SDG indicators. So, even for a country like the UK, there is quite a long way to go to have the right data available to address the problems identified in Agenda 2030.

I will now move on to our next two panellists and they have agreed to focus on our second question for this panel which is, what shifts has the 2030 Agenda brought to your respective food security and nutrition strategies and how are the CFS policy guidelines and recommendations used to support your projects or your collaborations. I am going to start with another country representative, Mr Roy Jay Dacumos, who is the Chief Economic Development Specialist at the National Economic and Development Authority of The Philippines. The Philippines is a country that has actually submitted two voluntary national review processes now, one in 2016 and another one in 2019. He is going to share with us the experience of The Philippines and their voluntary national reviews.

Mr Roy Jay S. Dacumos, Chief, Rural Institutions and Support Services Division of the Agriculture, NEDA, Philippines

Thank you, very much. It is an honour for me to be here sharing with you our experience when it comes to our experience in implementing the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. As mentioned, we participated in two VNRs, Voluntary National Review, and the last one was presented in the 2019 high-level political forum and let me share with you some of our experiences, particularly the main topic is on what shifts in our planning, our policy, has the 2030 Agenda brought.

There are two things, one is on policy and the other one is on planning or development planning. First let me share about policy shifts that we have experienced. Let me give you an example, in 2018, there is a law that we passed called the Green Jobs Act. How is it related to food and nutrition and our goals on SDG-2? As you know, green jobs, in the law that we passed, we defined green jobs as decent work. So, that decent work is related to SDG-8 but, at the same time, when people get decent work we know that we are protecting and improving their incomes and with better incomes, they have better access to food and nutrition. So, that is the key message there in our 2019 VNR, particularly highlighting the key principle of integrated and multifaceted approach in advancing the 2030 Agenda. There are challenges in the implementation of the Green Jobs Act, particularly in engaging the private sector. In that case, I wish to emphasise here the importance of another key principle which is the whole of society approach. So, by engaging the private sector, we are trying to upscale the effect, we are trying to involve everyone in delivering for our targets, to meet the targets for the 2030 SDGs.

Also related to that, recently, just this year, the Securities and Exchange Commission of The Philippines required all publically listed companies to submit a sustainability report. In this rule or guideline, it gives an incentive for the private companies to adopt green and sustainable business practices. How is it related to our food and nutrition systems? So, when companies are incentivised or encouraged to adopt green and sustainable business practices, we are basically promoting productivity within the ecological limit of the resource, particularly, for this example, land and water resources. That is how it is related.

Another policy shift related to the 2030 Agenda is on SDG-13, climate action. Before the year ends, we will submit the Philippines Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), so I do not have the exact number, how many percent reduction in GHG emissions we are committing but, for sure, we will submit by the end of this year and we are also looking at agriculture as one of the possible contributors for the GHG emission reduction. This will be done through the technology on alternate wetting and drying. The CFS and other Rome-Based Agencies have been very useful for us and instrumental in adapting this kind of technology and we will continue to engage with CFS and other multilateral Agencies in as far as technologies are concerned. We need technology and, at the same time, we need to know more about a new way of doing things regarding this SDG implementation.

Another area that there are shifts brought about by the 2030 Agenda is on the area of international development planning. Right now, we are still under the 2017 to 2022 medium term Philippines development plan. When it was originally conceptualised in 2016, we did not really focus much on the synergies between food and agriculture, particularly nutrition sensitive agriculture. Now, we are updating the national development plan and hopefully by the end of this year, we will publish the updated PDP mid-term development plan and it will include nutrition sensitive agriculture.

Just to give you an example, we have many programmes, projects, activities for the agriculture, for example, in the coconut rehabilitation programme. Rather than just simply improving coconut productivity, we are actually advocating diversification or the coconut farmers diversifying their products. That includes diversification to nutritious crops such as vegetables. The same is true with the Rice Stratification Law which was passed this year. The Rice Stratification Law abandoned the quantitative restrictions but, they replace with import tariffs. The tariffs collected, we are going to use it for the rice competitiveness enhancement fund and that programme includes component on diversification also. The concept of diversification, we were really guided by the various activities and programmes of the

activities of the CFS and other multilateral Organizations. Basically, that is all in terms of the shifts, in terms of policy and development planning. Thank you.

Applause

Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator

Thank you, Mr Dacumos. Our last panellist is representing the Private Sector Mechanism. It is Mr Sean de Cleene from the World Economic Forum. He is the head of the Food Systems Initiative at the World Economic Forum and the Vice-President for Business Development and Strategic Partnerships at the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). He has had former positions in the agri-business, YARA, the Chair of the World Economic Forum's new vision for agriculture. He was co-Chair of the Grow Africa and previously Special Advisor to the United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Food Security and Nutrition. Mr de Cleene?

Mr Sean de Cleene, World Economic Forum, PSM

Thank you. It is good to be here. We should maybe have checked notes before. I am not actually here, formally representing the Private Sector Mechanism. So, as the World Economic Forum, as the international Organization for the public/private cooperation, it takes a much more multi-stakeholder view in that sense and I did step down as the Vice-President of AGRA two years ago. But, otherwise, all correct, so thank you.

I just want to build on some comments made earlier, I think Maria Spatolisano indicated that at the United Nations General Assembly this year was very interesting to be at because there was this sense of outrage on one hand and also optimism on the other hand, where you had a climate summit, you had four million people around the world at 2,500 different events in 163 countries, really campaigning on this Agenda and impressing on us, in many ways shaming us on the action that we are going to take on the Paris goals but, also, on the 2030 global goals and this is the challenge that we have. In the way the global goals call out systems thinking, we cannot take a siloed approach when we look at this and food, yes we could look at this very strongly in the context of SDG-2 but, that would be a mistake if we just looked at it in the context of SDG-2. Food, actually, acts as a major delivery vehicle for achieving a number of the SDGs and it has to be taken in that comprehensive approach. So, in a way, the 2030 global goals are asking a food systems, and there is not one food system but, really a number of different food systems around the world to move quicker and better on all fronts around stretch targets for hunger. As we have heard, the rates of hunger are worryingly increasing in recent years, which is a trend we had hoped to reverse on nutrition, on incomes of smallholder farmers, on climate change, reduction of greenhouse gases but, also, adaptation and climate resilience and across a number of other areas that are related to this and so, there is a degree of urgency that we really have to look at if we are going to take this complex systems view and achieve the targets as set out in the 2030 global goals. It is going to require an unprecedented degree of cooperation that will require both immediate but, also, collective action to end leadership to achieve this.

This is going to require a lot of dialogue in terms of how do we bring that alignment, how do we move to scale? The kinds of transformative partnerships and so, for us as an Organization, in answering the question that has really made us think about what types of transformative partnerships are we going to need that move across all sectors that break down these silos. There is no point if we have people talking on food security in one corner and people talking on climate change in another and people talking on oceans in another and people talking in health and nutrition aspects in another and there is no dialogue happening between these. So, between sectors, between different silos, it is going to require some very engaged and active dialogue. It is going to require partnerships that really look at food systems to build

inclusivity, sustainability, healthy and nutritious and efficient food systems and to manage some of the trade-offs within that. This will be challenging. In every country, the transitional pathways, the way that we get there, the tool that we use in terms of the future scenario thinking that we do, the foresight that is needed to have that happen need to be looked at a much more urgent pace and larger scale that we are talking about today. We need to create space for that dialogue, the role of the CFS is important for that. But, also, in establishing the frameworks.

Grow Asia, which is part out network, worked very closely with ASIAN over the last couple of years to take out the principles of responsible investment and take these down to an ASIAN level. This has been very positively received and now the call is, how can you actually take those principles of responsible investment down to the country level and really adapt those to the role that multi-stakeholder partnerships are playing at the country level. We need to agree on what is that multi-stakeholder approach to achieve these transition pathways. How do we work together, how do we complement together, where do we disagree across different sectors or across different thematic areas and to then develop the kinds of joint collection action platforms that will be needed, not to transform the lives of 10,000 farmers in a pilot here but, actually, 10 million farmers or 100 million farmers in a way that really moves towards taking a food systems approach from farm to fork and from consumer back to the farmer. We need to rethink the frame that we are operating in, we need to look at incentives and at the moment it will take USD 140 billion annually just for rural development and agricultural support to meet SDG-2. This is already ten times less than the current ODA spend in that area. We need to re-think the way that we look at financing and be quite proactive in looking at the way we address incentives to change the system. We need to build a vibrant ecosystem for innovation. Innovation in policy, innovation in partnerships, innovation in the way that we use data, in the way that we use digital transformation and so it requires us to rethink that.

Finally, I think, and this point has been made a number of times, there is an incredible window at the moment to really look at how change food systems for future generations and we have to use it in a way that brings human dignity to us all. Everyone eats and engages in food systems every day of their life, one way or another, and we cannot leave anyone behind in that sense and we have to look at how we work together in a very different way than we probably have to date, to really achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of 2030. Thank you.

Applause.

Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator

Thank you, Sean, and apologies, both to the PSM and to you for some of the incorrect introductions that I made. We are now going to open the floor and I am glad that Chris is back to help me with that. We are now going to open the floor but, as we do collect the list of what wants to make a comment or ask a question, we are also going to put on the screen the Slido instructions. As I mentioned at the start of this Plenary, we are going to test a new technology here which is called Slido which is an online survey of feedback software and what you will see is, you will have to, either on your laptops or on your phones, you are going to have to join at Slido.com and it is up there on the screen, S-L-I-D-O.com and the password is #CFS46. Sorry, no hashtag, the password is CFS46.

For those people who are with us by streaming or by webcam, you can also participate in this online survey, so all you have to do is go to Slido.com on your phones or on your computers and the password is CFS46.

We are not going to actually open the poll just yet, I would like to start first with a round of questions to our panellists. I guess it is open now so, people are already. I guess you are all smarter than me at this.

Feel free, those questions are open. I may just then read out the question for the translators because they are only up there in English and then we will open the floor.

The first question for Slido is, what year were the CFS voluntary guidelines on the governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests, most commonly known as the VGGTs approved? There, you have got the four options for you to vote on.

I have on my list now, Spain, PSM, Finland and then FAO. So, Spain, you have the floor.

Spain

I would like to actually postpone my comment. Thank you.

Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator

Okay, no problem. PSM?

PSM

Thank you, very much. First, I would like to thank our panellists and partly a colleague from The Philippines for engaging the private sector and see that as part of the solution and we saw earlier this afternoon as well, the representative from the USDCA that mentioned that private sector mechanism is not only about money but, also, about knowledge expertise and that is actually a pleasure to hear because we are there and you can count on us. Both the science, best practices, innovation, we have got tons of examples and good actions that we can share with you. I would like, also, to support our colleagues from the Civil Society Mechanism in recognizing the work of CFS and the multi-stakeholder expertise and that is definitely something that we would strongly encourage CFS and the national Government to take some leadership in recognizing the contribution of a multi-stakeholder work as we do in CFS.

Finally, we have been talking a lot about concrete example and action that we are doing towards the SDGs and one thing we have not talked too much is about the contribution and concrete action of Organization like in ours, in PSM, in codex for food safety. There is no food security and nutrition without food safety and there is a lot of concrete action that is done on a daily basis with the codex to ensure that our food is safe. So, I think that is something worth mentioning as well. Thank you.

Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator

Finland?

Finland

I am taking the floor first to say some experiences and lessons learned on behalf of the European Union and its 28 member states and secondly I would like to ask a question. Let me also thank the panellists for their very through provoking and excellent interventions.

Let me highlight that the EU and its member states have really kept nutrition security at the heart of development cooperation efforts globally and human rights, gender equality, the support for women in food and nutrition security has been very important parts of this approach. There are numerous examples of EU and member states actions on food and nutrition security and I want to mention that, for the high-level political forum, the EU and the member states produced a joint synthesis report on the support for the SDGs across the world and including lessons learned and we very much invite everyone to take a look at this report which is available online and the report shows that EU and the member states have addressed systematic issues in the global food and agriculture system and work to build strategic approach to food crisis and resilience and also focusing on the humanitarian development peace nexus.

We have promoted agricultural development that serves multiple purposes, working to secure access to land, also creating additional income and employment opportunities and fostering socially, economically and environmentally sustainable value chains. Of course, more needs to be done, we all have to increase our efforts and scale up our action so that we can collectively achieve the 2030 Agenda.

In terms of the question, I think it was Mr Vasquez who said something like, there is a need to promote radical transformation and we need to change the system and, now, in 2021, we will have the food system summit and this is an opportunity to make a change and I wanted to put a question to the panellists. How can we, in a way, make sure that this summit will deliver a concrete change and ensure that we are leading towards this transformation and how can we rejuvenate the movements to end hunger because today reference was made to Greta Thunberg and youth and all these activists and I have a feeling that they are not happy with us. So, what can we do more, how can we change? Thank you.

Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator

Okay, I have the FAO and the CSM.

FAO

Thank you, and thank you to all the speakers and panellists. We just have one question, directed to Mr Dacumos from The Philippines if you will. Thank you, for your examples where you illustrated looking at all the different integration of SDGs across different sectors and how you had some very successful policy shifts over the last few years in The Philippines. We know that costs money, so I guess our question is, how you paid for that in terms of national budgets, external sources, decisions between Ministries, to actually fund these successful policy shifts. Thank you.

Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator

CSM?

CSM

Good afternoon. I am the Secretary-General of the Organization of the United Regions. This is a network which brings together 600 regional Organizations from all over the world. Since 2008, we have a food security group and we actually organized three regional summits to speak about zero hunger and to talk

about food security. We had a lot of experience in this area and we collaborate with FAO in this. This morning, it was said and it was repeated this afternoon, that we have actually gone backwards over the past three years and over the past three years, not only have we not made progress, we have more people who are suffering from hunger and there are very specific causes. We have conflicts and wars, we have climate change, international trade, etcetera.

Based on our humble experience in the years that we have worked on this, we have cooperated with regional authorities from all over the world. We have a different perspective. There is another reason why we have not been making enough progress on this SDG and others. We have the feeling that it has got something to do with what Mr Vasquez said, it is about governance. In a world in which regional and local Governments participate more in this fight and to do this we need capacities and skills, we know that in this case, we would make much more progress.

I do have a question for the panellists, I have just given my opinion. I would like to know, do you believe that with less decentralized systems, we would make more progress in achieving the SDGs? In particular, the SDG relating to zero hunger.

Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator

Thank you. Apologies to the other CSM speaker because you were actually the person on my list. I am going to give the floor to Spain now and then I will give the floor to you. Apologies for that. So, Spain, you have the floor.

Spain

Thank you, very much. I would like to align ourselves with what was said by the European Union. I would like to start by thanking the UK, The Philippines, the Civil Society Mechanism and the other panellists for their presentations. Speaking about the experience in relation to the 2030 Agenda, particularly in the area of food security and nutrition, for Spain, this session in particular, which addresses progress in relation to the SDGs, is essential. This right to food and progress towards this is very important when it comes to accountability as well.

On this first day of this forum, this first day of the CFS, we have just heard about the SOFI Report. This session ties in as well with the HLPEF and we have the SDGs as well. This is all part of global governance, not only in relation to food security and nutrition, this is the most participative and inclusive space for this type of work. It is also very important for the 2030 Agenda in general. We have started the first cycle of four years for the implementation, we have over 211 reviews of voluntary national reviews and we are going to see if states are doing everything they need to do and everything they should do in order to make progress on SDG-2 and also in relation to SDG-17 and the other 17 SDGs.

The RBAs should consider doing an analysis of these voluntary reviews and to make some conclusions as to what states are doing in collaboration with other actors over the next four years. We are not only going through a climate challenge and crisis, we are going through a soil crisis, a food crisis. We have inequality and exclusion, family farming is going through a difficult situation. These are all key to the achievement of all the SDGs. The food systems summit on 2021 should also be inclusive and include all stakeholders, so that we can make progress and so that we can look at food security and nutrition and as the panellist from civil society mentioned, we have to look at the commitments made by national Governments and discussions that go to the transformation of food systems. Thank you.

Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator

Thank you. The last intervention will be from the CSM and then we will close this round.

CSM

Thank you. Good afternoon, everybody. My name is [inaudible: 02:05:23] I come from Bangladesh and I am speaking here on behalf of the Civil Society Mechanism. Let me thank the panellist for your valuable contribution here and I would like to especially thank the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food as she correctly mentioned about the situation on the ground in terms of inequality, in terms of the recognition of the indigenous people and also the human rights.

We, the Civil Society Mechanism, are deeply concerned with the status of SDG implementation. Regarding SDG-2, we are nowhere near attaining zero hunger because we have taken the wrong approach. We have landed the CFS that food security cannot be separated from broader food systems analysis which involves a holistic and crosscutting approach that takes into account all of the SDGs. Thus, work to achieve SDG-2 must be integrated within the broader 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. To do this, we should draw on the CFS's existing body of work including policy recommendations and voluntary guidelines such as the guidelines on responsible governance, on tenure of land, fisheries and forest and guidelines on right to food. The policy instruments support the effective development of strategies and frameworks for action to achieve the SDGs including SDG-2.

We also would like to raise concern about the corporate influence. Unfortunately, systemic barriers still exist, such as new level economic and trade policies that lead to homogenization of agriculture and influence of trans-national corporations over public policy, research and markets. This benefits private sector interest rather than public interest. It stands in the way of solutions, such as agro-ecology, social solidarity, economy and small-scale community led cooperatives. One key concern we must collectively address here is the climate crisis and the bio-diversity collapse, which are being driven by corporate interest. Small-scale present's agro-ecological farming can contribute significantly to mitigating the climate crisis. We are concerned about recent trends in the United Nations to shift towards privatized forms of food governance in which multi-stakeholder partnerships replace multilateral governance. These types of partnerships lack accountability and open up potential for conflict of interest, prioritizing private interest over public good.

We also express our concern with the United Nations partnership with the World Economic Forum, which ignores the broad analysis of food system and excludes meaningful participation from civil society and indigenous peoples. About the effectiveness, the CFS brings policy coherence on food security and nutrition policy within a broad food system approach and within the explicit mandate to advance the right to food. The legitimacy of the CFS is derived from its participatory and inclusive nature which allows for sharing of tremendous knowledge of experience from social movements, civil society and indigenous peoples who are most directly affected by the current conversing food climate crisis.

For those reasons, in the upcoming food system summit 2021, the CFS must remain as the primary United Nations decision making body as it is the best situated to take the lead at this work. The CFS can significantly strengthen the national voluntary reviews that take place within the HLPF by providing mechanisms for monitoring process towards the SDGs, drawing on the evidence and experience from the local up to the national and regional levels.

Now, more than ever, the CFS should take broader steps and more serious actions ensuring holistic, systemic and rights based approach to transformation of food security and nutrition. There is an urgent need to strengthen adoption and implement the CFS guiding frameworks. The CFS should exact political will among the FAO member states in the adoption of implementation of this guide. We need to support the localization of the CFS policies and SDG implementation at the nation level in an inclusive partnership process. We welcome discussion at global level and continuing the work towards achieving the SDGs and food system transformation through the CFS. Thank you, for your kind attention.

Applause

Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator

Thank you. Thank you, once again, for all of your very rich and interesting comments and questions. Before I hand it back over to the panellists, just a bit of information. We have had our first survey question and we have got two more if we have time. Thank you, there were 111 people who participated in this poll. The first question was, what year was the VGGTs approved and, unfortunately, the majority of people got it wrong and the right answer is 2012.

The majority of people thought they were adopted in 2014, but the right answer was 2012 and here comes the increase. We are going to close that one and I am going to open the next question so that people can answer it as they take their time and then I am going to ask the panellists to answer from the last speaker to the first speaker. So, get ready.

Question two on Slido, and again I encourage people who are watching this via the internet or via the web to also participate in the survey. You have to join at Slido.com and the password is CFS46. Question two is, at the country level, what do you see as the most critical area for intervention to accelerate progress toward the 2030 agenda in the next five years and the four options, and I going to read them out for the translators. A. addressing the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable. B. mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda into national action or budget planning. C. mobilizing new, innovative financing tools. D. generating market based solutions for food security via new technology.

While everyone is having time to think about their answer for that question, I am going to first give the floor to Sean to address some of the comments and questions that were made to you.

Mr Sean de Cleene, World Economic Forum, PSM

I do not think there were any specifically made to me, unless I am wrong.

Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator

I think there was just one comment about the wealth and the inclusiveness from the last presentation. But, I agree, there were not any specific comments to you about your presentation.

Mr Sean de Cleene, World Economic Forum, PSM

I can talk to that agenda. I think what is going to be important in this next ten years is, as we look to achieve the sustainable development goals, is really looking at this issue of how do we come together. There will be some challenging discussions, at a national, a regional level and a global level as to what do we mean by food system transition. I think the CFS has an important role to play in that it is a strong multi-stakeholder platform to really engage on trying to find some of these common pathways. We need a clear direction and a clear North Star moment and it will be challenging, there is no doubt.

If we spend that entire time in conflict, between different groups and are not able to find those common transition agendas, then we will fail. That is certain and so how do we bring about that process? It will require the kind of dialogue agenda that the CFS has been very good at. It will require the CFS working with other partners like the food systems dialogues that has been developed and held in a number of countries with more than 1,000 people involved in those. It will require looking at those broader mechanisms and how they engage with these different agendas.

At the moment, food is not. It was great to hear The Philippines saying that they are looking at the NDCs. I am not sure of the figure but, it is quite low in terms of climate change, the number of NDCs that actually include food or agriculture as a part of the NDCs and so we need to build that in a strong way or actively look to have food or agriculture as a part of the NDCs. So, we need to look at those cross-frameworks and how we bring these different communities together. This is not just about civil society and business and Government and the interests of people coming together, this is also about people who are working in these different siloed groups.

I was recently at a major global nutrition conference and someone from DfID asked the question to 500 people there, who is actively involved in the COP process for this nutrition conference and I think five people put up their hand and it shows that there are these different blocs. How do we break the silos and come up with these transition pathways and the frameworks and the scenarios that will help us get there and we require both the CFS but, also, the Rome-Based Agencies to play a very strong role in helping us at a country level to establish those frameworks that countries can then make their own choices on and determine their own pathways towards transition.

Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator

Thank you, Sean. Mr Dacumos, yes. If you can respond to all the questions that were asked to you and, also, if you want to comment on what Sean just said.

Mr Roy Jay S. Dacumos, Chief, Rural Institutions and Support Services Division of the Agriculture, NEDA, The Philippines

Regarding what Sean said, in terms of the agriculture contributing to NDC, actually it is very low in the case of The Philippines. What we are very particular interested is just on the technology on alternate wetting and drying. We think that there is a potential for that technology to contribute to our NDC.

For the other question raised by FAO regarding the funding for the integrated comprehensive SDG implementation, we utilized our national budget. In fact, we practice SDG tagging of the national budget. But, more than just tagging the relationship with SDG, we also fund directly SDG programmes and projects. But, aside from that, the national budget, we also continue to access ODA official development assistance and we are interested in technical cooperation programmes and projects involving capacity building, sharing of technology. The funding we get through a combination of the national budget and ODA financing. Thank you.

Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator

Thank you. Neil?

Mr Neil Briscoe, Deputy Director and Head, DfID, Global Partnerships and Multilateral Effectiveness Department, UK

Thank you, very much. It has been a really interesting exchange. In terms of some of the questions addressed to the panel, it is very difficult to disagree with any of the challenges. For example, just on biodiversity, we have had a report in the UK recently that has highlighted the collapse of a large number of indigenous species that has taken our country by surprise.

In terms of the interlinkages, our Finnish colleague and various others talked about that. We have to break out of these silos and doing our voluntary national review, it became clear just how many sectors are required to be involved to respond to any individual goal. In some cases, we had seven or eight different

Government departments contributing to a single chapter on a single goal and that cross-fertilization but, also, the coordination is absolutely critical and that is just a governmental level, we have to get it across all stakeholders and I think in terms of the role of the CFS, it is in some ways a kind of microcosm of the combination of inputs and teamwork that we really need to crack the goals.

We have some big moments coming up and Sean mentioned COP26 which the UK will be hosting next year. That is going to be absolutely central for framing where we all go forward with climate, 2020 is also the decade of delivery. So, we are going to see a big push from the United Nations and from civil society and many others to go for a push of the final ten years of the SDGs. In 2021, the UK will be hosting the G7 and there will be a lot of attention to what we will be prioritizing there.

What Sean also mentioned was I think you said that something like USD 140 billion to make progress on SDG-2. That is almost the same figure as the entire total official development assistance globally for all development. The gulf between what is available through official sources and what is needed, as we all know, is absolutely vast and one of the things that the UK did and presented at the SDG summit in the United Nations last month, was the results of a survey we have held in the UK around investing in a better world where we asked members of the public, if you had the choice to invest your pensions, your savings in a vehicle that allowed you to help deliver the SDGs, how important would that be to you and overwhelmingly people want to do that. They also are interested that you can do this without losing out. You can do well by doing good and we took this to the United Nations and said, this is just the results of a national survey, we would really encourage everybody to look at the scope for impact investing to get somewhere close to the USD 2.5 trillion we need to deliver the SDGs in developing countries per year. It is an exciting area.

There is a lot of interest in doing this, a lot of assets that are not delivering good and are not necessarily doing very well. We would really encourage everybody to look at that, there are some countries and companies and investors that are really blazing the trail and it is also important from our perspective that while we do this, we make sure that we protect the integrity of the system, that we do not inadvertently advertise companies that are not complying with best practice. This is a really important area to unlock the resources to help deliver the decade of delivery. Thank you.

Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator

Thank you, Neil. Saul?

Mr Saul Vicente Vasquez, International Treaty Council, CSM

Thank you, Carin. We would like to answer the question that was posed, how can we make sure that the next summit will bring about change and will enable to put an end to hunger and, in our perspective, we believe that summits need to have an inclusive perspective and this inclusiveness in this perspective, the major role is not to be played by the World Economic Forum but, by CFS and this really needs to be clear in order for you to say something at this session so as to play a very important role at the summit.

Why? Well, because in this forum right here, we have developed recommendations and policy outcomes that are geared towards the achievement of several SDGs, particularly SDG-2. On top of that, because they are based on a vision which will enable us to progressively realize the human right to food amongst others. The contributions made by CFS to the HLPF include this holistic vision that take into account most SDGs, although a focus has been on SDG-2, but we do have to have a comprehensive holistic vision. Several approaches have been developed here and that is why CFS has to play a prominent role.

We believe that the summit has to strengthen multilateralism and, as pointed out by Mexico, development cooperation efforts. Economic resources should not be defining food systems, otherwise we are going to go back to the situation which we are today. Instead, there has to be development cooperation so that we

can identify the weaknesses, the criticalities here, in order to be able to address them on the basis of policies that we are continuing to develop. For example, the guidelines that are coming up on food systems and nutrition. That is a great opportunity to focus on the direction we need to move in.

We believe that this is definitely an important perspective that we need to take into account and the other, as pointed out by the distinguished delegate of Spain, has to be inclusiveness and sustainability. This is the perspective that we have had in the past and we need to keep that up but, especially, it needs to characterize the upcoming summit and especially it needs to carry towards the deliberations of CFS because we have said time and again that we need a radical change in the model that we have had thus far.

We have said before, and we heard this this morning, results have been obtained, outcomes have been delivered. We know that the outcomes are negative, we said this last year and the year before. So, why do we do things differently, we do we not turn things around to make sure that things are different? Here at FAO, we need to push forward a different model, not an innovation; that is what agro-ecology is to us. It is the sustainable model to guarantee that we can eradicate hunger in the world but, also, to address the problem of adverse effects of climate change.

We know what we can do but, on top of that, we have been discussing who we can do that with. Of course, with the Governments attending this conference here, but also with those who have been most affected by these crises and food insecurity at large, particularly smallholders who continue to produce the largest amount of food throughout the world but, they continue to be the most adversely affected. So, why not funnel the resources towards them and why not design with them, alternatives to eradicate hunger.

We believe that these are the prospects for the future and as CSM and as ingenious peoples, we are going to continue to insist that we need to really harp on human rights. This was the recommendation that was made at ECOSOC. It was said, we are not going to be able to achieve SDGs unless they are based on human rights. Thank you.

Applause

Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator

Thank you, and thank you, once again, to all of our panellists. Thank you to all of you for participating in the survey. Unfortunately, we are not going to have time for the third question. The results of the second question are up there and there were 99 people who participated and more than half felt that the most critical area for intervention is to mainstream the 2030 Agenda international action and budget planning, which was definitely a very strong theme of this panel with the experience from the UK and from The Philippines.

I am going to try and make some wrap up in five minutes and then I will pass back over to the Chair. I would like to thank all of our panellists, including our keynote speaker and our introductory remarks today. I think there were some very important messages that have come through and I hope I capture them fairly. We started with the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food with a very important message about the need to reduce inequality if we are going to have a food system that supports a transformative global Agenda 2030 and a particular message about the need for enhanced participation of indigenous people in that respect.

Quite an important message about the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs not sufficiently integrating the human rights into the agenda, but that still, both the human rights agenda and the SDGs remain closely aligned and mutually reinforcing but, maybe a message to the CFS, given that the CFS does have a very strong rights based focus, to help strengthen that element within the SDG discussion.

We had Ms Spatolisano from UNDESA who shared with us some of the results from the United Nations summit in New York a few months ago, reiterating that there was a very strong commitment by the member states to achieve the SDGs and Agenda 2030. A very important message about how critical youth mobilization was, particularly during the climate action summit and the importance of mobilizing the youth in this agenda for change. This was a theme that came up repeatedly throughout the Plenary Session today, including a remark from Finland about these youth are quite angry with us, so what are supposed to do and how do we change to support that movement of youth. Also, encouraged by the high-level participation of heads of state, Ministers, philanthropic leaders and the business community at the financing for development summit.

That was followed by a round of questions and comments on the importance of international cooperation, development cooperation and global solidarity to try and address the global challenges ahead, particularly climate change but, also, others and that national action alone is not going to solve this global challenge. Comments about the need for better integration of the recently adopted declaration of peasant rights as part of this rights based agenda, particularly for SDG-2.

We then moved to our panel discussion and we started off looking at the question around the principle of no one left behind. Here, we had Mr Vasquez from the CSM, speaking about the importance of the CFS as an inclusive and consensus based platform and forum to be at the centre of helping achieve that principle of leaving no one left behind and that we should put the CFS forward and I think you said this, also, in your closing remarks now, that the CFS, given how inclusive and participative it is, should be at the heart of the discussions around the food system, the changes needed to the food system and the approach to bringing people together in a consensus based manner and the need to radically change the current way of intervening to address SDG-2 or to address hunger and needing to change the way that has been done in the past and then a very important presentation from the UK about how the UK is trying to apply this principle of leaving no one behind and I think goes to the people's preference for the second question about mainstreaming Agenda 2030 into national action and we saw the example of the equality act, the inclusive data act and how the UK is trying to make sure that there is better data available, disaggregated data available, so that the right types of investments and the right scale of investment is targeted to the need, also, a very important call for the need to strive for more and a better impact, especially given that resources are insufficient to tackle the problems ahead and so it is more and more urgent to find value for money ways of achieving these goals.

We then moved to the experience of The Philippines, particularly the shifts in planning and policy that have taken place with the Green Jobs Act to try and help improve decent work, with the whole of society approach which makes sure that all actors within the society, Government, private sector and civil society are engaged in addressing the Agenda 2030. The important policy shifts that have happened around climate action, SDG-13, and the process that The Philippines is going through with its nationally determined contributions and an example of how agriculture is being integrated into those contributions to try and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Those shifts in how The Philippines national development planning is happening to try and make sure that nutrition sensitive agriculture is also prioritised and that is something that is now and will be updated in the new national development plan and some examples of laws that have been introduced to try and address that.

Finally, we had our panellist from the WEF who called for a systems thinking approach to address the Agenda 2030 and the challenges to the food system, that the 2030 Agenda is asking for the food system to move quicker and better on all fronts and that food is a major delivery vehicle, not only for SDG-2, but for all of the SDGs. We saw an example of how WEF is helping to translate the CFS guidelines at the regional level with the ASIAN guidelines that have been adopted through the support of Grow Asia and then a really important message about multi-stakeholder partnerships as being the most effective vehicle to help this happen at the national level.

In the discussions that then ensued, I think everybody recognized that the CFS has a strong role to play, not only in helping to achieve the SDG-2 agenda, but also in the upcoming food systems summit and that there is an important role for more and more cross bridging of different dialogues that are happening both within the CFS and outside the CFS on food systems as we move up to the food systems summit.

I will end there and just say, again, thank you to all of our speakers, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for UNDESA, our representatives from WEF, from UK DfID, from The Philippines and from the CSM. Thank you everyone, for your contributions.

Applause.

Chairperson

We are about to finish our afternoon session. The very first thing that I want to do is to thank Carin Smaller. She performed brilliantly, conducting, moderating, and facilitating this panel discussion. The keynotes that we had and the subsequent panel.

Can I get everyone's attention please? I was saying that we are all very grateful to Carin Smaller, the keynote speakers and the panellists and, of course, all of you who enriched this discussion and I am very grateful, as CFS Chair, in the name of everybody.

After consulting with the Secretary, I think it is important to recall how we got to where we are now. So, I would like to say the following. When, over the past 12 months, we have conversed, we have had conversations at the bureau of CFS on how to reflect the results of the different items on the agenda which, like these, involve panels and statements and questions and comments on the part of the membership and participants, we came to the conclusion that what we would do, and that is what we are going to do right now is, the Chairman, me in other words, will submit to you a summary of our deliberations today. This is not a negotiating document, it is not a policy decision that the committee is taking, it is just a summary, a general summary where we are going to try to capture what happened. It is an intermediate point between the proposal that exist and it was rejected, which was to create a decision on the part of the Committee on what had happened, on the discussion, on the debate, on the conversation and on everything else.

That was one extreme, the other extreme that we discussed was to simply ignore what happened here and we would have the statements, the panel, the questions and we would forget about the issue. But, we thought that that would not be a good prescient because there would have to be some kind of record in order to document what it was that happened over the three hours that we have spent together here. So, the happy medium is what we came up with, the Chairman is going to read very slowly to help out the interpreters who are wonderful professionals but, we are going to read the summary slow enough, in order for the interpreters to have the opportunity to convey my statement into the other United Nations languages, so that we can take note and just listen to a reportage and narrative and explanation which is general in nature of what happened here.

We are not going to underscore any issues and we are certainly not going to discuss specific cases. Ms Smaller, who I congratulated on everyone's behalf, is an excellent moderator and she provided a much more comprehensive and detailed summary than what I am going to be reading out right now and that was webcast and it is also going to be available on the website of FAO and CFS. Do not worry, it is not going to be lost. In case you did not hear it, it is going to be there so that all of us can go back to it and see exactly what happened over the last three hours.

There are two parts here, one part includes the names of the panellists and it shows who they are, their titles, Ms Elver, Ms Spatolizano, the panellists that spoke. All that is going to go straight to the Drafting

Committee because it is just a list, basically just the name of the individuals and their professional qualifications.

Instead, I am going to read the seven points that summarize what we worked on today.

The Committee, A. Recognized CFS as an effective platform to contribute to the successful attainment of the SDGs, particularly SDG-2. B. Welcomed that the issues identified in the CFS draft MYPAL were all raised, including the importance of gender equality, youth, quality data and date systems and reducing inequalities, all within the context of universal human rights, including the right to adequate food. C. Took note of the links between the CFS and United Nations Secretariat processes and events, including the recent climate summit, the SDG summit and the annual HLPF. D. Determined that the planned 2021 food systems summit is extremely relevant for CFS and vice versa. E. Recognized that CFS policy products and its inputs to the HLPF are effectively addressing the root causes of hunger and malnutrition while accelerating linkages among and between SDG-2 and other SDGs. F. Highlighted partnerships and investment, as well as climate action, as decisive in shaping global efforts towards Agenda 2030. G. Emphasised science, quality data and evidence based policy solutions as areas requiring more attention.

Like I said, this is a general narrative of what transpired. This is not a Committee decision, we need not negotiate where the commas should be put or where a specific question or comment should be added because this is not a Committee decision; this is a Chair's summary, as per the decision taken by the bureau.

So, I believe that my explanations were satisfactory and that said, this text will be sent to the Drafting Committee and I see that we have Cuba, the United States and Russian Federation. Cuba, please? Before Cuba takes the floor, if anyone wants to speak, please remember that we are not raising flags here, we are punching the microphone button because the room is so big and we would need 100 eyes. So, push the button. We have ten minutes interpretation time. So, Cuba, US, Russia and then The Philippines. Cuba?

Cuba

Thank you, very much, Mr Chair, and thank you, very much, for the effort that you made and for your effort to make this summary. It would be very interesting to leave this as a historical memory of the Committee and the organization of the debates that were very important indeed. It would be very important, also, considering the challenges globally and considering the multilateral solutions that we are all trying to come up with in order to advance towards a fair and more equitable world to attain the 2030 Agenda. Well, there was part of the debate that regrettably you did not include in your summary, which would be really interesting and important for future generations and it would help us in our multilateral efforts, throughout the world. So, I would like to know whether your summer is to be intended as a draft for the Drafting Committee or whether the Drafting Committee also has the authority to include the rich debate that happened today. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you, Cuba. We have taken note of your intervention and we are going to listen to all those who wish to speak and then provide answers that can meet the requests of all members. The US has the floor, please?

United States of America

Thank you, Chair. We simply request if you could, once again, read the Chair's summary at a dictation speed, so we can be sure that we have heard it clearly. Thank you.

Chairperson

We may not have the time to do that but, we are going to first hear from Russia. Please?

Russian Federation

Chairman, thank you for giving me the floor. We believe that we need to decide on one very important technical issue in relation to the reflection of the Committee's decisions in the report. Unfortunately, we cannot agree with the fact that the ideas and the initiatives of the panellists are turned into general decisions of the Committee. Yes, these ideas are very interesting, some of them are very useful and helpful. But, they need to be discussed, they need to be studied and they need to be developed further. Believe us, there is also a lot to be said in relation to the issues relating to the organization of future events like the food systems summit in 2021 and we would also like to express our view on the role of CFS in relation to human rights. But, member states were only given one minute to ask questions and in these conditions, we cannot consider this decision. I repeat, this is a decision after all. We cannot see this and regard this to be a decision of the Committee. In this connection, we would like to propose that we replace this procedure and in the report say that the Committee took note of the statements made by the panellists which addressed the following issues and then we could also mention some of the items, some of the issues that you mentioned in your summary. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you, Russian Federation. The Philippines, followed by Mexico and then the Civil Society Mechanism.

The Philippines

I have a point of clarification, first on the process and second on the substance. We do understand on the process that this is going to be a Chair's summary and, therefore, should be under the responsibility of the Chair and if it is going to be going to the Drafting Committee, as you mentioned, as we understand, it should be also explicitly stated that way because, to allay the concerns by some of the members on how this is going to figure into the actions by the Committee, it is not really, as we understand, it is not going to be a policy decision on our part. Also, we would like to concur with the Russian Federation on how to approach this, by just taking note of if there is a Chair's summary that is going to be circulated or incorporated into the report.

Second, on the substance, we would like to point out that we appreciate the summary that you made and also the summary made by the very efficient moderation by Ms Smaller and we would just like to emphasise on the financing for development because it was touched upon during the UNDESA presentation, Ms Spatolisano, and then by some of the panellists. If that could be elaborated further or be included more in the summary because that is what is important for developing countries. Even if we do have some capacity to finance or budget the SDG implementation, we would still need other, maybe external, sources for funding this implementation. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you, The Philippines. You understood the process, sir. So, the first part of your intervention is right on point and on the second part, there is a reflection on point F on investment that covers financing, in my view. We will now listen from Mexico. Please?

Mexico

Thank you, Chair. Although we understand that this is a summary of the Chair and, of course, there would be an influence from the Drafting Committee, however, I would like to respectfully suggest that we include in the summary of the Chair the following points. One: the strengthening of the CFS for the development of its activities over the coming years. Two: that the food systems summit 2021 include the active participation of the CFS. Three: that we eliminate all unilateral measure that hinder the right to food of countries. Four: that we strengthen the role of international development treaties as part of the strategy to fight against hunger and food insecurity. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you, sir. Civil Society?

CSM

Chair, thank you. We would like to start by thanking you for this process. We would like to thank all of the panellists for the presentations and in particular the Special Rapporteur and the representative of UNDESA and we would like to thank Carin, the moderator, she made some wonderful conclusions about that discussion.

Secondly, in relation to the process, it is important to clarify that this is a Chair's summary. It would be in the annex to the report because this is not really the time place to open up negotiations.

Thirdly, we would like to say that we welcome the conclusions made by the Chair but, we would also like for the inclusion of the issue of attention to inequalities. I think the Special Rapporteur mentioned this and it was mentioned in other interventions on the floor and other panellists mentioned as well, so that we address these inequalities so that we can achieve the results we want in relation to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG-2. We believe that the issue of inequalities was actually left out of these conclusions, so we think this would be important to include this and I would also like to say that, in relation to one of the things that was said in the room, we cannot share and agree with the proposal from the Russian Federation to say that we just take note of what was said.

Having heard the results of the SOFI report this morning, we heard the presentations from various panellists, from the Special Rapporteur, the information on the results of the climate change summit. We need to make decisions and not just take note of things and I think this would be in line with the spirit of what we have been discussing today. We can only share and agree what was said by the delegation of Mexico and we would like for these elements to be included.

Chairperson

Thank you, Civil Society Mechanism. It is a bit strange for you to be speaking as a panellist and then again from the floor but, we will give this floor to Finland, to be followed by the United States of America. Finland, you have the floor.

Finland

Thank you, Chair. Let me thank you very much for this summary and its content. One of the key issues I did not hear, maybe I missed it, but the important issue of sustainability of food systems. We would like

to stress that point. In terms of the process, I think that it is very important to pay attention to the inclusiveness, transparency and accountability and I do understand that this time, also because of the time pressures, we go with the Chair's summary but, I do want to make a suggestion; that next year, when we play for CFS, we take into account the importance of taking into account the member states inputs and having the possibility to shape the conclusions and have things put on the screen. It is very important for us and because we have worked so much on the working measure, also with the FAO, I think we have come up with some very good practices and lessons learned and I hope that this can be taken into account. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you, ma'am. If we were to put these things on the screen, we would need two or three month long CFS and not a week long one. US, please?

United States of America

Thank you, Chair. As we all can see by the discussion, we have clearly hit on some political issues, so in a sense we are negotiating this now, my delegation think that is the wrong process and we cannot focus on the individual statements and elements of that. So, we believe that there was a proposal made earlier that the best that committee could do was take note of interventions that were made, so we have to get the terminology correct. We do not think, at this point, that the Committee can actually endorse the Chair's summary or in any way be portrayed as this is some kind of decision. The most the Committee can do at this point is take note of the summary and statements. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you, US. Give me just a second.

The interpreters have informed us that they are only going to be able to interpret this statement for one minute. For this reason, the executive decision that the Chair of the Committee has made, that is me, is that we will leave this item where it is now, open, so that we can have further discussions and consultations with the Secretariat and the legal office and legal counsel, so we can see what we can do and we will discuss it in the first session tomorrow morning. This is an option and I am convinced that this will be satisfactory to everyone.

Thank you, very much, you are all invited to the side events that will take place now and they are going to be displayed on the screen. Tomorrow we will begin our work at 10 a.m. sharp with the conclusions of this item on the agenda. Thank you.

15 October AM

IV. CELEBRATING THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF RURAL WOMEN

Mr Mario ALVERO, CHAIRPERSON, CFS

Good morning. Good morning everyone and welcome to this second day of the Committee on World Food Security. Today, of course, is the International Day of Rural Women. A happy coincidence that within this week that we are holding the 46th Session on the Committee on World Security, we are also celebrating World Food Day, the 16th of October tomorrow as well as the International Day of Rural Women that is the 15th of October, in other words, today.

So we send out very warmest congratulations from Rome to all of those women who are helping to support the food security nutrition situation of their families, their countries and the entire world. I hope that you all managed to rest well last night having taken part in yesterday's side events late in the afternoon and also the ones which were held early this morning and I hope that you have all recharged your batteries for what is going to be a very interesting day's work and I am sure it is going to be very enriching for all of us and will help to move us forward towards SDG2 Zero Hunger and in fact all of the sustainable development goals.

Those of you who were here at the end of yesterday's meeting will remember that we ran out of interpreting time and were not able to conclude with the Chair's summary on theme 3 and we said that was going to be the first issue that we would pick up on today this morning. That we would finish it this morning in other words, the Vice-President of IFAD, Mrs Cornelia Richter however for reasons related to her job has to leave before it was planned and we don't want to lose her for Item 4, which is the International Day of Rural Women. So our proposal is the following:

We still have not completed Item 3;

We still have not concluded the question of the Chair's summary that is still pending.

Now there were two meetings held with the legal office last night, we asked them from a legal point of view if they could point us in the possible direction so that we can take a political decision on this issue here in plenary. So what we are going to do is keep that point pending, it is still open, not to discuss it once again, but to conclude that specific issue of the Chair's summary because as I say we have had the panel, the questions were asked, the answers were provided, we had the debate.

What is going to happen now is on the Chair's summary, which is going to be frozen. It is going to put on ice, if I can put it that way before we conclude Item 4, the International Day of Rural Women before we actually deal with the Chair's summary on that item we will address the Chair's summary on the previous issue and this one at the same time. That is because we do not want to lose the panel, which has been prepared over many months.

So as I announced yesterday, I have asked the Vice President, Ms Valentina Savastano of Italy, the Vice-Chair of our committee to deal with this. I am going to go with the delegation from the Dominican

Republic and follow events from there. So what we are going to do now is deal with Item 4, the International Day of Rural Women. We have a very interesting panel. I am sure it is going to be a very interesting debate and when we arrive at the point of the summary for this issue I will come back to the top table and I will speak to all of you so that we can decide on the process for the Chair's summary and we will also deal with the Chair's summary on Item 3 together with Item 4, which will give us a basis for the Chair's summary for all of the other issues. So Valentina if you could come and step up, please.

Ms Valentina SAVASTANO, Vice-Chairperson, CFS

Good morning to everyone, thank you Chair and let me say that a few weeks ago the CFS Chair approached me and asked me if I wanted to chair this session. I immediately embraced the idea and welcomed the suggestion to celebrate International Day of Rural Women with an all-women podium except for the Secretary.

We all know the critical role women play for food security; they grow much of our food, strengthen our economies and are the forefront of adapting to the effects of climate change. So let me start welcoming the speakers with whom I will share the podium this morning. Our first speaker is Cornelia Richter, Vice-President of IFAD; she will introduce the team of this session and set the scene for the two keynote speakers. For the two keynotes, I am honoured to share the podium with Ms Kate Gilmore, Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights and Ms Fatoumata Diallo, Vice-President of the National Federation of Rural Women of Mali.

I now leave the floor to Ms Cornelia Richter followed with the keynotes that will open the floor for any brief intervention from the floor. Cornelia, the floor is yours.

Ms Cornelia RICHTER, Vice-President, IFAD

Thank you, Valentina. Distinguished delegates, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, an estimated 1.7 billion women and girls live in rural areas that is more than 1/5th of humanity. Globally one in three employed women work in agriculture including forestry and fishing. They contribute substantially to agricultural production and they perform the biggest share of unpaid care and domestic work within rural households. Despite their important role in rural societies, rural women and girls continue to face multiple challenges and discrimination. They are constrained in decision making by structure barriers and discriminatory social and cultural norms.

Climate exacerbates existing inequalities, the World Health Organisation reports, for example, the droughts in developing countries bring health hazards through reduced availability of water for drinking, cooking and hygiene. Women and girls and the children disproportionately suffer the health consequences of nutritional deficiencies and the burdens associated with travelling further to collect water. Insecure land rights or the low quality of land plots compromise women's climate resilience, the lack of access to resources and assets reduces their capacity to withstand extreme weather events and the effects of climate change.

The report of the United Nations Secretary-General on improvement of the situation of women and girls in rural areas highlights that on virtually every gender and development indicator. Rural women fair worse than both rural men and urban women, but most given the chance can help build a better world for themselves, for their families and for their communities. Rural women and girls are powerful agents of change and to transform rural livelihoods.

A recent study of the sub-Saharan countries found that closing the gender gap in agricultural productivity corresponds to an estimated increase in crop production of between 7 and 19 per cent. Women make up a

full 50 per cent of people reached by the project IFAD supports to better address the needs of rural women and girls we have refined our targeting guidelines this year.

Gender equality is one of IFAD's four key mainstreaming areas because we know that economies that are more gender equal in terms of opportunities and benefits achieve faster economic growth and better quality of life for all. Let me share one example of our work with you; Tajikistan's geography is extremely challenging for sustainable farming over half the country is at an altitude of 3000 metres or more. IFAD's livestock and pasture development project has increased the income of 24000 poor rural households by enhancing livestock productivity.

Specific training and input packages target women-headed households, which have increased their livestock income by 47 per cent. There are many meaningful examples of how empowering women and improving their access to resources deliver economic and social benefits, but let us not forget gender equality is a human right. At IFAD we therefore also address underlying causes of inequality within the households through gender transformative approaches, for example, under our adaptation for smallholder agricultural programme we fund pilots of enhanced gender actual learning system in Madagascar.

These pilot programmes enable women and men to work together to improve their relations, achieve more equitable workloads and jointly identify solutions for shared challenges such as those also rising from climate change. Throughout our work, we have learnt that empowering rural women and girls is both possible and essential especially also in response to climate change.

We have identified four steps to empower women further. First, integrate a gender perspective into climate change policies and involve women in decision making at all levels on environmental and agricultural issues. Second; ensure rural women and men have full and equal rights and have access to and security of land and productive resources. Third; improve the access of rural women and girls to safe reliable water supply, sustainable energy and information and communication technologies to build their climate resilience. Finally build the knowledge and skill of all rural women to boost their capacities, confidence and bargaining power.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would now like to introduce the first keynote speaker, Kate Gilmore who has been the United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights since the end of 2015. She has deep experience in strategic leadership and human rights advocacy with the United Nations, with government and non-governmental organisations including the United Nations Population Fund and Amnesty International. Her roots are in social work and for some years her work has focussed on prevention of violence against women, for example, she helped establish Australia's first centre against sexual assault at Melbourne's Royal Women's Hospital. Ms Gilmore holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of England and postgraduate degrees in social work from the University of Melbourne and now we are looking forward to hearing from you Kate about the challenges and opportunities for women for a human rights perspective.

Ms Kate GILMORE, OHCHR

Thank you very much indeed. Dear Moderator, dear Chair, thank you for the privilege of these excellencies, distinguished colleagues, friends. I bring you the warmest greetings of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle [unclear 0:14:30] who asked me specifically to thank you for your leadership. To thank you for the leadership that together you provide so that globally norm standards, science and evidence may underpin security of the right to enjoy the right to food.

It is a particular honour, therefore, to join you on this International Day of Rural Women and to examine with you the circumstances of those for whom distance isolates hard unseen labour in traps whose location and status means they are more excluded. To consider with you how better to stand with rural

women whose industry in organisation, participation and contribution is just so central to the health wellbeing sustenance and sustainability of communities large and small near and far the world over.

Excellency's, for the first time in human history more of us than ever before, are urban residents. More of us are dependent on land that we do not farm, on livestock that we do not tend, feed, slaughter, on harvests that we do not gather. In these changing food systems en route from land to farm to plate it is the labour of contribution of rural women a quarter of the world's population on whom increasingly our food security depends.

Even in the face of industrial-scale agriculture rural women remain crucial, critical to the daily operations of rural communities, essential to protection of rural families, vital in defending rural ecosystems under strain of climate crises. That their contributions are so essential only makes it more inexplicable just how disregarded they have been in legislation and public policymaking, makes more unconscionable just how disproportionately they have been left to suffer precarious labour conditions, their rights to land unrecognised. Their access to water, to fertilisers, to seed, to credit, to training more limited just how unacceptable it is still that systematic discrimination pushes them into the margins of influence of participation and of access in both the global north and the global south.

This backdrop of gender inequality leaves rural women doubly disadvantaged in the context of climate instability. Friends, there is so much that is specific, unaccepted, exceptional about climate instability, global warming and the impacts of unchecked consumption, but there is nothing unfamiliar whatsoever about gender-based discrimination is impeding effective inclusion of women in climate action about we just must uphold equal rights to participation, to protection from attack when claiming rights, justice when rights are derailed or denied.

This is not nearly about new science and new rules this is about longstanding law. After all, it is Member States who have given us that law, the normative and policy tools we have to hand to fix this. The convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, a legally binding treaty has issued landmark practical advice on how better to protect the rights of women to rural land and natural resources.

On the gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction standards underscored by the gift of the recent U.N. declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas. Standards illuminated by the work of the wonderful special repertoire on the right to food. For your work as a committee on World Food Security that human rights framework gifted to us by Member States offers credibility, stability and authority of normative standards set by the international community on which more effective national and regional law and public policy can stand.

More stability on which to stand up efforts to better address discriminatory practices, to better deploy legislation to guarantee rights to land, to water and to natural resources for women irrespective of their civil and marital status. To better protect social protection, to better promote public participation of and for rural women.

Excellency's, in adopting the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development Member States promised to leave no one behind. Rural women are far behind we can't accept it, we can't leave them there and your multi-stakeholder partnership is just essential to transform the reality, to fulfil the promise including by bringing the voices of rural women to the table.

If women farmers have access to the same resources as to men there would be at least 150 million fewer hungry people. Greater food security demands greater human security specifically for rural women. My

mother taught me 'waste not, want not'. We simply cannot afford to continue to waste the full potential of the talent creativity, contribution, participation of rural women and girls. I thank you.

Ms Cornelia RICHTER, Vice-President, IFAD

Thank you very much, Kate for your very strong messages from the human rights perspective and I think you have really provided food for thought for us and now I think it is time to listen to a completely different perspective. I am happy to have next to me Madame Fatoumata Diallo; she is the Vice-President of the National Federation of Rural Women of Mali.

Fatoumata is a farmer and she supports the efforts and energies of rural women in Mali. She has been particularly active in the fisheries sector and together with others, she founded her first fisher organisation in 1991. In 2009 she helped establish the National Union of Women Working in the Fish Sector in Mali and from 47 cooperatives initially it has expanded to more than 250 cooperatives and to other agricultural activities beyond fishery. Through her work Fatoumata Diallo encourages women farmers, trains them in processing agricultural products and helps them innovate land and assets as scarce resources.

Madame Diallo, we are looking forward to your presentation [unclear 0:22:50].

Ms Fatoumata DIALLO, National Federation of Rural Woman of Mali

Thank you very much indeed, Madame Vice-President. My sisters, rural women from around the world, distinguished guests; good morning it is a great honour and a privilege for me to speak to this assembly on behalf of all rural women from around the entire world.

First and foremost I would like to thank the international community for having for some time now recognised the major role played by rural women in the area of household food security and nutrition as well as their major contribution to the rural economy around the world. In developing countries, women represent on average about 40 per cent of the average population working in the agricultural sector. That percentage varies from one region to another, from 20 per cent in Latin America to 50 per cent in Asia and the Pacific and over 50 per cent in certain areas of Africa and Asia.

In sub-Saharan Africa, the share of women in the active agricultural population is constantly growing. It is globally estimated at 55 percent in a growing rural world, which is characterised by the rural exodus and clandestine immigration with young people, its share of those lost at sea as well as the effects of climate change, which are forcing increasing numbers of people, men in particular to leave agriculture and rural areas.

Whilst women play a major role in ensuring household stability we also have to bear in mind that they are still marginalised despite the efforts deployed by governments and partners. Gender-based inequalities still exist and are persisting in certain regions of Africa and Asia; these inequalities are reflected in limited access for women to productive resources including land, good quality inputs, financial services, innovatory techniques and technologies and markets.

These constraints seriously affect the productive ability of women, the effectiveness of their economic initiatives and their entrepreneurship, their leadership in decision making circles both in the private sphere and also at public level, in organisations and other rural institutions. Limited access for women to the factors of production combined with a fragile agro-ecological environment slow down their contribution to productive activities. Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests, I am sure you would agree with me on the scale of the challenge we are called upon to face if we are to achieve the aim of zero hunger by 2030.

As we discussed at length yesterday in respect of the 2019 report on food security and nutrition the figures speak volumes in respect of this serious situation. This is what is happening out in the field, this is what our rural women are facing on a daily basis. I am convinced as a rural woman and this applies to all rural women wherever they may be in the world particularly in Africa is that we have to make opportunities from the challenges. We have to adopt a different approach, which sees the rural woman as being a solution to lift these millions of adults and children out of food insecurity and malnutrition.

We should, therefore, build the productive capacity of rural women allowing them to have enhanced access to the factors of agricultural production, service land, for example, good quality input at the right time, water, farming credit, innovatory agricultural services, equipment, technology etcetera. We have to allow them to become literate, to be trained and well-armed to access information, knowledge, know-how and to have a good grasp of new technology. They have to be able to make the most of excess production using modern agro-food processing units, which meet the quality of standards, which are demanded by the market. We have to strengthen leadership in the domestic sphere and in agricultural organisations, rural institutions and decentralised collectivities.

By 2030 all of the STG's must have been achieved that was a commitment made by governments, the international community and civil society. So I call on the governments to reach out more boldly towards rural women through pivotal and more ambitious programmes, which will address head-on the objective constraints faced by rural women. This should allow them to achieve their full economic potential in increasing their food crop production and improving food security and nutrition in rural households.

The voluntary guidelines, if I can remind you of this, on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security as well as the CFS' guidelines on tenure are useful instruments, which encourage responsible tenure of lands, fisheries and forests whatever the system which applies, public, private, communal, indigenous, tribal or even informal. I would, therefore, call on rural women around the entire world to embrace those voluntary guidelines and the CFS guidelines on tenure.

I would invite them to become totally familiar with these instruments so that they can have a fruitful dialogue with their respective governments. Through the various different core and umbrella organisations, rural women should continue to be a driving force through proposals and questions in order to strengthen their role and their contribution to food security and nutrition and ensure that that role is better tapped into by governments and international institutions.

The instruments, the tools are there, I am sure you would all agree with me. So we all now have to act to implement them to transform the rural world into a rural world without hunger. In order to ensure food security for everyone and really make sure that there is a right to food for everyone, long live rural women from around the world and thank you very much indeed for your attention.

Ms Valentina SAVASTANO, Vice-Chairperson, CFS

Thank you very much indeed for those really passionate words and for your leadership in promoting the rights of rural women. Now I open the floor for any interventions and comments, I recommend you to be brief so as to hear as many interventions as possible and to press your button so that you can...

Okay, thank you, now we will give the floor to PSM, then to Egypt and then to CSM. I will really recommend you to be brief and if you have any question please specify to whom on the podium you would like to have an answer from and we will have a very short round of answers, thank you. So now I give the floor to PSM.

PSM

Thank you Chair for giving me the floor, my name is [s.l. Nicky Chawdri 0:32:12] and I'm a young dairy farmer from India. So I am honoured to speak on behalf of PSM and pleased to highlight that our delegation this year is 51 person women. Although gender and women are mentioned sparingly in the SOFI report none of you can deny the relevance of women as stated in the SOFI report.

While many will focus on increasing numbers of hungry 820 million people in the world equally telling is a gender gap with the prevalence of food insecurity higher among women than men. Now this aspect combined with the substantial proportion of women in the agricultural labour force, unpaid work and informal work means their potential contribution to food security and nutrition has been untapped. As well as the nutritional needs in the first 1000 days and the prevalence of anaemia needs to be tackled with good nutrition including from livestock derived foods.

Now with one out of every three women being employed in agriculture the sector more at a risk of climate change though food security of rural women and girls is impacted adversely, the PSM urges the CFS to highlight the cross-cutting role of rural women in agriculture and address their challenge in order to tap the relevance and to tap their invaluable contribution.

So the recommendations that address these smallholders must be tailored to women in order to improve their access to markets, adaptation and adoption of appropriate technologies, institutional innovations and improved access to natural financial and human capital, thank you.

Ms Valentina SAVASTANO, Vice-Chairperson, CFS

Thank you, PSM, I give now the floor to Egypt.

Egypt

Good morning. In truth, I wish to thank the CFS for its kind invitation, which was addressed to me to participate in this very important forum. I wish to relay to you the greetings of the Ministry of Agriculture in Egypt. I also wish to thank the ladies who took the floor for their excellent expose on the experience they have in this sector.

I speak of a successful experiment in Egypt, which allowed us to take advantage to the best of the capacities of rural women in Egypt. This project trained rural women and transferred a huge quantity of information to rural families whether in the field of sanitation or health, the preparation of healthy meals that comprise all nutrients as well as training them on carrying out small projects.

We also facilitated the role of women in participating in all activities in the family. We trained women on how to take advantage of irrigation systems and recycling of waste, we also raised the awareness among rural families on how to overcome the issues deriving from climate change. Many ladies carried out small projects; we also carried out projects for overcoming illiteracy. This experience is one of the success stories and it is financed by the Egyptian Government. We always hope that rural women will have success in all fields of life and we support the role not only in food security but in all fields. Rural women are the cornerstone of families and society as a whole, especially in rural areas.

I speak especially of rural areas in Egypt; SDG's 2030 strategy in Egypt insists on the importance of women and allows women to play an important role in all areas including leadership areas. We have a deputy minister who is a lady, who is a woman in the Ministry of Agriculture. We wish to thank you for giving me the floor.

Ms Valentina SAVASTANO, Vice-Chairperson, CFS

Thank you, Egypt, now I give the floor to CSM and then to Burkina Faso, CSM please you have the floor.

CSM

Good morning, my name is Sylvia [s.l. Diwali 0:38:29], I am from Mozambique of the [unclear 0:38:36] of women, I am here in consideration of CSM. It is shocking that 1820 million people are living with hunger, majority then is as a woman in every region. We believe that current global food system builds on and reinforces gender-based discrimination and violence of women's rights.

Patriarchy continues to control the lives of women and especially young women like me. Demand for land rights is at the heart of the struggle for women's right. We also demand access and control over our boards, our incomes, productive resources and control of our markets.

Agriculture is a feminist alternative in the fight against hunger and patriarchy [unclear 0:39:52] extreme gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition. We must build from the demands of women, ensure they are leading the process, for us empowerment for women is not equal to women's rights. We are empowered, we support the [unclear 0:40:23] general recommendation [unclear 0:40:26] on rights of women rural rights. We have CSM Women's Constitution prepared to work with you on income and upcoming [unclear 0:40:44] of women's rights, thank you.

Ms Valentina SAVASTANO, Vice-Chairperson, CFS

Thank you CSM, I now give the floor to Burkina Faso.

Burkina Faso

Thank you, [unclear 0:41:06] is my name from Burkina Faso. I would like to thank the CFS for the invitation and also for having organised this meeting celebrating the international day on the sidelines of this session and also first and foremost for having included rural women. I think that is excellent initiative.

I would like to congratulate Ms Diallo for speaking out so clearly on behalf of rural women. I would also like to inform you that Burkina Faso is celebrating the International Day of Rural Women under the high patronage of the First Lady of Burkina Faso. So that was for the African Union, thank you.

Ms Valentina SAVASTANO, Vice-Chairperson, CFS

Okay, I don't have any other interventions on the screen. Oh yes, I have... sorry I forgot, thank you.

South Africa

Thank you very much, my surname is Dasa, I am from the Republic of South Africa. Having listened attentively and tried to sort of understand the issues as they are being presented I just wanted to check as I am checking across the panel, not so much focus on individuals. I just wanted to find out exactly how migrants and internal displaced women found in rural areas are catered for that is within our own policies and practices. Thank you very much.

Ms Valentina SAVASTANO, Vice-Chairperson, CFS

Thank you, South Africa, now we have other requests of interventions, but it is very unfortunate that we really have to close the time for an intervention. We are supposed to close at 10:55. So I am sorry I cannot give the floor to the countries and organisations that asked for the floor and as anticipated the conclusions of this session will be regulated by the Chair. So I will ask now the Chair to come back on the podium and would like really to thank all the speakers on the podium and you all for your comments, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. Thank you for your patience as also I was going over this issue with the Secretary because like I said at the outset we have conducted several meetings with the legal office ever since we had to adjourn because of time yesterday and as I explained before going into Item 4, International Day of Rural Women what we have on the table is the need for agreement at CFS on the Chair's summary for the previous item, Item 3, CFS and the sustainable development goals lessons learned and, of course, bridge to the Chair's summary for celebrating the International Day of Rural Women.

III. CFS and the SDGs (continued)

CHAIRPERSON

Now we all heard the different decisions and suggestions from the floor on how to tackle the Chair's summaries. I will very briefly remind everyone that for the longest time CFS has tried and succeeded in preparing reports that reflect what was discussed in plenary, what would be helpful for moving forward in the fight against hunger and malnutrition. When CFS has limited itself to just listing the names and titles of people speaking to us we have gotten an enormous deal of pushback and the members of the bureau present here today will verify, will give testimony if they so wish to the fact that for the past 12 months we have been complaining within the bureau about that limited approach.

About that lack of ambition, about simply listing names of individuals and not actually including or distilling what they said and the richness of the debate that followed. That said the plenary, of course, is sovereign and does not need to toe the line of the bureau. The bureau discusses these things and proposes to the plenary and then the plenary decides and in that vein the Chair, your speaker after having consulted with the legal office after having talked to a number of you including the Chair of the Drafting Committee about the best way forward proposes that in order to accommodate, as a compromise to accommodate all the interventions and all the aspirations that we heard that we proceed in the following manner.

You will all recall the draft summary that I presented yesterday were under Item 3, CFS sustainment and development goals, lessons learnt we would list the individuals that participated is smaller and the [unclear 0:59:04] and the Assistant Secretary-General and the panellists and then we would do the following and I am going to read the line that I am going to ask that the Committee approves.

The Committee took note of the Chair's summary, which included the following points and that's it and then the Chair will provide a summary. It will be the Chair's summary not the Committee's decision, not the sacred texts, not the constitution or the law of anything, but the Chair's Summary and the Chair summarises Item 3 in the following manner. Of course, the Secretary tells me that I need to ask if that's okay because that would be the only decision taken by the Committee it to take note.

I will repeat it, 'the Committee took note of the Chair's summary, which included the following points' and that's the only thing being asked of the Committee to take note of the Chair's summary. The Chair's summary is prepared by the Chair. We have two delegations that wish to take the floor, the Russian Federation following by CSM, well they screen is getting filled with delegates wishing to take the floor. Let's start with the Russian Federation, please.

Russian Federation

Chairman, thank you for giving me the floor, I would like to start by thanking you for the fact that yesterday you were left no stone unturned in your attempts to find good wording and honestly speaking what you have just said is very close to reaching consensus in our opinion. At the same time before agreeing to any part of the text we would like to ask that you fully read out the full Chair's summary before we endorse it, thank you for your attention.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Russia, CSM, please.

CSM

Thank you, Chairperson. We would just like to say that I don't think we have time to be able to negotiate every single point of the Chair's summary. That has to be made very clear because we don't have enough

time for that. We therefore believe that it would be important to leave the Chair's summary as an annexe to the report and maybe rather opening a point for discussion of the points you have concluded, but simply noting what is being debated does not reflect the full wealth of proposals, comments and contributions made yesterday in this room because we heard the views coming both from the top table and from the floor.

I would just like to remind the Chairman of articles 9 and 10 of the rules of procedure of the CFS, which put the Chairman in a position to make his report and present it indeed as an annexe to the report from the CFS and that does not mean that we necessarily need a decision. It would be a Chair's summary, as I say I refer you to articles 9 and 10 of the rules of procedure.

So take note I don't think it makes clear the legal basis on which the decision is being taken, I do not think this is the best way of going about it, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much indeed CSM. Could we have the screen back again please, we are looking at something else at the list of delegates? Could the screen go back to the speaker's list, please? The system is rebooting, the Secretary tells me that he could see the United States and Afghanistan had asked for the floor while the system reboots. The U.S. please, it is back on yes, we will have the U.S., Afghanistan, France and Hungary, U.S.

United States of America

Thank you very much, Mr Chair. While we certainly understand the Chair's desire that CFS has an ambitious plan for these committee meetings we do agree with our Russian colleague that it would be important for the entire Chair's summary to be read out and agreed to.

Furthermore though we note that if we start doing that for each and every session I fear we are going to get caught up in discussions about the content of the Chair's summary for each and every discussion and therefore take away from the nature of this as a forum to really talk about the ideas we are here to talk about.

Furthermore I have a question for the Chair and that is I noted in the previous session this morning on rural women that there were some Member parties here that were not able to make their intervention and I would ask how could a Chair's summary properly reflect the entire discussion if some interventions were in fact cut off, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, U.S., Afghanistan, please.

Afghanistan

Thank you, Chair. Chair, your summary must reflect the debate of the discussion that takes place in the plenary. If that is the case you should read it, but we should not discuss it because if we start discussing your summary here then we are subject to the Drafting Committee and that is not a good idea at all. So read your summary and let it go to the Drafting Committee, it is up to the Drafting Committee whether your summary fixed the debate or not. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Afghanistan, France, please?

France

Thank you, Chairman. I really think we have to make the most of our discussions, we have a committee, which has to adopt a report, which we think should, in particular, reflect the decisions that have to be taken. So it should be a report from the committee, not simply the Chair's summary, which would be a more watered-down version.

So from my point of view to ensure that this is as inclusive as possible and because in AFO we have improved our working methods by presenting these summaries of discussions on the screen it allows us to be better informed, it allows us to see what is going to be included in the final report from the committee and to have a first probably quite quick discussion. Then we can leave it up to the Drafting Committee to finalise this, but I think it is important to be able to read this on the screen so that everybody knows what is happening. I do not think it is enough simply to have Chair's summaries. We, the committee, have to decide what we want to have included in the report. So that would be our proposal.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, France, Hungary, please.

Hungary

Thank you very much, Mr Chair. I agree with the points made by the Ambassador of France and in addition, I would like to have a point of clarification. The proposal you made refers to the Item 3 of the agenda or your proposal was a general one referring to each and every agenda item because we have different kinds of agenda items for information, some of them are for consideration, some of them are for discussion and some others are for decision. I don't think it would be appropriate to have equal treatment of each and every different type of agenda items. I would appreciate to have a point of clarification on this issue, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Yes, the point of clarification for Hungary, what the Chair is proposing is that for Item 4, rather for Item 3 in particular and for all other items in which the committee is not making a decision to have a [unclear 1:10:56] stating, 'the committee took note of the Chair's summary, which included the following points'. Iran please, followed by Switzerland, Canada, Finland and Malaysia.

Iran

Thank you Chair for giving me the floor, also to your previous two speakers also here, I would like to request you to read again the Chair's summary. It seems it has to be followed by the Drafting Committee members in this committee. So it would be to request you to read it again, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Iran, Helvetic Confederation, please.

Helvetic Confederation

Thank you, Mr Chair. Thank you very much. We find your proposal is very reasonable as we are not talking as you now once again explained about decisions. We will just take note of the Chair's summary and therefore it is different than a decision, which of course would have had to have the endorsement by the committee, thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Switzerland for putting in clear language what I have been trying to explain from the beginning, Canada, please.

Canada

Thank you very much, Mr Chair. First we would like to support those who asked for the summary or the report to be available for us before we agree on it, but I guess I would like to follow up on a few questions for clarification because we also noted as part of the Drafting Committee that there was only one item for decision or two and the rest for information and discussion. We would like to know what would be different this year as opposed to previous years in terms of agenda items for information and discussion.

When we look at last year's report of the CFS when those items did not have a decision box there was a short summary of discussions that was describing the panel as well as the fact that the committee had discussed different issues without going into the substance and would like to know why this year there would be different procedures for all these agenda items that are for discussions and not for decision.

Recognising that there was a lot of work put into the main item for decision, which is the multiyear programme of work. So it doesn't undermine all the work we do, but I think the question that was asked by Hungary about the different status of the agenda items is quite an important one, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Canada. To respond to your point of clarification immediately it is what I have already explained. We are meeting for this 46th session to make two decisions. One of the multiyear programmes of work, one of the amendments to the rules of the CFS and the other items such as Item 3, Item 4 and other items are for information not for the committee to make decisions.

So they are not open for negotiation because they are information items. The committee has been informed. So the committee takes note of the information received and the Chair summarises that information. I hope that this clarification is satisfactory. Finland please, we need to... my question is, are we devoting the rest of the week to discussing this line, 'the committee took note of the Chair's summary, which included the following points' because this is what we are dealing with here. There are no procedural inconveniences here. The committee will be making two decisions during this week and Item 3, Item 4 and other items are not for decision, are information items.

I have a list of speakers that includes Finland, Malaysia, the Philippines, Argentina, Hungary, Germany and Mexico. I will, of course, give the floor to those mentioned and to anyone else wishing to take the floor, but please help me and help ourselves, help the committee. This is being webcast, this is why people all over the world are looking at us and saying this is why the U.N. doesn't work.

They don't know as much of the U.N. as we do here, they don't know what goes on in the corridors and in all the meetings, all the papers we need to read. All the meetings we have, all the conversations we have, all the texts and the emails and the breakfasts, the lunches, the dinners and the receptions in which yes we have some of us a glass of sparkling wine in our hands, but we are working, we are discussing, we are conversing.

What they see is this and what they conclude by seeing this is, you know what, it is just a bunch of people talking and talking and talking while we go hungry, while we are malnourished and we develop diabetes and heart conditions and so on. We have to resolve this without doing a disservice to the CFS and to the U.N. and to the multilateral system. Finland has the floor.

Finland

Thank you very much, Chair. I believe that the U.N. needs to stand for accountability and transparency. In order to ensure satisfactory and meaningful outcome of the discussion I think it would have been very good if the members would have the possibility to make comment on the Chair's summary and I think that would have ensured the transparency and inclusiveness of our discussions with the key functioning for this global platform.

I believe that our working methods should be in accordance with the potential and ambitions of this committee. I find it unsatisfactory that our comprehensive and wide facing discussions that have taken place this week and will take place this week are now refused to a simple taking note of concise summary, but I do want to recognise that we need to move forward.

We want to be pragmatic and within the spirit of collaboration and cooperation we make a suggestion that maybe we go along with you this time, but for next year we need to be very clear on the procedures and we need to discuss this story and we believe that we can discuss this also with the new Chair, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Finland, Malaysia, please.

Malaysia

Thank you, Mr Chair. I would like to share your views and support your position on the fact that we should only look at the major decisions being made by the committee. I think if we were to discuss on all aspects of the information process here the process will take long. So in order for us to quickly go forward with our work I fully support your assumption that we should look only at the decision-making mechanisms and let the Chair, his own good judgement, of course, I am sure he will be able to include all the necessary points and observations raised during the information process, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Sir. The Philippines, please.

Philippines

Thank you, Chair and also in the spirit of moving on as signified by other members although the Philippines is also eager to see what the content or if there is any revision from the summary that you read out yesterday because as we mentioned we have some comments or some reactions to that.

It seems that at this time as you mentioned there are other bigger items and decisions that we have to make therefore in the spirit also of pragmatism and flexibility that has been demonstrated by other delegations I think for now we could go along with what you are proposing, but as you mentioned perhaps in the future it would be easier or it would facilitate the things if the procedures are clarified beforehand.

In fact, in fairness in the provisional agenda it was mentioned that there is a summary that is going to be forwarded to the Drafting Committee however it was not that clear whether it is the Chair's summary or

even the Moderator's summary because as you would recall the moderator also gave a summary of that and perhaps members are expecting something closer to that.

That is why the reactions, but as of now in order for us to save time and for us to move on I think we can go along with your summary and as you mentioned let us put this in the perspective of not really making a big thing out of it because we have several things to attend to, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Bigger fish to fry is what you mean, yes that is very true. Thank you, Philippines, Argentina, please.

Argentina

Thank you, Chairman, good morning everyone. My delegation is flexible on this point, but we would like to highlight what was said by the delegation from Switzerland, which is very clear. The difference between a Chair's summary and conclusions from the committee I think that was a very clear proposal.

If we have a Chair's summary basically his expression from the point of view of the Chair. So that is not necessarily a report has been agreed upon it is just a summary by the Chairman of the way they saw the debate. So to say that the committee note of this, well it's more I think we have seen this on other occasions as well. The correct thing would be for the committee to take note and that would be included in the body of the report and then in the annexe you would have the Chair's summary.

So in the report, all we have are those points, which are agreed upon, but then in the annexe, we would have the Chair's summary, which is not necessarily agreed upon by the committee, it is the Chair's view. I think that would allow us to be more efficient. We could talk about trying to agree on conclusions about the debate that would take a lot of time if we do not have a basic report.

So we would support your proposal and we would say that your proposal should go into the annexe, but in the body of the report we would say that the committee took note of the Chair's summary on this item, which is included in the annexe to this report, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much indeed Argentina for that very useful proposal. On the list of speakers, I have Hungary, Germany, Mexico, Cuba, Finland and Cameroon. Two of those delegations have already taken the floor in the course of this debate, but anyway that is the speaker's list I now have before me from the Secretary. So Hungary has the floor.

Hungary

Chair, sorry for taking the floor again and thank you for your clarification. I would just like to say that you mentioned a couple of times that CFS is the foremost inclusive committee and for me the inclusiveness means either give the opportunity for the Member States, members of the CFS to make comment or give them the possibility to have their views reflected during the Drafting Committee discussion.

These are the ways and not just copy and paste because they should have a meaningful and substantive discussion there, but anyway for the sake of saving time I fully support the proposal made by Finland to go along with your proposal right now and also as reflected by Philippines and others and we can accept it and we can turn back to this issue later, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Yes, I will very briefly tell you and tell everyone that the agenda we have for CFS 46 has been negotiated for a full year at the level of the bureau and the bureau is composed of 12 core members and 12 alternates and the Chair and bureau members are supposed to tell the regional groups what transpired in every bureau meeting and the bureau outcomes are published in the website.

Then they are transmitted to the advisory group and the bureau meets with the advisory group, which is comprised of the non-State actors before every bureau meeting. So every single member, participant and observer of the CFS is supposed to have been through their bureau representative and the advisory group members to have been following up since 30 October 2017 that's 103 weeks that this is the procedure we were going to follow at plenary.

We do not have a proprietary plenary; we do not meet with the 1875 delegates present for this session to go over the preparations. That is the bureau and the advisory group and all Member States are welcome in bureau meetings. You yourself Sir have been participating in the bureau as an observer. So the point is that everybody knew or is supposed to know, everyone is supposed to know that there is going to be a Chair's summary and that the committee will not be making a decision on these items.

Now there are only two decision items for this plenary for this week. Again we are taking now time from the next agenda item, which is food disease and malnutrition. The most ambitious endeavour the CFS has ever embarked on and we are stealing time from that item a substantive item for combatting hunger and malnutrition. Germany, please.

Germany

Thank you, Mr Chairman. I am a bit surprised about the tone and the heat of this discussion and if I may say so most of the time you spoke. I do not really understand why it is such a problem for the sake of inclusiveness, transparency and also open discussion to follow the example of the FAO Council and throw display the new suggestions for a Chair's summary at the screen.

Contrary to FAO Council we would not negotiate here resolution language or decision language it would just be an exchange whether you captured the discussion and the comprehensive manner. I think this is a discussion, which is legitimate, which is in no way a waste of time and given the fact that if I am not mistaken we are the masters of the committee and not the Chair.

It would be absolutely appropriate to have this discussion. So I would still repeat what I think my Finnish colleague had suggested yesterday that you have the privilege to draft the summary and we put it on the screen and then we discuss it and then we amend it if necessary and otherwise we sign it and that is it.

If that is not acceptable then we should not change anything compared to the procedure of the past and we will take it up with your successor then for the next CFS. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Germany. I would say that I do not pretend to be the master of anything. We once took a vote in my home as to who is going to be the boss and I got zero votes and the other party had two votes. So I am not the master of anything and certainly I am not the master of the CFS. As you said correctly Sir, it is the membership of the CFS that is the one and only master here. Mexico, please.

Mexico

Thank you, Chair. I understand that this is a Chair's summary and I would just like to suggest that if the summary of the Chair could better reflect the points of discussion and I would like to with all respect suggest that in the Chair's summary we could include three very important points that were discussed yesterday.

One referred to the elimination of unilateral measures where countries impose things on other countries that limit the enjoyment of the human right to the access of food and hinder the rights of citizens and populations. The second point is that this committee calls on the Secretary-General of the U.N. in planning the international summit on food systems in 2021 that we include the active participation of the CFS and finally that this committee suggests that we promote international development treaties as one of the main measures to fight against the causes of hunger and food insecurity around the world.

These are suggestions so that your summary better reflects the debate and discussion of yesterday and this committee can take note with more confidence and this is a suggestion that I make with all due respect to you Chair for you to include these things in your summary. Thank you.

[1:31:12]

Mexico

Thank you Chair. I understand this is a Chair's summary, and I would just like to suggest that if the summary of the Chair could better reflect the points of discussion. And I would like to, with all respect that suggest within the Chair's summary we could include 3 very important points that were discussed yesterday. One referred to the elimination of unilateral measures where countries impose things on other countries that limit the enjoyment of the human right to the access to food and hinder the rights of citizens and populations.

The second point is that this committee calls on the Secretary-General of the UN, in planning the international summit on food systems in 2021, that we include the active participation of the CFS.

And finally, that this committee suggest that we promote international development treaties as one of the main measures to fight against the causes of hunger and food insecurity around the world. These are suggestions so that your summary better reflects the debate and discussion of yesterday and this committee can take note with more confidence. And this is a suggestion that I make with all due respect to you Chair, for you to include these things in your summary. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Mexico. I'll now give the floor to Cuba to be followed by Cameroon and Afghanistan. That's the end of the list of speakers. After that the Chair will make a statement so that we can finish this item. Cuba you have the floor.

Cuba

Thank you Chair. Good morning everyone. As we all know in the multilateral forum, we are all members, and we are committed to the 2030 agenda. The agenda of the committee and its 46th session endorsed our item 3 on CFS and sustainable development goals, lessons learned. We take note that in item 3 it says that the final report would include a summary of the debate, which would be given and then included in the report.

What we are asking for is that in the Chair's summary, we have a reflection of everything that was suggested in this debate in item 3, and also in other items. In particular the issue of economic sanctions and how they affect a number of member states. This was raised and I support everything that was said by Mexico. And it's very concerning that the documents of the committee don't really reflect, truly reflect, the themes and items that concern their members. We would like to record the committee is inclusive and it should be inclusive. We agree with this and we would like to have an inclusive report of the various items discussed during the debates.

We should work cooperatively, collegially, and we should not be holding up the work of the committee. The UN comes into question here, and we are called upon to solve the problems of today's world but we have here negotiations and through peaceful negotiations and discussions we can make the United Nations an organisation that meets and respects the Charter of the United Nations and respects human rights.

We support the proposal made by you, that the committee take note of the Chair's summary, but we would like the summary to include the concerns raised in relation to SDG 2, which is very important for millions of human beings that should not be left behind. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Cuba. Cameroon, then we will finish with Afghanistan. Cameroon you have the floor.

Cameroon

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairperson, and I know it could be hard some time, but I think it's all about the UN, we are used to that. Let me, first of all, congratulate the bureau and the Secretary for producing document CFS 2009/46/F.2/REV2, and I wish everybody can look at that document right away. It's the guide to CFS 46.

When I was coming here this is a document I had read meticulously, and I knew exactly what we were supposed to do after every agenda item. And let me quote what was said, what is said in the state of food security and nutrition in 2019, its policy on nutrition in the context of securing the world goals. It says a summary of the presentation and a discussion will be forwarded to the drafting committee for inclusion in the final part. For me it was clear this discussion here ought not to have taken place, Mr. Chairperson, because for each agenda item there is a conclusion that says, what is going to be taken care of.

Now I understand that many people want to add things in what has been said, probably this time, Mr. Chairperson, probably we might continue the discussion with the next Chair. If this is not now time that we made available for voting, to members as we proceed. So that could be another way out to avoid some of these discussions. But I want people to read again that document, because it's clear enough. So, we knew the game before we came. So, it's for me now a bit difficult to understand why we are holding this debate in the first place. For each agenda item we knew what was going to be said. But you know I understand perfectly the appetite for members to discuss your summary, which is another element. But today, I think this CFS, really, we can avoid that, and probably open the discussion with the next CFS Chair. Thank you, Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Cameroon. Had I been on the floor I would have made an intervention probably using the same words as you did just now. Now Afghanistan please.

Afghanistan

Thank you Chair. Not a prolonged discussion. Your summary must develop the gist of the discussion on all items, whether it's for decision or for consideration or for information. Anything that we discuss here must be reflected in the report. If your summary reflects the discussion here, that's fine by me. But there is no such thing as Chair summary. The Chair summarizes the discussion. It doesn't make its own report. It reflects the gist of the discussion. So, I think that point was quite clearly made by Finland, by Germany, and now by Cameroon. Thank you

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Afghanistan. We have an addition after I said that I was going to be closing the list of speakers, but for the sake of inclusiveness and transparency I'll give the floor very briefly to the US.

United States of America

Thank you, Mr. Chair. I want to note there are some members here raising political issues that we feel are better addressed in other UN forums. We are afraid that by raising some of those issues here that could affect the collegiality and efficacy of this body. We support our colleague from Germany's statement that if we are going to have the Chair do a summary it should be shown on the screen, it should be discussed, it should be amended, and it should be agreed to by everyone here. Alternatively, we could move back to the procedure used the last time. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, US. I disagree that a Chair summary needs to be negotiated. No one came to this session of the CFS thinking that we were going to be negotiating the information items, because we would have had a totally different discussion. A totally different exchange with the panel if we had thought about that. I certainly and I've been following very closely the workers of the CFS for the past many years including as Chair, I never expected that a summary would have been submitted to a process of negotiation. A comma here, a comma there, a word here, a word there, shade of meaning, not at all.

So, my proposal from the Chair is this. And this should come as no surprise to anyone dealing in multilateral affairs in multilateral diplomacy. I'm going to be calling for a Friends of the Chair group to agree on a way forward. I will be presenting a Chair's proposal, taking into account everything we have heard in the past few minutes. Taking into account, the opinion of the legal office and we will consult them again in light of this discussion. And we will be meeting in the Caribbean lounge that is just outside of these doors to my right, to the left of the floor. We will be meeting there and who will be joining. We will not start a conversation because we will never end, about the process for the Friends of the Chair. It is the Friends of the Chair, that means that everyone is welcome.

What I would like given the size of the Caribbean lounge here next door, I would propose that bureau members representing all regional groups should attend and if others from the region wish to accompany them, they will also be welcome. But we cannot have 1875 individuals next door. So, I expect bureau members and perhaps 1 or 2, perhaps 01 or 2 accompanying delegations and hopefully one individual per bureau member and one individual, for the 01 or 2 that will accompany the bureau members from each region.

Hopefully we will have all 7 regions represented and they will hear this group of friends of mine, will hear the Chair's proposal for a way forward for item 3, 4 and the rest of the items that are for information for this session of the committee. Thank you.

V. FOOD SYSTEMS AND NUTRITION

Now item 5. Item 5 is food systems and nutrition. Under this item we will highlight the paramount importance of nutrition in global regional and national food systems, and we will do this in 2 segments. One will tackle the ongoing process for producing voluntary guidelines on food systems and nutrition, that's one part of this agenda item.

The second part will consist of a progress report on the second International conference on nutrition or ICN2 for short. Now just so that we are all on the same page on this, I will give more details about part 1.

The journey to ending hunger and the various forms of malnutrition have been premised on increasing production levels and productivity rates. Then policy makers realised that the equation had to include nutrition and sustainability. More recently we have understood that a food systems approach is needed. Food systems are extremely complex and agreeing on nutritional guidelines intensifies such complexity.

So, I will ask the working group Chair, Liliane Ortega of Switzerland to provide an update on the work done so far including on the 4 regional consultations that have taken place. I attended the one in Budapest where I petitioned participants to maintain focus on the subsequent uptake by all stakeholders, especially national and local government as we advance towards policy recommendations. Inclusive consultations will continue including here today, and successive outlines will converge into a set of voluntary guidelines to be endorsed by the CFS 47 plenary, 12 months from now. Next year, 12 months from now.

It is proper to express gratitude to the government of Germany for the financial resources invested in this project, which is an expression of confidence in the committee and the relevance of its products.

Following Dr Ortega's presentation, we will listen to Dr Naoko Yamamoto, Assistant Director-General for universal health coverage and health systems at WHO, addressing the importance of cross sectoral collaboration.

The first part also includes a panel discussion on the use and uptake of policy guidelines followed by an open discussion. My good friend David Nabarro will moderate the panel. He of course is a World Food Prize recipient and creator of the food systems dialogues of the World Economic Forum.

The panelists are Bibi Giyose nutrition and food systems expert at the new partnership for Africa's development. Emorn Udomkesmalee, Prof of nutrition at Mahidol University in Bangkok. And Preeti Ahuja, agricultural expert at the World Bank. That's for part 1.

For part 2 of this item, we will have Anna Lartey, Director of food systems and nutrition here at FAO and Francesco Branca, Director of nutrition for health and development at WHO, they will both present jointly progress in implementing ICN2 policies and actions that are relevant to CFS. Now Dr Ortega will take over.

Ms Liliane ORTEGA, Chair, OEWG Nutrition

Thank you very much, Chair. Good morning everybody. Excellences, distinguished guests, dear colleagues, and ladies and gentlemen. It is an honor for me to be here to present an update of the ongoing CFS policy process on food system and nutrition.

In 2015 during the 42nd session of the plenary, the CFS decided to commission the high-level panel of experts to prepare a report on nutrition and food systems. To set the basis for policy convergence process.

In 2017 during the 44 session of the CFS plenary, this report was launched and briefly discussed and the decision to conduct the process to produce voluntary guidelines on food system and nutrition was taken. Therefore, the plenary requested the open-ended working group to elaborate TOR, terms of reference, these were endorsed last year during the 45th session of the plenary.

The HLPE report stated that malnutrition in all its forms under nutrition, micronutrient deficiencies and overweight and obesity, now affect all countries, whether low middle or high income. Those different forms of malnutrition can coexist within the same country or community and sometimes within the same household or even individual, and can even paradoxically, be linked, they are linked some of them. They must be all together. It also states that malnutrition like hunger will not be self-corrected by economic growth nor will it be spontaneously addressed. So, it needs decisions and courageous political will.

The HLPE report also called for radical transformations and made several proposals to shared food systems to improve food security and nutrition. The objective of the voluntary guideline is to promote food systems that lead to healthy diets and healthy foods that are available, affordable, acceptable, safe and of adequate quantity and quality for everybody.

Based on the HLPE report, the TOR considered the 3 constituent elements of food systems to serve as policy entry points for improving nutrition. The food supply chains, food environment and consumer behavior. The voluntary guidelines are being developed across these 3 constituent elements to support government to develop new policies for reducing the lack of coherence amongst sector policies, the so-called policy fragmentation and for promoting cross sector well-coordinated interventions, that integrate different dimensions, such as health, agricultural food systems, education, water and sanitation, gender, social protection, trade and employment.

I am glad to update you today on the result of this process since the last session of the plenary. This year 2019, the CFS stakeholder has already achieved a big amount of work, and so did the CFS Secretariat. In March the very first steps prepared by the CFS Secretariat with the support of the technical task team, were discussed within the open-ended working group. Many inputs have been provided by CFS stakeholders which have contributed to the preparation of the Zero Draft of the voluntary guidelines.

This Zero Draft was circulated last May and translated into all FAO languages. It is the background document for the regional consultations that are currently taking place. It was also discussed in the meeting we held in May, meeting of the open-ended working group.

Let me express like the CFS Chair, my gratitude to the government of Germany for providing the funds to organize 5 regional meetings, and also for funding the translation of the Zero Draft. Indeed, without this generous support I don't know how the process would be today.

I also would like to thank those who have been actively involved in this process, many of you actually, both for their input and insuring connection between this policy process and the constituencies at national and regional levels.

I am pleased to inform the committee that the first 4 regional consultations in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Near East went very well, with active engagement of different actors who provided a variety of comments, proposals and suggestions on how to improve the Zero Draft, which was generally well received. The harvest is fabulous, at the moment, but it is not yet finished.

These inputs and suggestions are important to ensure that the guidelines will be aligned with national priority and needs. They foster the ownership among CFS stakeholders and increase legitimacy of the process and the final version of the guidelines.

69 countries were represented, in these 4 consultations, which also saw a wide participation of representatives from specialized agencies of the UN, regional organizations, civil society, private sector and agriculture research institutions. The agenda, the background document as well as the Chair's summary prepared at the end of each meeting, are available on the CFS working space.

To complete the regional consultation process, 2 big things will soon take place. One in Panama at the end of this month for Latin America and the Caribbean, and one in Washington middle of November for Canada and the USA.

In parallel to the regional consultations an e-Consultation was hosted between July and September by the global forum on food security and nutrition. To get additional input from CFS stakeholders during this process, 102 contributions were received.

I also wish to inform the committee that a consultant has been hired to support the CFS Secretariat in the June part of the process. It is Dr Jessica Fanzo, who you know, I suppose you remember she has been a team leader of the HLPE report.

An open-ended working group meeting will take place at the start of December or end of November, the date is not yet clear, to discuss the outcomes of the regional consultation and of the e-Consultation process.

All this input, comments, suggestions will be used to prepare the draft one of the voluntary guidelines that is expected to be circulated by the end of this year. CFS stakeholders will be given the opportunities to provide comment during another open-ended working group meeting, which will be scheduled in February, and also to written inputs. Then the final draft of the guidelines will be circulated in all languages in time for negotiation during the spring 2020.

Developing guidelines will be endorsed in 2020 during the next plenary session of the CFS. We heard yesterday in the statement made on behalf of the UN Secretary General, that this voluntary guideline will be an important input in view of the food system summit in 2021. I guess they will not be important only for this.

Now let me provide you just an overview and a kind of snapshot of the input received on the Zero Draft during the regional consultation and the civil meeting of the open-ended working group we held in Rome in May.

These are suggestions made to improve the current draft. We heard many messages, many proposals but tried to get from them a common position, it hasn't been so difficult. For example, the comment of the chapter 1 and 2, which are the introduction, objectives, guiding principles, definitions. There is a strong request of having a more people centered text, highlighting human dignity. Stressing how the combat against malnutrition contributes to the realization of the right of adequate food.

There is also an expectation to develop more text on the importance of reshaping food systems to achieve the objective of Agenda 2030. We heard yesterday they are strong linkages between SDG's achievement of SDG's and the human rights, that is something we heard also very often by many stakeholders.

More text also on the burden of malnutrition on societies and the cost of inaction, which is even hindering to some extent, economy growth, but not only. More text on the causes of malnutrition which are food

system related. More text on the need for adapted and feasible but bold decisions not to have a text which is too much about knowledge management, some decisions, some possibilities, but really going right to the point.

Poverty and inequalities, there is a strong need to highlight much more in the text how they undermine access to healthy diet. Actually, how they undermine the possibility also to produce food and to get to achieve a decent livelihood. So much more will have to be considered to develop to consider poverty and inequalities in this text.

Also, the specific constraints in humanitarian crisis and context should be better visible. A strong emphasis on sustainability, and in particular on environmental sustainability. The 3 dimensions, but in particular, the environmental sustainability.

And finally, also there were requests to insist more on culture and traditional diets and their link with agrobiodiversity.

This is a kind of summary, not the Chair's summary, but more or less. It's a Chair's summary but it will not be published or even communicated, it is a snapshot.

Now we had a very important discussion of how to restructure, reshuffle the current chapter 3, those who know well the document know that the chapter 3 is currently presented according to the 3 components. Food supply, food environment and consumer behavior. There was from the beginning, expectations to consider differently the presentation of the guidelines to be less led by sectors and taking into account the numerous contributions we have for the moment an impression that we could organize this chapter 3 according to the following area of focus.

One would be nutrition education and literacy. There is across all regions a clear message about the necessity to increase nutrition education and food literacy. In the world population for all the actors involved in the food chains, the food supply, the decision-makers.

For example, even the school meals, is one of the instruments that could be used for this, but definitely it is to consider all the actors. And this is basically to enable better food choice, to create a demand for nutritious food. For this education is, as conveyed, very clearly from everywhere. A transparent and accountable governance of food system, this is a request we hear many actors, including the private sector say, we need more framework to take actions, to know where to go and how to do it. So transparent and credible governance of food systems. Food systems appear in every region to have escaped to the society. Society is just taking the consequences.

Nutrition oriented sustainable food system is the context of climate change. Climate change is our context. So, the food system from now to the future have to be developed to be sustainable, nutrition orientated but taking into account what the climate change is capable to do to this food system. But also improving the food system in the way that will contribute less to the climate change. So economic sustainability, social sustainability, environmental sustainability.

And finally, but not last, enhancing women's rights and empowerment, that is more than clear, and we heard this morning so many things women are still far behind. Women's empowerment is seen by all stakeholders we have heard as the undermining factor to improve nutrition and food.

Then food safety, food loss and waste are 2 more technical issues which have come very high as priority and they are also to be considered as an area of focus. So that is for the moment, what we have at the

moment, of having 4 of the regional consultation meetings of 6. And the discussion we had in the past. Thank you very much for your questions.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Liliane Ortega for your presentation and for your leadership. I speak for everyone when I say that you have been a great leader and you will continue shepherding this process till its successful completion 12 months from now. I will now ask Dr Yamamoto to tell us about the points of effective communication between key actors and across sectors.

Ms Naoko YAMAMOTO, WHO

Thank you Chair and Ambassador Mario Alvero, Excellencies, distinguished delegates and ladies and gentlemen. Good morning. It is my honor to be here. First of all, I would like to comment on world food security for leading this policy process that will result in voluntary guideline on food systems and nutrition. WHO gives great importance to this work.

Safety, and nutritious food, is a fundamental element of the people's right. Today leaders in almost all countries, especially in lower, and middle-income countries face a complex policy challenge, the so-called triple burden of malnutrition and nutrition including stunting and micronutrient deficiency co-exist around with escalating overweight and obesity.

In the world still more than 820 million people are suffering hunger that threatens his or her life, dignity, development and health. And healthy diet is a leading risk factor to the people in the world. The most vulnerable to malnutrition disease are typically those with higher nutrient requirements and those with those less control over their choice of diet.

The UN decade of action on nutrition is addressing these challenges and shows us the affordable solution exist. It is clear in that decade of action of nutrition a lot more action needs to happen, and all stakeholders have a role to play including the private sector. The private sector is producing most of our food, whether it is the smallholder farmer or fishermen or Trust National Corporation. The dialogue with these actors is required to ensure food sector produces, transforms and markets food that ensure healthy and sustainable diet for all.

WHO is it proactively engaging with those state actors, including private sector actors, on food product reformulation in the spate of our SDG's?

In May, Dr Tedros, WHO DG, met with representatives of the international food and beverage alliance including chief executive officers from several of the 12 companies to discuss action to eliminate industrial trans-fat and reduce salt, sugar and saturated fat in processed food. The CEOs of major food companies have pledged to eliminate trans-fat from global food supply by 2023. Trans fat intake is responsible for over 500,000 deaths from coronary heart disease every year globally. This commitment from the industry is welcomed. But let me make it clear this does not replace relevant policy majors by national government. Member states regulatory action on food safety, delivering and regulating marketing of food, especially to children is an effective and essential policy majors in the fight against malnutrition and diet-related noncommunicable disease.

WHO also called on industry to fully adhere to the WHO code of marketing of breastmilk substitutes. Obviously different actors have different roles to play in the shift towards healthier and more sustainable food systems. These roles and responsibilities must be clearly defined. A lot of engagement needs to be set up that strengthens transparency and accountability. This includes identifying and acknowledging at every stage, possible tensions and conflicts of interests among partners.

WHO upon the request of member states developed tools for addressing conflicts of interests, which are to address the risk and benefit of engagement with government, with nonstate actors.

Let me conclude by reminding that in 1948, WHO was given the mandate that ensures enjoyment of healthiest obtainable standard of health for all. WHO generated a program of work in 2019 to 2023, is our roadmap toward 1 billion more people benefiting from universal coverage. 1 billion more people better protected from health emergencies, and 1 billion more people enjoying better health and well-being aligned with SDG's.

Profit cannot stand in the way to improve food security, nutrition and health for all. WHO stands ready to continue to work with CFS and providing its expertise and leadership to support this important policy process. Thank you very much, Chair.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Dr Yamamoto for your inspired words. It is failing to draw attention to the collaboration between CFS and the World Health Organisation for developing these guidelines and I hope that my successor as Chair, will be able to speak at the next World Health Assembly for further strengthening the fruitful relationship between CFS and WHO and continue building these bridges between Rome and Geneva as we are doing between Rome and New York, and indeed with all UN capitals for the good of mankind, humankind.

Having WHO among our advisory group members has enriched CFS for which we are extremely grateful.

Now we will have a panel, a panel discussion that David Nabarro will moderate. He's a long-time supporter of CFS, co-director of Imperial College Institute of Global Health Innovation in London and a leadership multiplier for sustainable development from his social enterprise, 4SD. And I have to say a dear friend and someone that I learn from every time we have a conversation. So, thank you for that David. I hand over to you and I will be back for the second part of this item. So probably you want to sit here to have control of the microphone. This is the magic seat.

Mr David NABARRO, MODERATOR

The reason for moving is there is equipment here to see who wants to speak and everybody, we are awfully short of time. And I want to make sure that we have the full panel discussion. We have got a fabulous trio of people who are going to reflect on this issue, but just to give 1 or 2 remarks as we go into it.

I used to work in the United Nations on food, in something called the high-level task force on food security set up in 2008. And then on nutrition working as the coordinator of the movement to scale up nutrition, and so the subject matter that you are discussing here, for me personally, is really important.

And I always wondered whether the CFS would be able to establish some voluntary guidelines on food security and nutrition. I know it's not an easy task, and I really think the work being done by Liliane Ortega and the group, is just fabulous. And I love the cooperation and collective effort that is building between FAO and WHO again, particularly on this issue. They came together on the decade of nutrition and now they are together on this. And never has it been more important for humanity that the issue of nutrition was given attention, given the enormous numbers of people in our world whose whole performance, whose well-being and whose capacity to contribute to sustainable futures is so tragically undermined by poor nutrition. It really is one of the extraordinary global emergencies of our time.

So, we would like this discussion to help the working group advance the development of the voluntary guidelines. And our panel members are going to provide specific examples of coordinated cross sectoral interventions that contribute to sustainable food systems that are improving nutrition through ensuring healthy diets. They are going to speak about some of the constraints that they have faced in ensuring coherence between the interventions and the policies and between the different actors involved. And they are going to share ideas on what should be woven into the CFS guidelines on food systems and nutrition, so that they can be fully implemented once they are endorsed next year.

Now our 3 panelists in the order in which they are going to speak to us are, Dr Emorn Udomkesmalee, who is actually Prof at the Mahidol University in Thailand. And also, at Bloomberg School of Public Health Johns Hopkins University. She is also a board member of the micronutrient forum of the International Food Policy Research Institute, and of the Sight and Life Foundation. She co-chaired the independent expert group for global nutrition report and is a member of the Scientific Council of the, Institut de Recherche pour le Developpement, in France, IRD, as well as scientific director of ILSI Southeast Asia. And actually, the list of Emorn's interests and achievements go on and on. I can just describe her as somebody who was with us at the birth of the SUN Movement and she played a particularly important role in advancing multisectoral approaches to nutrition across the world.

Our second panelist is Bibi Boitshepo Giyose. Now Bibi is familiar to many people in this room because before she became the African Union's NEPAD special adviser on nutrition, advising the CEO, Ibrahim Mayaki, she was senior nutrition officer for policy and programs here in the Nutrition and Food Systems division at FAO. Her work is about integrating and mainstreaming nutrition into agriculture and related development agendas. She promotes multisectoral approaches for addressing all forms of malnutrition, and she did this in work for the African Union as well as for other parts of the international system including UNDP, and in other work with you Under aids. She is actually achieved quite a lot of awards as well, distinguished alumni award from the Appalachian State University, and also, she has been named senior policy scholar by the Global Child Nutrition Foundation of the USA for her work on school food and nutrition. Bibi it is great you are back also here in FAO.

Our third panelist is Preeti Ahuja. She is practice manager for agriculture and food for the World Bank group currently covering Latin America and the Caribbean region. She is supporting client governments to advance aspects of agriculture and food in the Latin America region. And she is really well equipped to talk to us about the relationships between food systems and nutrition through the work she is doing on climate smart and nutrition sensitive agriculture, linking farmers to markets in various ways. Food systems approaches for getting rural transformation and reducing risk vulnerability and gender equality.

Preeti has a long and distinguished history and we are really pleased that she has come from her work in the World Bank to share with us. Each panelist will speak for 5 minutes and then after they have spoken then we will have some opportunities to engage you in the discussion. We will set up a speakers list and then once that has been completed, we will close.

I will get advice from Chris Hagedorn as to how we manage the time challenge on this particular panel. Once the panel is finished, we will revert back to interventions in relation to the actual guidelines themselves and there is a specific program for that.

So, after that introduction I would like to invite Emorn to start her 5 minutes now. You have the floor.

Ms Emorn UDOMKESMALEE, Mahidol University, Thailand

I think it's now, good afternoon. Thank you CFS for the invitation. I have read voluntary guidelines, and I have to admit that this is a very bold initiative. And it's very helpful. Coming from a country I feel this is the guideline that has an opportunity to engage more likely and bring policy coherence across sectors. That has been for us, in the nutrition field, the most challenging task to achieve.

Starting with the guidelines with the food system being talked about all over the world, with the climate change being a 'zoom ahead' agenda, I believe 2020 we will see a lot of guidelines related to these 2 subjects and more coming on the screen. From the country point of view how can CFS voluntary guidelines play that role of coordination, to see how we can link across all those guidelines and be able to bring clarity for the country, agree to it and say this is the guideline I should really follow, because it has a connection to others that I need. And I think this is one of the things I see as important for the country itself.

Now going to the country, looking at this, the challenge it's usually this government takes the lead to make policy, but I want to say there's an opportunity here before policy generation is to be able to invite those stakeholders that have an interest of the same similar lack of policy to be able to come on board and have an alliance policy primarily being made in order to inspire commitment to actually, rather than generate a policy and then you have to advocate for it and say who is going to buy in. So, I think that we need to do a pre-empt for that before. The policy coherence across sector is important, but the next step is that.

The guidelines as itself is global in nature. Success of this guideline will be measured by how much that country can translate and adapt these guidelines to action. That's one of the things about it is that it is possible that the countries take a look at the context. So now you have seen the report that has come out in 2017. For example, the food system typology is traditional, mixed and modern. Well actually in a country all these 3 can coexist and perhaps the country would say, well we want to keep the traditional system, fix some of the weakness and be able to keep it and work alongside modern systems where innovation of food can help traditional diet to prosper. Korea is starting on that.

In Thailand traditional food is coming back into play with some of the culinary people know Thai food. If we want to keep some of the good things and be able to bring technology innovation to bring it better and on board.

Now nutrition should be part of this, and we think that would be an opportunity where these guidelines could touch on.

My last point is the data and evidence that exist in the country, and country needs to make more likely benefits out of those treasures. What are the data and evidence that are important to them? Some of the examples that would come out has to do with dietary intake assessment survey that is now being done in many countries. How can that be part of this in order to guide where food needs to go in order to fulfil nutrition needs of the mothers and children out there. So, some of this data also needs to be consolidated.

The other things that come on board very quickly, has to do with the initiatives that would be friendly to these guidelines, like city initiatives. The food cities of the world are coming up very quickly, and I know that one of the things we see in the Expo in Milan has to do with a lot of them want to bring the greens to the city. And of course, some of the gardens that would be edible. Some of these will be complimentary and maybe I would say voluntary guidelines could pick that up and be able to use it for that, including the effort done by the chefs of the world and culinary association that also highlights sustainable diet and healthy diet. That work should not just be done in limbo but perhaps to have a place where they can really help the guidelines for the how-to.

We have a lot of, why it's important, the malnutrition that is really a dilemma everywhere and now is the time for solutions. How the guidelines can bring that on board for the clarity of the how and make this a doable guideline for countries all over the world. Thank you very much.

Mr David NABARRO, MODERATOR

Thank you very much Emorn. I think this whole effort has been really beautifully supported by the work of the high-level panel of experts and their report on nutrition and food systems, HLPE report 12. I'd like to give a real shout out to the HLPE team for that wonderful piece of work. And just really re-stress to you 3 things that Emorn said.

1, moving from why to how. 2, to the coexistence of traditional mixed and modern diets and the way that many countries and consumers are engaged in that, in a very exciting way. And 3, working with cities, for example through the Milano Food Policy Pact, and also with chefs, really great.

Now we'd like to come to Bibi for her 5 minutes comments and just to say that Chris Hagedorn just whispered in my left ear, this session has to finish by the time we break for lunch. So, if you are going to comment, we would invite you to be very brief when we finish the remarks from our speakers. So over to Bibi.

Ms Bibi GIYOSE, NEPAD

Thank you very much David. Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen, Excellencies. Let me just start my remarks by confirming that NEPAD has gone through a transformation. We are now called African Union Development Agency. So, I would like to center my intervention around 3 or 4 points. The first one being, as she pointed out, these guidelines are doable, but what is going to remain very critical is to ensure that the guidelines are tailored to fit the different country context. Countries are at different levels of cultural expression, social economic expression and more importantly all the constraint being economic wherewithal to actually be able to translate them into workable policies and programs. And so applying them, is going to necessarily require certain sensitivities so that we don't leave anybody or any group outside.

My second point is, yes, we have the guidelines, then where do we go from here. Are they going to be another beautiful document, with big grammar, that doesn't translate into anything meaningful? I don't think we should be going that route. We have taken a lot of effort to develop these guidelines, therefore they must serve the purpose for which they are intended. We have global targets for nutrition. We have regional targets and national targets, but more importantly let's think about that human individual face.

What are the targets for ensuring that these guidelines are going to be serving the individuals that are so plagued by hunger and malnutrition, in their different forms.

So engaging policy makers with evidence, is a very important element but policy makers are exactly that. But who are the policymakers? More often than not we forget a very important group of policymakers who are the parliamentarians. How often do we actually talk to parliamentarians about issues of nutrition and food systems?

I would like to give an example of the work we are doing in Africa. We have since last year engaged the South African parliament and the sub regional parliamentarians. It is amazing how they have said to us, my goodness we never knew we had a silent emergency called malnutrition. And we never knew how to actually engage and work with the different sectors that are really key in stemming out prevention and managing the challenge of handling malnutrition. So, these people are actually or should be, our best allies and our best champions.

And indeed, there are other examples from other parts of the world in Latin America where the parliamentary fora, are actually gatekeepers of the law and therefore they should be addressing the issue. But let's not forget the program implementers. Since this is an International Day for Young Women, let me stress that we should not forget the girls, the women, and the grandmothers because not only are they food producers, they are food processors and carers. And here is a saying, that nothing for us, without us. So as women we must really be at the center of dealing with and handling issues of malnutrition.

Thirdly the guidelines without a dedicated resource, cannot be anything. It's more like a lion without teeth. So, if you want to prevent that lion into [unclear 02:30:30], go ahead, you're not going to be able to get any results out of it. So, we certainly must ensure that sectors dedicate resources to the implementation of the guidelines.

Last, but not least, development of these guidelines as we found in nutrition and food system instrument, would require enhanced human capacities, and a skills mix particularly around the softer issues of management and good governance. Without good governance we cannot achieve the target of zero hunger. Therefore, let's get the guidelines in a way that really can serve the populous. Thank you

Mr David NABARRO, MODERATOR

Thank you, Bibi for once again, as with Emorn, the clarity with which you laid out the issues. My 3 takeaways from what you said are this guidance must serve the purpose which means they must be accessible to policymakers.

That secondly one of the key policy maker groups is parliamentarians, and they have different roles in different country contexts, that's the only way in which it will be possible to leave no one behind. Number 3, the resources and human capacity will be needed to implement. I hope that's a reasonable take away from what you said. Thank you for those remarks. Now I would like to invite Preeti Ahuja to give her remarks.

Ms Preeti AHUJA, Manager Latin America, Global Practice Agriculture & Food, World Bank

Thank you and good afternoon. From the World Bank we welcome the voluntary guidelines. We are faced with a silent global crisis today, with half of the world's population facing one form of malnutrition

or another. This issue is costing annually trillions and trillions of dollars in terms of lost productivity, health care cost. But imagine also the future where this translates into many fold that amount, through lost potential.

Now let's put this together with the need to produce 50 to 60% more crop calories, the term put forward by WRI to really get to that objective, in a sustainable nutrition sensitive manner by 2050, how will we achieve that? So, I would like to propose 3 sets of actions which would help us get there. And to really give teeth, as someone was saying, to the voluntary guidelines.

So, the first bucket, or the first pillar relates to leveraging the technology and the research and innovation infrastructure that we have available today globally. In terms of technology, this is a dynamic, disruptive force which is here, both public and private sector actors are engaged in it. We can leverage technologies ranging from biofortification, alternate proteins, means to curb food lost and waste on the one hand and on the other hand, we need to invest the energies and resources of the public and private research and innovation arms of the nations as well as at a global level. The CJIER system for instance, to really focus on the agenda which is so critical that we are talking about today.

The second bucket is more and better use of funds. Somebody asked earlier today about resources. Where are the funds going to come from? Now we do have trillions of dollars in private funding, which is available, which is looking for investment with impact. Whether it is private investment funds or whether it's institutional funds, we need to see how these trillions of dollars can move from an orientation towards the global north, to really being orientated for impact on the nutrition security agenda more equitably distributed across the globe.

Secondly how do we make better use of the funds that are available in the system. So, OECD has estimated there are about \$570 billion which are being leveraged each year in terms of public support to the agriculture sector. Some of this is being used effectively, but the bulk of this amount, this huge amount, could be put to better use. Could be redirected to foster nutrition sensitive, nutrition smart approaches.

And the third element of course, which we have all talked about and touched on, is finding ways to work together better. This is everyone's business that we are talking about. It is the governments, the public sector agencies, the private sector and multinationals. The 500 smallholder producers, and the 7.7 billion consumers, we all have to come together to work on this agenda. At the same time, I think we need to identify champions for this cause at national levels, at local levels. Champions with vision, commitment and drive. Thank you.

Mr David NABARRO, MODERATOR

So all our panelists have pointed out this really is a massive global crisis, and as Preeti said, half the world's population is experiencing some form of malnutrition, with enormous costs as assessed by the World Bank. She suggested firstly leveraging technology and research for innovation to be a dynamic disruptive force. Using public and private resource energies. She identified the possibility of more funding and better use of funding particularly better use of the 570 billion that goes in public support to the agriculture sector.

And thirdly this is everybody's business. It just cannot be left to one discipline or one sector.

Now despite the enormity of this issue, we have to say that each speaker is asked to speak their remarks in about a minute. We will take 5 and then see how we get on. Could you please use the usual technique for getting the floor. And I know that the interpreters have currently agreed to work until 1:10, but then we have to stop. So, who would like to comment on what you have heard from the panel, and issues, more generally? If you wouldn't mind doing the technique. Here we go.

So, I'm told that time is even tighter. So, here's the list. It's the order in which you pressed the buttons and we will close the list now. Its private-sector mechanism, Finland. Civil Society Mechanism Scale up Nutrition movement, Kuwait. United States of America, Russian Federation. Let's see if we can manage Brazil has come in as well. The people advising me on my left will tell me when we have to stop. Could we invite the private-sector mechanism? I will tell you when you have spoken for a minute.

PSM

Thank you very much Chair. Thank you very much for the opportunity and good afternoon everybody. My name is Catherine Otto. I work for [unclear 02:39:30] and I am here as a member of the private-sector mechanism, and I participate in the nutrition there.

I will keep my intervention very short and in line with what also the panelists have said. We would encourage in order for the voluntary guidelines to be implementable and transformative, to really reduce the number of areas that are covered in the voluntary guidelines. As private sector mechanism we have suggested 17 policy recommendations and would invite all stakeholders of the CFS to consider a number closer to 20 than the current number.

I have participated in the regional consultation in Budapest. I am very pleased to see that a lot of comments and proposals that were also enumerated by the Chair of the open-ended working group, are really areas where the private sector is already taking action today and where we can further expand and improve our interventions often in partnership with other stakeholders. Let me quickly point out to you a number that have also been highlighted across the debate this morning. The role of food knowledge and nutrition education to empower consumers, but also extending it to other stakeholders in the supply chain. The promotion of diverse foods that constitute a healthy diet. Food reformulation, and linked to innovation across the whole supply chain, responsible marketing and let's not forget food safety. I want to end here.

Mr David NABARRO, MODERATOR

That's beautiful. Thank you. That was absolutely on time. Please could others do the same. I think next speaker is Finland.

Finland.

I'm speaking on behalf of the European Union and its 38 member states, but I will keep to the key message to save time. We welcome the progress made to us, the elaboration of the voluntary guidelines and the reaffirm to commitment of the European Union and its member states to keep engaging in this critically important CFS process.

And we also express our appreciation from the broad, excessive and inclusive consultation process that has taken place, including at regional level.

We reiterate the importance of a system-based approach for food and nutrition and of addressing the issue of food systems governance and relationship and power dynamics between actors. We also emphasized the importance of multi-stakeholder approaches, and also collaboration between the governments and private sector.

Food system sustainability is a key element and strongly interlinked with nutrition and human health and is an increasing challenge in the context of climate change. This dimension should be properly reflected in the future guidelines.

As many experts here today have mentioned, it is extremely important to emphasize the necessity of practical and user-friendly guidelines. Thank you very much.

Mr David NABARRO, MODERATOR

That is about 90 seconds, but you are speaking in behalf of an awful lot of important countries, so thank you for your lovely and precise statement, and also what you said. Now we would like to go to the civil society mechanism, you have the floor.

CSM

Thank you very much, Chair. I will try to be brief as well and respect the time limit. I am from the civil society mechanism and from a consumer's organization. We would just like to echo what was said by others in relation to the commitment we all have here, to this process. As the CSM we represent food producers, consumers and actors in food systems, they are often the most affected by hunger and malnutrition and that's why it's important that our voices be heard in this process.

In summary we have already heard some things, we have had things come out of the regional consultation. So we spoke about human rights and it's very important to emphasize the indivisibility of human rights. And this is important to these guidelines because the rights of women and farmers are very important in this, in relation to human rights more broadly. We have already heard about the proposal to change the structure. This was brought up in the consultations as well. We need to feed this new structure when it is created, and 800 million people are suffering from hunger and malnutrition, this is affecting families and many people who are being affected and represented by civil society mechanism. We need to make sure that we conserve knowledge for solutions, and we would like to make sure we have a good political roadmap so we can have a change of direction for our food systems. Thank you very much.

Mr David NABARRO, MODERATOR

Now the movement to scale up nutrition.

SUN Movement

Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. I would like to commend the organizers of this panel because it is a lovely panel. What you said was very much to the point.

2, the SUN Movement with its 61 member countries wants to make food systems part of our DNA.

3, it needs, the guidelines need to be able to be country owned and country driven. So please don't make them too detailed and pragmatic, so they can be tailor-made later on.

4, invite from the very beginning the different sectors around the table and the different stakeholders. So not only the food players but also the environment or climate players and the health players and the social protection, whoever you think needs to be involved. The same counts for the stakeholders. Please invite everyone who is a stakeholder to the table so they can have a say in the development, and later on in the implementation.

And finally, these voluntary guidelines are of crucial importance to be there on a timely manner, to play in a role in Nutrition for Growth summit next year in Japan and in the Food System summit in 2021, but involves all the players and stakeholders from the very beginning. Thank you very much.

Mr David NABARRO, MODERATOR

Thank you, Gerda Verburg, SUN Movement coordinator. Now the floor goes to Kuwait.

Kuwait

This intervention of Kuwait comes on behalf of the Near East group. Talking of food systems and nutrition in the Near East region means talking about malnutrition in all its forms. Food systems have a direct impact on human health well-being and development and are therefore a major contributor to the nutritional status of the populations in our countries as in other countries and of course to varying degrees, depending on the level of progress to each country in dietary applications.

The international voluntary guidelines currently being developed under the auspices of the CFS will certainly contribute to strengthening our food systems in terms of developing and defining policies that will regulate science policy linkages towards viable food and nutrition system or what is known as sustainable diets.

We would like to insist on the need to take into consideration the result of regional consultations held on 25 September 2019 in Cairo, the rich reviews emphasized the need to take into account the specificities of the different areas. For example, we need to take into consideration the problems having to do with hunger and malnutrition, particularly in countries facing conflicts on top of other issues shared with other countries such as obesity. We would like also to insist on the need to take into consideration the consultations and we would also like to insist on the role of young people as factors of change in terms of food habits, thus improving food and nutritional system.

We would like to reassert the importance of all stakeholders from decision makers, civil society organizations, governmental and non-governmental organizations, civil society and others because they have a part to place in having better quality food. Now is the time to start implementing the recommendations of the second International conference on nutrition, so as to have better nutrition across the world it is necessary also to involve all actors, all stakeholders. We would also like to insist on the 5

vectors identified by the high-level panel of experts to influence food and nutrition systems across the globe. Thank you.

Mr David NABARRO, MODERATOR

So, colleagues, tricky times because we have lots of people wanting to speak and the time available to us is very limited. Please stick to 1 minute if you can. United States.

United States of America

Thank you very much. Thank you to the speakers including the panelists for their helpful context and excellent reminders about ensuring the guidelines are practical, nationally usable, inclusive of evidence. We very much appreciate the update on the voluntary guidelines from Madame Ortega. We strongly believe these voluntary guidelines should adhere to the highest scientific standards so that member states and other stakeholders can continue to rely on the guidance they provide. To that end these guidelines should be supported by a sound and sufficient body of scientific evidence.

We support international efforts to develop effective guidance for nutrition policies and we appreciate the recognition by the CFS that advancing nutrition requires a holistic, interdisciplinary and inclusive approach that bridges all relevant sectors within the context and capacity of each country and region.

We appreciate the continued opportunity to provide feedback and suggestions on the documents in progress and we look forward to continued engagement in this process including the North American regional consultation near Washington DC in November, to provide further input on these voluntary guidelines and sharing evidence-based practices, and important discussion. Thank you.

Mr David NABARRO, MODERATOR

Thank you very much indeed United States of America. Now we go to Russian Federation please.

Russian Federation

Chairperson we welcome the work carried out by the CFS open-ended working group to prepare the guidelines. We welcome the inclusion in this version of the guidelines of a comprehensive, intersectional approach to coordinate measures in the area of agriculture, food policy and health to ensure healthy diets.

In the document, it is necessary to take into account, all the components of the so-called triple burden of malnutrition, under nutrition, micronutrient deficiency and factors that cause obesity. This would be in line with the decisions of the second International conference on nutrition, relevant themes in our view that should be reflected in the CFS recommendations include the following. Food safety and quality. Reducing food loss. Combating noncommunicable diseases linked to unhealthy diets. Education in this area and promoting healthy lifestyles. Social protection for vulnerable parts of the population. Attracting investment in food production systems and the use of innovative technologies in this area and reducing antimicrobial resistance.

In formulating the content of the principles, we call on the Secretariat to strictly adhere and stick to its technical mandate. We shouldn't delve into non-core issues of the committee and shouldn't encourage on

the competence of other UN bodies. In order to not get lost in the diverse set of issues that are proposed to be resolved by developing the principles, it is important to clearly link them to their impact on the area of nutrition.

On a separate note we would like to record the importance of the gathering and expansion of regional contributions to the preparation of the voluntary guidelines. We thank Ms. Liliane Ortega for presenting information on the outcomes of the recent regional consultations. We will be happy to familiarize ourselves with the outcomes in written form, after which we will determine our position on what is contained in them.

In conclusion allow us to say that we expect this document to become one of the significant practical outcomes of the UN decade of action on nutrition and that it will make a significant contribution to the achievement of many of the sustainable development goals. Thank you for your attention.

Mr David NABARRO, MODERATOR

Now we invite the delegate from Brazil to make remarks. Brazil you have the floor.

Brazil

Thank you, Mr. Chair, I will be very concise. Brazil reiterates its full support to the agenda food systems and nutrition, as central to the work of the FAO and all the RDAs. We would like to highlight the quality of the document which addresses the multiple burden of malnutrition and presents strategies and solutions which can be applied in different national contexts.

Brazil supports and adopts within its domestic legislation, a broader conceptual approach, adequate and healthy food in order to incorporate perspectives beyond those biological, bringing elements referring to social cultural aspects to how the food is produced and to the level of processing of the food. In this sense we support this broader and updated concept of adequate and healthy food, to be taken into consideration within the elaboration of the voluntary guidelines. Thank you very much.

Mr David NABARRO, MODERATOR

Thank you very much indeed Brazil. So, we are going to try to have 3 more speakers. Thank you to the interpreters. I'm just saying to the panelists, I regret I don't think there will be time for you to have significant further comments. We will try our best. So, we would like to invite Kenya, the delegate from Kenya to take the floor please. Kenya you have the floor.

Kenya

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I must join Annas in thanking the panelists for the very comprehensive and educative presentation. We participated in the regional consultation for the Africa, Freedom for Africa in Addis Ababa, and we are very grateful for the comprehensive report by Ms. Ortega.

And just to emphasize 3 points that protection and regeneration of natural food systems, especially agroecology, really should be brought out. The guidelines should be able to assist us and to ensure soil

pollution free land. The other point is to foster sustainability of positive aspects of culture, social relations and indigenous knowledge. I think that really came out from the panelists. And the issue of consumer education for informed decisions.

As we all know the food which comes to the table, there has been a lot of decision that has been made on the same. Whether it is nutritious or not, the food choices and even the preparation methods really the consumer education and nutrition education is very important, and we are happy that it is highlighted in this program guidelines. We are also happy that the different governments at all levels, will be able to really align themselves to the guidelines, and that there is opportunity for that. Thank you Chair.

Mr David NABARRO, MODERATOR

Thank you. Lovely, thank you very much indeed. Now we go to the World Food Program please.

WFP

Thank you, Chair. Given the time I'll skip right to the 4 key points. WFP believes that the humanitarian angle should feature more prominently in the documents starting from the scope. The human and economic cost of not addressing food systems and nutrition and in a humanitarian context, are far too high for us to ignore. We believe the guidelines constitute a unique opportunity to promote systematic and comprehensive policies that aim to strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacity of food systems in response to climate change shocks and humanitarian crises.

The second point, in line with the recommendation 2b of the 2017 HLPE report on food systems and nutrition, WFP calls for the inclusion in the guidelines of a preventive and long-term approach that results in increased resilience to the humanitarian crisis. Disrupted and broken food systems are particularly vulnerable to shocks and disruptions and can be strengthened or altogether rebuilt through the creation of resilient food supply chains through improved food systems.

The third point, Chair, as already stated by the SUN coordinator the role of platforms such as the scaling up nutrition movement should be leveraged as they are already galvanizing multisector efforts for improved nutrition at the country level.

The final point, we would like to reiterate the important role that the private sector needs to play to make food systems work for nutrition and we stand ready to share WFP's experience and expertise in this area of work, in particular, through the co-convening of the SUN Business Network and work at local level with smallholder farmers and other initiatives involving the private sector.

Mr David NABARRO, MODERATOR

Thank you very much WFP. The last speaker on this section is Thailand. Thailand you have the floor.

Thailand

Thailand supports the voluntary guidelines on food systems and nutrition, and the involvement of our stakeholders in the voluntary guideline process. We also support the conceptual framework in the HLPE report.

Regarding the 3 policy entry points for food systems, transformation towards improved nutrition memory, food supply sales, food environments, and consumer behavior. Thailand is transforming the national food system. Several policies and objectives have been implemented to promote sustainable food systems and enable healthy diet, especially for children and women and vulnerable groups.

However for safeguard of smallholder, we would like to list our concern on the eventual use of voluntary guidelines as a benchmark for [unclear 03:00:55] assist our country in the context of food and nutrition, in order to avoid potential economic and social impact in the international forums, or even trade barriers.

We like the voluntary guidelines on food systems and nutrition, is a useful tool for changing food systems to ensure that food contributes to healthy diets, including combating malnutrition in all its forms. Thank you.

Mr David NABARRO, MODERATOR

Thank you so much, very lovely. So now each of our panelists who just want to reiterate your remarks, was really appreciated by so many people. Could you give one sentence final reactions.

Ms Emorn UDOMKESMALEE, Mahidol University, Thailand

Food is visible, nutrients are not. It is the time where we can empower food, using nutrition as part of the element to bring the food systems towards the global eradication of malnutrition in all its forms. Thank you very much.

Ms Bibi GIYOSE, NEPAD

Simply let's move beyond the words, let's move beyond platitudes. Let's take action now or never.

Ms Preeti AHUJA, Manager Latin America, Global Practice Agriculture & Food, World Bank

Just to say that food touches us all. We are heading out to lunch. Culture to technology, chefs to scientists. Let's all pull together to make it happen.

Mr David NABARRO, MODERATOR

Thank you for the chance to be moderating this session. I hand back now to the Chair.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, David, Dr Nabarro for managing an illuminating discussion. Thank you also to Miss Ahuja, Miss Giyose, and Miss Udomkesmalee.

As David and our panelists just said, we have to break now for lunch. We do not have more time, more interpretation time to do anything else. At 3 PM sharp, 3 PM sharp, 15:00 hours, we will reconvene here in the plenary room to finish item 5.

Now we have side events. I will ask the technical team to put the list of side events that are taking place now on the screen. And we also have a, Friends of the Chair meeting next door here in the Caribbean lounge, taking place now. Thank you.

15 October PM

OUTCOME OF THE FRIENDS OF THE CHAIR

Chairperson

I hope that everyone attended the several side events that we had during part of the lunch break.

I am really happy to put to Plenary the proposal as how we are going to continue. We are behind time but, we are going to try and make up for that time and try to get in line with what was planned when we approved not only the agenda but, also, the timetable for the implementation of that agenda.

Just so we are all on the same page, item two, on the state of food security and nutrition in the world, has still not been completed. We have a list of speakers who will be taking the floor on that item at the end of this afternoon's work. That is what I wanted to say about item two.

On item three, which is the CFS and the Sustainable Development Goals, lessons learned, on that the only thing that is still pending is this famous Chair's summary.

On item four, celebrating the international day of rural women, on that one we had a list of delegations who wanted to take the floor. We only had one member country, Burkina Faso, and we contacted them and they said that they could withdraw their name.

On item five, food systems and nutrition, that is still pending. As you remember, when we were introducing this, I explained that there will be two parts to this. In the first part, we were going to have the presentations and the panel and then in the second part, we would deal with the issue of the second international conference on nutrition. So, that is what we are going to be doing shortly because what we are going to do now is give you the outcome of the meeting that was held by the CFS friends of the Chairman group. That meeting was called in order to find a solution to a situation that arose here in the Plenary. Many members, member countries and NGOs took the floor and it was very difficult to actually come to an agreement as to how we would continue on the question of the Chair's summaries. The Chair convened a meeting of the friends of the Chair, members of the bureau and other delegates from their respective regions. So, we met next door in the Caribbean room as of 1 p.m. and we were all standing. There was a lot of people present in actual fact. We had representatives from all of the regional groups and in the course of that meeting, the Chair put forward a potential solution which I will sum up for you now.

As the Chairperson's report for issues debated by the Committee, the proposal is as follows. It will include the following text in what we will send to the Drafting Committee in order for them to prepare the draft of the final report which will be submitted to the Plenary on Friday afternoon. I am going to read this in English for you.

Committee heard a session, moderated by..., meaning the names and authority, the titles of the person who moderated and it follows, which included...

So, the Committee heard a session, moderated by X, which included;

- A keynote by, and then the person who provided that keynote, if a keynote was provided.
- A question and answer session with, and then the person or persons who participated from the podium in the question and answer session, if applicable.

- A panel discussion with, and then names and titles of the individuals that acted as panellists, again from the podium. Followed by statements by members and participants.

The full transcript of the session is included verbatim on the CFS website.

Now, I will explain further by reading what we will have for item three, outstanding in terms of the Chair's summary. It would read, what we would be sending if agreed to the Drafting Committee.

The Committee heard a session, moderated by Ms Carin Smaller, Director for Agriculture, Trade and Investment at the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), which included:

- A keynote speech by Ms Hilal Elver, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food.
- A question and answer session with Ms Maria Francesca Spatolisano, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs.
- A panel discussion with Mr Roy Jay S. Dacumos, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), The Philippines, Mr Neil Briscoe, Department for International Development (DfID), United Kingdom, Mr Saul Vicente Vasquez, International Indian Treaty Council (IITC) and Mr Sean de Cleene, World Economic Forum.

The full transcript of the session is included verbatim on the CFS website.

This is the example of what the Chair's summary would be for item three. I would also like to add that this is technically possible. We have discussed, we have had a meeting with the FAO technical team which is responsible for drawing up the transcriptions for the meetings of the Conference and Council and they have told us that it is technically possible to have that ready so that it is already on the CFS website before the final report is approved.

I can tell you very briefly that the Secretary, Mr Henderson, who is present here, on the 18th of May, when he came into the Secretariat, he sat down with the members of the Secretariat and they went through, point by point, looking at the cost breakdown of this Plenary and they saw point by point where savings could be made and, actually, we are talking about quite a substantial figure, a six figure number, USD 100,000 and so that figure largely covers the cost which would be involved in actually establishing these transcriptions. To stress once again, those would be ready by Friday morning.

I would like to invite the Secretariat, at this stage, to inform us which items on the agenda of the 46th Session would be covered by this formula which was put by the Chair to the informal group of friends of the Chair. Everyone there agreed that that was the path to be followed. Obviously, the Chairman raised the point, we had a conversation. The original proposal was tweaked here and there as questions arose, clarification was requests and everyone agreed that this was a good to put to Plenary. This is one of the points that emerged from that meeting. The Secretariat is now going to inform us on which points of the agenda we will actually use this formula.

Secretary

Thank you, Mr Chair. We are looking at the document CFS2019\46\INF.1. The items that this would address include items two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine and eleven. That is nine, we have decision boxes for items ten and the item that will be addressed Thursday late afternoon at 5.30 p.m. So, nine items in the order I have mentioned.

Chairperson

Maybe I should add that the items under any other matters, item 12, because those are decisions as well, the election of the new Chair, the new bureau, the location and dates for CFS47.

Again, we would be utilizing this formula for all matters except organizational, that is item one, except for the multi-year programme of work, the MYPAL, which is item ten, for which there is a decision box that the bureau is sending to Plenary for consideration and all the decisions under other matters, the rules amendment, the election of the Chair and the bureau, the location and venue for the next CFS and, of course, the approval of final report because all those are decision boxes that have already been pre-cooked for debate and decision by the Plenary.

Can I then get agreement from Plenary that this is a formula that we can utilize for the items indicated?

I see general agreement. The hammer is coming down. Thank you.

V. FOOD SYSTEMS AND NUTRITION (continued)

Chairperson

Now, continue on item five. We have a list of speakers outstanding from when we were forced to adjourn the morning session because of time and I will immediately give the floor, the standing use is one minute. We will listen from Switzerland, Argentina and Canada in that order, for one minute. Please?

Switzerland

Thank you, Chair. I will try to keep it short and get to our points we want to make in terms of this important topic. First, in order to be in line with the SDGs, nutrition aims to be healthy for humans as well as healthy for the planet and is, therefore, based on sustainable agriculture production and food systems. Only then can the implementation of these guidelines add true value towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals as globally agreed in the 2030 Agenda. The consumption side cannot be addressed in isolation from the production side. We will not achieve the transformation to sustainable food systems without sustainable diets.

Following the discussions held in the open-ended working group, we welcome that the CFS Secretariat, in collaboration with FAO and WHO will propose a definition of sustainable and healthy diets to be included in a draft one of the voluntary guidelines on food systems and nutrition.

Second, we agree that nutrition education is key to empower and equip people with the information and skills necessary to adopt healthy eating habits and that school nutrition programmes play an important role herein. However, we would like to reiterate the fact that the choice individuals are able or not able to make is, to a large degree, influenced and defined by the food environment. Therefore, the importance of an enabling environment that facilitate consumers choice towards healthy and sustainable diets needs to be strengthened in draft one. Thank you, so much.

Chairperson

Thank you, Switzerland. Argentina, please?

Argentina

Thank you, Chair. The Republic of Argentina believes that the voluntary guidelines constitute a useful instrument to support countries in addressing current hunger issues through intersectoral policies and multi-disciplinary policies which contribute to sustainable development.

On the document itself, for Argentina, it is important that the issues relating to trade policy addressed by that document should be in line with multilateral trade rules to ensure that they do not become arbitrary, unjustified discrimination or limits on trade in food. We should have a list such as buying locally, which would overcome the idea that local products are less nutritious than other comes which are imported from elsewhere.

We also think it is important to include the idea of reducing food waste and loss in the document. We are ready to join the regional consultation which is going to be held in Latin America and the Caribbean and to work together in working out these guidelines next year. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you. We were talking about the 28th-29th of this month in Panama. Canada has the floor.

Canada

Thank you, Chair. Canada is very supportive of the approach taken by the voluntary guidelines on food systems and nutrition. We are encouraged by the work presented today on the regional consultation process. We look forward to the results of the North American consultation and thank CFS and our US colleagues for making these consultations possible.

We would like to echo the comments made by the panellists just before the lunch break regarding the voice of women, girls and grandmothers that need to be heard in these voluntary guidelines. Furthermore, the panellists made important reference to indigenous knowledge. Indigenous people are vulnerable to food insecurity, have distinct food procurement and distribution practices and are important partners in the development of food systems approach.

This year, Canada launched its first ever food policy which takes a similar approach to working across food systems, from production to consumption and to disposal. Thank you for your attention.

Chairperson

Thank you, Canada. France has the floor.

France

Thank you, Chairman. France supports the statement made on behalf of the European Union by Finland. France welcomes the work of the open working group and supports the voluntary guidelines. We feel this is a major project by the CFS which will involve everyone in the necessary transition towards healthy and sustainable systems. We believe that the three Rome-Based Agencies have a major role to play in all of this. We need a crosscutting systematic approach. We need to address governance issues to take account of local and national contexts as well and also take account of issues affecting this such as climate change. We need ambitious guidelines and we feel that the multi-party platform has to be used to feed the discussions within the CFS and this will all then be forwarded to the Secretariat of the forthcoming weeks. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you, France. Japan now has the floor.

Japan

Thank you, very much, Mr Chairman, for allowing us to take the floor. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the open ended working group on nutrition, led by Doctor Livian Ortega, the technical team and the CFS Secretariat for pushing this important process ahead. Mr Chairperson, allow us to remind that the Government of Japan will host the Tokyo nutrition for growth summit 2020 late next year and, in this regard, this guideline will be a very timely and prominent output that will serve as a major thrust towards the objectives of the United Nations decade of action, some movements and other key nutrition initiatives.

To this end, we would like to express our continued and active participation to the process of the guidelines towards its adoption at CFS47. Based on the outcomes of the initiative that we are leading for Africa by the name of initiative for food and nutrition security for Africa.

Finally, Mr Chairperson, let us conclude by informing that the Government of Japan, in collaboration with partners will host nutrition related side event later today at 6.00 p.m. at red room. All the CFS participants are cordially invited. Thank you, very much.

Chairperson

Thank you, sir. New Zealand, please?

New Zealand

Thank you, Chair. We just want to express our thanks for the update on the preparation process towards the development of the CFS voluntary guidelines on food systems and nutrition.

Given the issues raised yesterday, and no doubt to be raised at the World Food Day tomorrow, on the significant challenges to address growing rates of malnutrition and over nutrition globally and as we work towards a food system summit in 2021, this is an essential piece of work coming at the right time. The HLP report forms a valuable basis for the development of an effective, evidence based guidelines that are useful for member countries and the wide variation of country contexts.

New Zealand has submitted comments to clarify some areas in the current draft, highlighting areas for future refinement, as have many others from Governments, the private sector and civil society and we look forward to contributing to further drafts and we would encourage the Steering Committee to fully take these comments on board as the guidelines are further developed for CFS approval next year. Thank you, Chair.

Chairperson

Thank you, sir. We have two speakers and the list is closed, Norway and Spain. Norway?

Norway

Thank you, Mr Chair, for giving us the word. We want to state that Norway supports the development of these guidelines and that this approach is now included in our foreign and development policies with our new action plan on sustainable food systems.

That said, we hope that the guidelines will reflect the different types of food systems as AHLPE report recognizes. We think this is a little vague in the zero draft. We also hope that contradictive and competing interests in food systems will be addressed in the guidelines. For example, both farmers and private sectors want to develop the system as part of their business and prospect of increased income. Various Governments want the system to make healthy food more accessible for all, including the poor rural and urban consumer. These are possible conflicts of interest and they are also other topics that should be addressed in the guidelines.

We want to emphasise the important value of aquatic food in the food systems. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you, Norway, and now the last speaker on the list, Spain.

Spain

Thank you, for giving me the floor, Mr Chairman. Spain fully supports what has been said by the European Union and its member states. Spain sees this issue as a clear example of how the SDGs have to be implemented and supported. We are working towards a future that must be sustainable if it is to be at all and we need to achieve sustainable food security with balanced, healthy diets which fully respect the environment.

The major challenge is to achieve SDG-2, linked to SDG-12 and reducing by half food waste by 2030 could also be a key towards greater food security. We have to make efforts in the most developed countries from the consumer point of view and the last part of the chain as in developing countries. In this case, in respect of the first part of the food chain, in other words, in the fields and in industry, local producers with short marketing chains will have a fundamental role to play.

In the case of Spain, as elsewhere, over the last few years we have seen the population moving away from traditional diets. But, you can count on the support of Spain to bring about the necessary development of these guidelines. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you. I think we can now move to the second part of item five. This is the progress report on follow-up to the second international conference on nutrition, held five years ago. That gave rise to the Rome Declaration on nutrition and the framework for action to allow these goals to be achieved. I have a whole lot of notes here which are very useful and which have been drawn up to introduce this theme but, the Secretariat is begging me, given the fact that we are behind, that we should all work together in order to speed up our work so that, at the end of this afternoon's work, we will be able to wrap up on those statements relating to item two. So, I will do without the introduction to this as such and I will give the floor to Anna Lartey, Director of Nutrition at FAO, and her WHO counterpart, Francesco Branca. Anna, you have the floor.

Ms Anna Lartey, ESN

Excellency's, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I am presenting here, follow-up on the second international conference on nutrition, including implementation of the United Nations decade of action on nutrition. This presentation will be jointed presented by myself and Dr Francesco Branca, the Director of Nutrition at WHO.

The United Nations decade of action on nutrition proclaimed, through Resolution 70/259, provides all stakeholders with a unique, time bound opportunity to strengthen efforts to implement the ICN2 commitments and to reach the global nutrition and diet related non-communicable targets and also to contribute to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

CFS is acknowledge in the Resolution as a global coordination mechanism and is called upon to play an important role in supporting the implementation of the nutrition decade. It is a pleasure to present briefly some key points from the second progress report on the follow-up to the second international conference on nutrition, including the implementation of the United Nations decade of action on nutrition. This report presents the progress made since CFS44.

Acting through joint FAO and WHO Secretariat, the nutrition decade encourages Governments to set and achieve specific measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound commitments. Smart commitments for agent investment, action and collaboration at national and local levels.

In 2017, Brazil, Ecuador and Italy officially submitted their smart commitments to the nutrition decade Secretariat. In order to support the implementation of the nutrition decade, FAO and WHO jointly released a guide for countries to translate the policies and actions recommended in the ICN2 framework for action into country specific commitments.

Another modality of engagement within the nutrition decade, action networks, to share experiences, exchange good practices and illustrate successes and challenges among countries. Several global and regional action networks have been convened by countries. The most recent ones are the global action network on nutrition labelling established by France, Australia and Chile in February 2019 and a global action network on traditional healthy and sustainable diets launched by Italy during the World Health Assembly.

Concerning the engagement of stakeholders induced by the nutrition decade, the Secretariat has convened quarterly teleconferences with civil society mechanism and the ICN2 civil society Organizations, [inaudible: 00:31:37] group since December 2018 and to share information on the decade and to discuss civil society contributions to the implementation of the decade.

The global panel on agriculture and food systems for nutrition pledged its support to the nutrition decade in February 2019. In May 2019, the international food and beverage alliance committed to eliminate industrially processed trans-fat from global food supply by 2023. I would like to emphasise that the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Resolution 72/306 in July 2018, recognizing the progress made in advancing the nutrition decade's implementation, while also expressing concerns that the world was off track to achieve the global nutrition targets and called upon Governments and their partners to intensify efforts and scale-up commitments and investments for nutrition under the decade's work programme.

At this point, I will give the floor to my colleague, Dr Francesco Branca, to talk to us about the mid-term review.

Mr Francesco Branca, WHO

Thank you, Dr Lartey. Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, distinguished delegates. As Anna was saying, we have had a United Nations General Assembly Resolution 72/306 and this Resolution was looking a little bit more into the future and noted the intention of convening open and inclusive dialogues at mid-term, which is 2020 or 2021 and I must say this is also a customary practice for decades, as per ECOSOC Resolution 1989/84.

The objective of the mid-term review of the decade would be to assess and evaluate the achievements in individual policy areas for the ICN to frame a fraction over the period of 2016-2020. We would basically look at what has been achieved under six action areas of the decade's work programme. As we have already done once we will be producing a progress report to the General Assembly. This is what we do, WHO and FAO work together, prepare a report to send to the office of the Secretary-General who then transmits to the General Assembly. This year, we would like to have a much more inclusive report, so we have asked different groups, different constituencies to share with us their progress, their achievement. So, we would build on what has already been submitted to the governing bodies of WHO, the World Health Assembly and to the FAO, the FAO Assembly and we will add the reports from civil society, private sector, the scaling up nutrition movement.

We think that the mid-term review would also be a forward looking opportunity. We working on a paper that will highlight areas for future focus where scaled up actions will be essential for achieving the global nutrition targets and related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. As you heard, there is a lot

more that needs to be done, that can be done, to be put it back on track. This will also coincide with several processes of analysis of food system that several academic groups are doing at the moment. So, it is a good time to look forward.

We envisage that the review process will lead to a revision of the work programme of the decade which, as you know, is an open ended document and identify focus areas for priority action for the second phase of the nutrition decade. We would like to see more commitment from all actors to further the policy areas of the decade. The most important input into the work programme will be the views of the different constituencies. We met yesterday with the civil society mechanism. We will meet on Thursday with the private sector mechanism and we will create opportunities to discuss with different groups the progress achieved and, above all, what we could do together in the next five years. In particular, we envision to consult on the new focus of the work programme with member states. For this purpose, delegates from representatives in Rome and permanent missions in Geneva, possibly could be brought together through video conferencing facilities as we did for the ICN2 and the preparation of the decade.

This entire process would then culminate into a high-level meeting which could take place during the middle of next year and we think that this could happen in New York, possibly around the time of the high-level political forum in July 2020. I would like to conclude by cordially inviting all members of the Committee of Food Security to engage and contribute to this mid-term review process or the nutrition decade. We are aware that a lot has been happening, many new policy areas, many new investment initiatives and we would really like member states to share all this wealth of information with us to understand where we are. The Committee of Food Security is crucial in fighting hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition worldwide and in convening dialogues among its members to make the nutrition decade a success. Thank you, for your attention.

Applause

Chairperson

Thank you, very much indeed, to both of you, Anna and Francesco, for those presentations which have shown us the progress made since that conference held five years ago. Given our severe time constraints, we are not going to be able to have a round of interventions from the floor. The Secretariat, however, is going to explain what possibilities are open to us.

Secretary

As we have three items remaining this afternoon, closing item two on SOFI which was have a list of about 15 members, for the first time we are posting those statements at the request of delegations on the CFS website. If anyone would take the opportunity to send us, by e-mail, their statements in lieu of a three minute or five minute intervention, that will help save us time to get to the remaining agenda items. Thank you for those who choose that option.

Chairperson

Dr Lartey has said that although she is fully aware of the major problems we have with time, she was asking if we could maybe open the floor just for a few very brief moments. We will close the list of speakers with Germany, Russia and Brazil who have asked for the floor. I would ask you to take no more than one minute each, please. Germany first.

Germany

Thank you, Mr Chair. Germany was and is a strong support of the United Nations decade of action on nutrition and a partner in achieving improved nutrition for all. With our national action plan, the German national initiative to promote healthy diets and physical activity, we strive to make the healthy choice the easy choice within the different settings.

As indicated by the SOFI Report, school environment is one of the most important settings for improving nutrition sustainably. Germany, therefore, intends to establish a world coalition on the provision of health school meals within the United Nations decade of action on nutrition. This world coalition is supposed to expand the coverage of school feeding programmes and especially ones to improve the quality of provided school meals worldwide. It will bring countries together by developing a shared understanding of the policies and programmes that can tackle both undernutrition and overweight in school children. Countries will learn from each other how to improve nutrition in the context of school meals.

Germany stands ready to contribute with this action and work to the ICN2 commitments and the United Nations decade of action on nutrition. We warmly invited everybody to join the world coalition on the provision of healthy school meals. Thank you, Mr Chair.

Chairperson

Thank you, Germany. Russia, please? One minute.

Russian Federation

Distinguished Chair, thank you, very much, for giving us the floor and the possibility to speak. We wanted to point out a few technical matters and put them to the CFS Secretariat and partly for the CFS bureau on the document that has been submitted for discussion, CFS2019\46\3. This document is being considered as the second biennium report of FAO and WHO on progress in the implementation of decisions and recommendation on second nutrition conference. When it comes to the content of the second biennium report, it does not correspond to the second biennial report that was earlier discussed in June of this year, during the 41st session of the FAO Conference and which was well received. What is more, in the presented to the CFS for discussion, references are made to a concept which has not been agreed on by consensus by FAO member states, that is sustainable diets and here we would ask the Secretariat of the CFS to clarify which of the two second biennium reports of the FAO and WHO we should regard as definitive and has this version of the document been agreed on by the Secretariats of the FAO and WHO and also to explain the reasons behind the introduction of changes to the June report. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you, Russia. Brazil, please? One minute.

Brazil

Thank you, Mr Chair. I would like to thank Mrs Lartey and Mr Branca for their presentation. I will make it very short. On a nation perspective, Brazil would like to convey its satisfaction with a good performance of the regional networks which have been able to strengthen the national agendas and the regional and inter-regional cooperation on nutrition reaching up to 40 countries in one single network. We thank all the support that the FAO and the WHO PAHO have been giving to action networks and believe

that their increased engagement would be beneficial to the strengthening of the networks around the globe. We find ourselves in the end of the first half of the decade of action on nutrition and would like to invite all like-minded countries to take part in the action networks in which Brazil participates. Thank you, very much.

Chairperson

Thank you. France?

France

Thank you, Chair. Just very quickly, in order to inform you that in February, in Paris, France and Australia, together with the support of the Secretariat for the decade on nutrition, some information with support of 19 countries from our continents. This will enable to us to support our countries giving high quality information on nutrition to the consumer and to protect their health. This is what the nutri-score programme offers in France and other European countries. There is webinars, a common platform for sharing knowledge, the support of labelling for better nutrition in countries and, also, conforming to the SDGs. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you. The very, very, very last speak now, Japan?

Japan

Thank you. I just want to make a very, very short comment. Japan welcomed the progress written in the progress report. In updating this progress, we appreciate goal setting, monitoring and evaluation. In this regard, Tokyo Nutrition Summit 2020 will provide a good opportunity for all stakeholders to update progress and review further action. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you, Japan. I will ask Dr Lartey and Mr Branca to briefly answer those questions which have been asked by Plenary.

Ms Anna Lartey, ESN

Thank you, very much, Russia, for your question. Yes, FAO submitted a report to FAO Conference and WHO also submitted a report to their Conference. Even though, generally, the two documents will have similar information but not identical because we are submitting to FAO Conference, we highlighted substantially the work of FAO and then WHO also did similar. There are some areas that we work on together and then that will also show in the document. With the CFS document, this is a singly document of the two Organizations coming to CFS. So, it has got more expanded information compared to just going to FAO alone or WHO alone. Maybe Francesco, you may have the word?

Chairperson

Thank you, very much indeed, Drs Lartey and Branca and thank you to all of you for having discussed item five which is now concluded.

The Chair's summary will be in line with what we have just agreed. In other words, it will indicate the fact that we have these presentations under item five and then it will point out that there will be a transcription on the Committee's website.

VI. URBANIZATION, RURAL TRANSFORMATION and IMPLICATIONS for FSN

Thank you, very much, indeed, that concludes that item and we move now to item six, urbanization, rural transformation and implications for food security and nutrition. We will have only 30 minutes for a presentation and feedback on the outcomes of two intercessional events held on this subject and the associated challenges. We had scripted the 30 minutes long before we were faced with this time constraint that we have here now.

I will immediately pass the floor to my dear colleague and old friend, Ambassador Hans Hoogeveen of The Netherlands. He is the Chair of the FAO Programme Committee. That is the Evaluation Committee of FAO programmes, for those not familiar with it and who conducted this workstream during the past three years. The floor is yours, Hans.

Mr Hans Hoogeveen, Chairperson OEWG Urbanization

Thank you, very much, Mario, and I do hope that, with this presentation, I can spice up a little bit of your life, not only with words but because yesterday when I was preparing the presentation, I saw on Youtube a video about the work which we have done because we working on urbanization, world transformation but, especially on women and youth and I thank the Chair and the Secretariat for the flexibility for a last moment presentation of a video. This is visualizing the work which we have done and which is, very much, need and it is under the title, this is how we rise. If we can show the vide?

Video

Applause

Mr Hans Hoogeveen, Chairperson OEWG Urbanization

We have to rise, that is the clear message, not only for women, not only for a nation but, certainly, also, for the youth. In the last month, we have seen thousands of youths marching for climate change but, where are the people who are marching for the 900 million people living in hunger. Mario and I were in New York at the climate summit and all heads of state spoke about the urgency of the climate change agenda. But, none of them were referring to the food security or the food system needs and we have to bring that on par with climate change and, of course, we know the countdown to 2030 in which we have to achieve zero hunger in all other development goals has started.

A little more than ten years to go and we all know that we are lagging far behind. The rise in hunger, 40 million people last year, undernourishment and obesity brings us urgent challenges in the face of our 2030 Agenda and especially both in the cities as well as in the rural areas. The impact of our food system on climate, water use, biodiversity loss, land and marine degradation and public health is a fear and not acceptable anymore. That was a clear message coming out of the two events.

We also see the political tensions between the regions. If we will not solve them, we cannot solve anything when it comes to rural transformation, urbanization. Times call for not only renewed global action but, certainly, regional efforts to lay a foundation for concerted action based on undisputed scientific information. Ladies and gentlemen, it seems to be a little bit of a depressing story. As we have

seen in the video, it is also a message of hope and the crisis are man-made, so we can solve them and perhaps better today than speak about women's day. For every manmade crisis, there is a women made solution.

When we look to the two events, the main objectives of the two events were the following, to assess the feasibility of working towards policy and convergence to support governments and other stakeholders at the national and local level in addressing food security and nutrition within the context of chasing rural/urban dynamics. It were lively events, well participated with many interesting and innovative ideas. The two events especially focused on the food security and nutrition impact over urbanization and rural transformation on lower income groups as well as promoting youth and women engagement and employment in food system across the rural urbanization continuum.

During the two events and also during the working group the last three years, it became clear that we cannot and could not arrive at a consensus for continuing this working stream. But, as we see now, the MYPO, I think we have a positive message for three crucial elements of the MYPO for the period 2020-2023 because we can link the outcomes to the workstream on women's empowerment and gender equality. Respecting, protecting and fulfilling rights of women, including their equal participation in decision making was mentioned as pivotal to addressing food security and nutrition change challenges across the rural/urban continuum.

It also linked to the workstream on promoting youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems. Youth was perceived as deserving a targeted focus. The growing engagement of youth who want to be agents of change in their communities clearly emerge from the discussions and we should give them not only a voice but, also, a role in the transformations.

Last but not least, it is also linked to the workstream on inducing inequalities for food security and nutrition. The accelerated urbanization trends and subsequent difficulties faced by urban areas in delivering decent jobs, sustainable livelihoods and healthy diets for all were highlighted as a critical development and a critical challenge requiring an innovative, comprehensive, inter-disciplinary and inter-institutional approach. We already saw some promising events coming out of these two events. We see regional meetings in Latin America as well as two that see 40 major events where they are taking up some of the measures and ideas coming out of these two events.

It is clear that we have to rise. This evening, we will have a side event with the youth and I do hope that you show that we have to support the youth and how we can support the youth. Let us not forget, in a month's time, we have here, 3,000 schoolers and students coming to Rome from all over the world for their summit weekend. We can make the change, let our hopeful signals, although we could not arrive at a consensus for the workstream. Our work continues. Thank you, Mr Chair.

Chairperson

Let us open up the floor briefly for comments or questions. I see Switzerland.

Switzerland

Thank you, Chair. Urbanization, rural transformation are very important subjects for the whole world with significant impact on food security and nutrition. It is also a challenge for Switzerland. Production in semi-urban and urban zones are becoming greater and greater to meet urban demand for local produce. In Switzerland, a number of initiatives aimed to link systematically rural and urban zones which has enabled us to have an innovation platform for local consumption which enables us to take into account aspects of nutrition and food and the choice for consumers but, also, takes into account work conditions and remuneration for producers.

The Committee, which is meeting today and this week, has a very important role to play in this discussion. The importance of urbanization and rural transformation. Given the importance of the subject, Switzerland regrets, at the two intercessional events only took place at the end of 2018 and the beginning of 2019 and that the subject of urbanization and rural transformation has not been followed up by stages which would lead to political convergence.

Nevertheless, Switzerland is very glad to see that the MYPO of 2020-2023 which will approve on Thursday foresees having workstreams which create a link between the subject of urbanization and the rural transformation. In particular, the workstream on youth and the reduction of inequalities. Also, in the development of voluntary guidelines on the food systems and nutrition, strengthening links between urban and rural zones in order to provide healthy food diets which has been highlighted during the consultation process. Thank you, Chair.

Chairperson

Thank you, Switzerland. Well, the Secretariat has proposed and the Chair agrees that we should give speakers two minutes. I am going to read the list. We have got CSM, Argentina, Private Sector, Finland and Thailand and then the Democratic Republic of Congo and Afghanistan.

CSM

Thank you, very much indeed, for giving us the floor. Good afternoon, Andreas Lucid is my name and I am taking the floor as to speak on behalf of those facing food insecurity in the cities. We would like to share with you certain general observations relating to this workflow.

We are living in an age where, for the first time, the urban population is greater than the rural one and we are now seeing changes in agriculture and urbanization and this has brought about major challenges in respect to food security and nutrition for the entire global population. In spite of all the resources made available and the work of many people, the workflow has not managed to come up with some answers to some key issues. We think that we should have sought for a focus to begin with which will be crucial to such a complex workflow and it was a little bit vague. They were changed on various occasions which became very confusing for the main stakeholders involved.

On the thematic actions which have been presented by the Dutch Ambassador, on those points we would like to raise the following. The results reflect quite well the debates but, there is little mention of civil society and a point that we have made that the present situation just has not happened by itself, it is the result of policies which affect and increase inequality which means that land is being lost as is biodiversity and there are economic losses for small scale producers including women and children and young people in particular. Land is being lost which should be used to feed the cities.

This is the result of educational systems and perceptions which see agriculture as being a type of job with no status and there is little support being provided for young people and those living in the rural environment. The sentence which sums up the conclusion of this report, we feel is out of place and, therefore, we hope that something can be done to ensure that the work put in under this workflow has not been in vein and that, on food systems and nutrition, we can do further work and particularly focus more on young people, bringing them into issues relating to food security and nutrition. We want to see jobs worthy of young people being created which allow them dignity and we really hope that these reforms can come about.

Chairperson

Thank you CSM. Argentina?

Argentina

We would like to express our thanks for the provision of the basic document for this session which includes the basic conclusions for 2018-2019 for the links between urbanization, rural transformation implications for food security and nutrition. We know that this provides an awful lot of opportunities in a global environment where, by 2050, we should see a major increase in food production to satisfy demand.

Obviously, rural development is crucial because it is only by developing the rural areas and creating attractive conditions for jobs and investment and particularly young people that we can really tap into the full potential of the rural section. Argentina is committed to working on this front and encouraging our rural populations to learn about innovative technology which will ensure quality work. We also want to build capacity and try to breathe new life into rural areas.

Finally, Mr Chairman, we would like to stress how important it is to promote investment which will bring more interest into food change and increase the production capacity at local level so that we can also provide for exports as well which will help us combat poverty and eradicate hunger. We agree with the comments made by certain other delegations on how this workflow can be linked to those issues which have been included under the MYPO for the next four years. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you, Argentina. The Private Sector, please?

PSM

Thank you, Chair. My name is Cassandra Hayward and I am part of Food Secure Canada's Youth Caucus Executive Committee. We have all spoken about how we want to make the CFS Plenary more vibrant, so you have our appreciation for both the way this session has been organized, the topic and, of course, the Chair.

We are also extremely supportive of the CFS's understanding of the urgency of involving youth and women in the urbanization and rural transformation debate at the local, nation and global level.

During the intersessional events, the degradation of rural areas characterized by poor infrastructure and low access to services and education, especially by youth and women, was highlighted as a key driver for the exodus towards urban areas. We need to support the growth potential of rural areas through appropriate policies and investments in infrastructure and this also includes the need to reform the basic education system to include food and agriculture in school curricular to make youth aware of the potential of agriculture and food systems as viable employment options.

This means developing the skills and talent of young people through training and mentorship in recognizing that access to land and resources to foster youth's own investment engagement is also vital. Greater policy integration is needed, both horizontally, bringing together different sectors and different stakeholders, and vertically, bringing together actors at local, national and international levels. Local and regional Governments and cities, therefore, have a key role to play. A dialogue between rural and urban actors must be established and small and medium urban centres have potential in developing inclusive food systems and play a key role in rural-urban linkages.

Young people, as you are all now very aware of, are actively involved in addressing climate change. Youth and women should be given the opportunity and a voice both at the local level and more involved in the relevant national and international processes as well as the institutions, including the Rome-Based Agencies and CFS. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you, Private Sector. Finland now has the floor.

Finland

Thank you, Mr Chair. I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 member states. We would like to thank the CFS Secretariat, the technical task team and members and, in particular, the members of the open-ended working group for the presentation of this document and the participants of the two intersessional events for all their hard work.

Urbanization and rural transformation increasingly shape people's livelihoods and opportunities and the challenge they face and hence their food security. Given the important linkages between SDGs two and 11, tackling these issues is also necessary in the context of the 2030 Agenda.

An innovative and comprehensive interdisciplinary and inter-institutional approach is required in order to better understand the complexity of the issues and address food security challenges in both rural and urban areas. In addition, we should explore the potential offered by territorial approaches as an effective analytical and operational framework for understanding and addressing these issues.

Those challenges linked to urbanization and rural transformation require proper policies to be developed and implemented through increased dialogue between rural and urban actors at all levels, the involvement of young people who will be the next generation of food producers and the involvement of women as well as greater responsible public and private investment.

Considering its relevance and implications for food security and nutrition, the topic should remain high on the CFS agenda. We recommend starting a process to prepare solid terms of reference for the preparation of the HLBA report to be presented for the CFS during the 2023-2027 MYPO. Thank you, very much, Mr Chair.

Chairperson

Thank you. Now, I have Thailand. Please?

Thailand

Thank you, Mr Chairman. Thailand has an honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Asian Regional Group. First of all, we would like to express our appreciation for the dedicated force in recognizing the traumatic events and delivering several important messages regarding food security and nutrition. In the context of changing dynamics of urbanization and rural transformation, two focus areas are relevant to our regions where urbanization rate is rapidly increasing and rural populations is the world's largest. According to the last statistic of the United Nations department of economics and social affairs, 54 percent of the world's urban population and 90 percent of the world's rural population live in Asia. Moreover, rural population is mostly composed of the poor smallholder with large youth populations and approximately 43 percent of women farmers with low education levels.

In addition to youth and women, identified as the vulnerable and most effected by the dynamic trends of urbanization and rural transformation, we would also like to emphasise that smallholders, particularly low income smallholders, is the vulnerable group specific to Asian regional context. As such, policies and strategic plans aimed at facilitating, smoothing and mitigating the ongoing transitions must take into account the specificity, the regional and national contexts to achieve SDG under Agenda 2030.

Many Asian countries have already started the implementations of policies and plans to reduce vulnerabilities and to build capacity of the youth, women and smallholders. For instance, through programme targeted on young farmers, women entrepreneurs programme and school feeding programmes. With this statement, Asia support all key messages highlighted in the document CFS2019\46\4 and call for concrete actions with the comparative advantage of CFS in addressing the issue of urbanization and rural transformation and the implications for food security and nutrition which will be prioritized in the global politics agenda, especially in the frames of the United Nations decade on action on nutrition and the United Nations decade of family farming. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you, Thailand. The Democratic Republic of Congo now has the floor.

Democratic Republic of Congo

Thank you, very much, Chair and moderator of our session. Today I am taking the floor on behalf of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and I would like to take advantage to thank those who have spoken about investment in rural areas and to say, also, that food security and nutrition is a problem that the DRC is trying to resolve together with the assistance of its technical partners, FAO, IFAD and the World Bank. We have tried to come up with a new concept which talking about intelligent agriculture for nutrition and this concept is something that gives us the opportunity to make the most of all our wealth, our potential in the DRC, whether it ben in rural areas or in semi-urban areas.

Today, throughout the DRC, which has some 80 million inhabitants, 75 percent are women that are involved in agriculture, feeding the population. Now, oddly enough, children from zero to five years old are suffering from malnutrition and pregnant women, about 5 million of them, are suffering from anaemia as a result of a lack of highly nutritional food.

Today, we have setup a programme for food security and nutrition in agriculture. We have setup a national programme for the agriculture for nutrition under the aegis of the Ministry of Health. I am someone who is from the Ministry of Agriculture and the investment that we are carrying out is to try to identify and evaluate all highly nutritional foods that have developed in a decentralized way throughout the provinces as a pilot project. We have pinpointed provinces that have a high agricultural potential.

I would like to thank you once again for having given me the floor, since we are appealing for assistance from all our partners in order to be able to conclude these programme as well as we can on food security and nutrition. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you. We have to final speakers, Afghanistan and Morocco. Two minutes each please. Afghanistan?

Afghanistan

Thank you, Chairperson. Chairperson, I am honoured to make this short statement on behalf of the Near-East Group. It is estimated that in the Near-East and North Africa, which make up 20 countries, their population by 2050 will reach 725 million. Out of this, 70 percent will be urban. High rates of urbanization in the countries of Near-East and North Africa combined with adverse effects of climate, prolonged armed conflict and protracted crisis have created severe challenges to help sanitation, education, infrastructure and the availability of food and water to large cities and peri-urban areas. All

these factors raise the risk of overweight obesity, micro-nutrient deficiency and the spread of non-communicable diseases.

Chairperson, the Near-East Group wishes to pay tribute to the outcome of the two thematic events of 19 November 2018 and 4 February 2019 and gladly endorse the ten Roman points listed under paragraph five of CFS2019\46\4, especially point three which says, the interconnectedness between urban and rural sector, point number four, active involvement of women and youth in the process of urbanization and rural transformation and point seven, peer learning and knowledge exchange. Thank you, Chairperson.

Chairperson

Thank you, Afghanistan speaking for the Near-East. Now, for the last speaker, Morocco.

Morocco

Chair, the delegations of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of Congo are taking the floor on behalf of the African Group under item six on this agenda. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the CFS for the relevance of the action that they are taking in the field of food security and nutrition within the context of rural and urban areas and also what is found in paragraph five of the document, in particular when it comes to the interdependence between the urban and the rural sector, the participation of women and youth in the rural transformation and apprenticeship through exchange of knowledge.

However, among the areas most affected by food insecurity and the areas most committed to eradicate hunger, we are taking particular actions in order to take up the challenges of food security and nutrition. We are working hand in hand with the Director-General, Mr Qu Dongyu, and the priority is to work in favour of those living in the most vulnerable areas of the world affected by food crisis and highly populated areas, the majority of which are to be found on the African continent.

Chair, in addition to the problems of market access and lack of financing, the increase in populations, non-sustainable agriculture, all these are factors that affect mostly food security in Africa. Given the increase of urbanization, which goes up by four percent a year, which in 2030, this will reach 53 percent before reaching 60 percent ten years after that. We very much depend on the rural population in order to ensure food security and livestock which greatly affects food security throughout the continent. The rapid development and inclusive development in Africa is vital to meet this challenge to eradicate poverty, to meet the requirements of the youth and to reach the SDGs.

In order to do this, the African Regional Group would like to urge the FAO to help them in stimulating agriculture production and the structure in high quality production, strengthening women in rural areas, meeting the challenges of climate change and also to shore up the activities that we are taking for woman and youth. Thank you, Chair.

Chairperson

Thank you, Morocco and Africa. We will now ask the Ambassador if he can answer those questions which have been raised and expand a little bit on the base of what we have heard this afternoon. Thank you.

Mr Hans Hoogeveen, Chairperson OEWG Urbanization

Thank you, very much, Chair. I would like to thank all the delegates who took the floor and by your comments you saw how the discussion was not only this afternoon but, how the discussion was during the

events. It is clear that urbanization and rural transformation is a very complex issue. There is a lot at stake, many people, as was stated, going to the city, hopefully finding jobs but, not finding jobs and at the same time, the cities depend on the food production in the rural areas. The ultimate question would be, of course, if we cannot solve this problem, who is going to produce our food in the rural areas because the food cannot only be produced in cities and I think, during the discussions and the preparations, it also became clear that a lot is not known yet about the linkages between urbanization and rural transformation and much more research has to be done to get a more evidence based approach.

At the same time, the key messages coming out of the work done by this workstream give a clear indication in which direction we have to go and I echo the words which were said by the CSM that we need to find jobs for the youth and we have to get more employment. Only in Africa, every year, 11 million people and youth people are entering the workforce and for 80 percent of them, there are no jobs available. We have to do something for the youth. It is an urgent matter because, otherwise, the cities will drown and we will not have food production anymore.

I echo, also, the words that were said by Argentina. We need much more investment and not only investments from the public sector, but also from the private sector. The private sector giving more space to the youth, getting them on board in innovative projects, instruments and also sitting together with the youth what they need for jobs. We have many instruments especially focusing on the youth, for example, the start-ups. But, for that, funding is necessary. Funding hopefully from public donors but, certainly, the private sector can do a lot and I spoke several times, yesterday and today, with the private sector and they are eager to approach the youth to sit together to see what they can do.

Of course, as was stated also by PSM, a discussion between the local stakeholders is very much needed. Urban stakeholders as well as rural stakeholders to sit together, what they need from each other.

Last but not least, I think it is important to understand that the hard work being done by many of you in the working group, as well as in the two events, is certainly not lost. On the contrary, it will be continued, as I said, in three workstreams, on women empowerment and gender equality, promoting youth engagement and employment in agriculture as well as reducing inequalities for food security and nutrition. Also, as was stated, it will get its input, hopefully, in the work being done on the guidelines for the food systems and nutrition.

Probably somewhere this week, hopefully, the food systems summit will be announced. This gives a crucial momentum for the work being done during the workstream in the events as to put into the preparations of the food systems summit because we have to continue our work. Our road did not end and I really would like to thank all of you who participated in this workstream for not only your hard work but, also, for a very emotional discussions and when emotions come in, you always get tension but, you always get the best results and in this respect I really would like to thank [inaudible: 01:28:06] from the Secretariat for the work she has done and the technical task team for input they have given in the preparations. Most of all, of course, I thank you. Thank you.

Applause

Chairperson

Thank you, Hans. Thank you, so very much. If I may share with you and with everybody, very briefly, the fact that I have friends but, these friends that I have, that I am going to say now, I have only found them in developed countries that have moved from the cities to the countryside to work in agriculture and in other forms of food production. So, this is what we need to have for our friends in the developing world, to move from the cities to the countryside because we are able, as Governments, to create with the help of

the CFS, the enabling environment so that they can make economic and social progress by working the land, by becoming pastors and fisher folk and so on and so forth, so that we reverse the trend.

Thank you so very much, for your inspiring words and this gets us to the conclusion of item six on urbanization and rural transformation and the implications for food security and nutrition and as for the Chair's summary on this subject, we will apply what we already agreed that we would do for items such as these. With that, we close item six. Thank you, again.

VII. MULTISTAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS TO FINANCE AND IMPROVE FSN

Chairperson

We go back to item two. I am sorry, I jumped the gun, as they say in English, because the Secretary reminds me that before we resume item two, we need to take care of item seven, as per the agenda that we approved, that is our multi-stakeholder partnerships to finance and improve food security and nutrition.

With this item, we come to the conclusion of a policy convergence process. The CFS high-level panel of experts, our conglomerate of scientists and scholars published a report on this topic in June of last year. We began discussing it in our previous Plenary last October and the bureau followed up. This is the moment in which I have to mention the HLP for another reason. I have promised Professor Patrick Carone that I would be mentioning the HLP in the context of item five, food security and nutrition and I had made a note but, with the problems with timing I totally forgot.

So, the HLP gives us that basis, that foundation, science and evidence for us to do our work. They did it for food systems and nutrition, they did it also for multi-stakeholder partnerships for financing food security and nutrition. This item that we are dealing with now is of obvious interest to all of us because this Committee is in itself a multi-stakeholder partnership that is always looking for financial resources for sponsoring tangible actions against hunger and all forms of malnutrition.

Oliver Malentin of Germany led consultations for identifying ways forward and the bureau decided to hold the item that is now on the table for which the Chair is delighted. Our keynote speaker, sitting next to me, is Willem Olthof, from the European Commission where he is Deputy-Head of Rural Development, Food Security and Nutrition in the Directorate for International Cooperation and Development. That is a very long title for you. Before returning to Brussels, to occupy this important position, Mr Olthof distinguished himself as a European delegate to the Rome-Based Agencies and as a consistent advocate for the CFS.

Also in the podium is our moderator, Ute Klamert, Assistant Executive-Director for Partnerships and Advocacy at the World Food Programme. At WFP, Ms Klamert oversees the partnerships and resource mobilization with Governments and other partners. She previously served as the Director-General for various regions within the German International Cooperation Agency and we met recently in New York.

We also have five panellists. Anshu Mohan, a senior expert in maternal, new born and child health and WHO. Jonas Mugabe, Manager of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa based in Acre. Badrul Arefin, Director-General at the Ministry of Food in Bangladesh. Kevin Marinacci, Chief Executive Officer of the Fabretto Foundation in Nicaragua. Patty Rundall, Policy Director of the International Baby Food Action Network in Malaysia.

We will now start with Mr Olthof's key note. Willem, please?

Mr Willem Olthof, Deputy-Head of Unit, DG DEVCO, EU

Thank you, Mr Chair. Excellency's, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to start my intervention with a quote, an unconventional quote, actually. A quote taken from a children's book, rather than from a philosopher or from a Nobel Laureate. The children's book in question is from a Swedish author called Astrid Lindgren and she has a main character in the book called Pippi Langstrump or Pippi Longstocking in the British version.

Many children know and love the book, including mine, and probably many of the ex-children also know it. But, for those who do not, Pippu Longstocking is a red haired, freckled, unconventional and superhumanly strong nine year old girl. When she was asked to do something new, she answered, I have never tried that before, so I think I should definitely be able to do that and that is the character that she has and I had to think about that particular quote when the HLPE was asked to do the report on multi-stakeholder partnerships.

The HLPE had never done such a thing before. They never report in that direction, neither was there much territory covered. So, the HLPE was courageous in a certain way, it was also confident it could do it and, looking back, I think we should all be grateful to the HLPE that it had taken up this challenge in the way Pippi Longstocking would have done it. Since last year, when the reports came to us in Plenary, we know a lot more about multi-stakeholder partnerships. We know, for instance, that they offer great opportunities, yet they also pose big challenges. It is not evident that multi-stakeholder partnerships are successful and, clearly, there are conditions that have to be fulfilled and dangers that have to be averted.

Let us start from the opportunities and recall that there are at least three important benefits of stakeholders working together towards a common goal. First, by bringing together the different stakeholders, a broad set of fuse perceptions should be taken into account in designing and implementing projects, programmes, policies, actions, whatever. This fuse should obviously include the perspectives of the ultimate beneficiaries. This is likely to make actions more realistic, feasible and better targeted to the needs of those that are food insecure.

Second, different stakeholders have different strengths, qualities and resources. By bringing those together, synergies and efficiency gains can follow.

Third, and related to that, by pooling resources, larger scale activities can be undertaken, more people can be reached and better results achieved.

But, obviously, there are also costs to multi-stakeholder partnerships. It takes time to build trust among the stakeholders and to agree on the objectives and the ways of implementation. There are also transaction costs in rounds of coordination and consultation and power asymmetries need to be addressed through appropriate governance and accountability mechanisms.

This year, at the European Commission, we have started to take stock of international cooperation in agriculture, food security and nutrition during the last five years. Besides discovering that we had about 1,500 contracts signed in that period or about one contract per day, we learned that we had a huge variety of actions, not all of those lend themselves to multi-stakeholder partnerships but, in a number of cases, multi-stakeholder partnerships were extremely important and that particularly includes all the work on value chains. But, also, in other areas, such as building resilience against food crisis, MSPs and the use of an MXP mix has been used and let me mention here today that as we talk in this room, at the same time, there is a launch again of a multi-stakeholder partnership in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where the launch takes place of the reset plus innovation funds. A fund financed by the EU, managed by an NGO, in cooperation with Government and aimed to finance private sector innovators, small scale, in food insecure areas.

Mr Chair, let me conclude by coming back to Pippi Longstocking. One of the charming aspects of Pippi Longstocking is that she somehow lives by own rules and when we think about multi-stakeholder partnerships, although we can distil, and I am sure we will do that, we can distil a number of generalities of success, MSPs will always have to be context specific and hands have to be adapted to the situation at hand, redefining the rules of the game in every case and with you, I am sure, I look forward to learning how the rules of the game have been applied in the four case studies. Thank you, very much.

Applause

Chairperson

Thank you, Willem. You are a true father of this workstream and the results that we examine here today. May I ask Ms Klamert to start moderating? Please, conduct the session.

Ms Ute Klamert, Assist. Executive-Director, WFP, Moderator

Ladies and gentlemen, when I was asked by the Secretary whether I volunteer to facilitate the session, I spontaneously said yes. Now, I am faced with a difficult task because we have a variety of speakers and we expect and we want to open up to the floor and I want to make sure that every person a freely adequate place and time to speak. So, I thought, in terms of timekeeping, a broader red rose, and if I feel you are extending too long and speaking too long, I will just raise the red rose and I hope you are still friends at the end of the session with me.

So, I want to invite you to a variety of perspectives and I am so happy about the composition of the panel because we will listen to a global perspective, one colleague representing every woman, every child as a global movement, as part of the panel. We will continue and I invite you to listen to regional perspective from Africa, very interesting because that is a platform which started in 2007 and ended in 2018. So, we can definitely hear some lessons learned and then I am very happy to invite you to listen to two national interventions from Nicaragua, Fabretto Foundation, as well as to a governmental programme intervention and a contribution by the Department of Agriculture from Bangladesh. The last intervention will take us back to a global perspective in the sense of a transversal initiative, the civil society mechanism, and I will make sure that every speaker has time.

In respect of time, I want to immediately start with the presentation. I try to end up at 5.30 p.m., Chair, if that is fine for you? In a little bit less than an hour. So, let me start with Ms Anshu Mohan, Senior Technical Advisor to the Global Initiative. I want to listen to you and if you want, you could share with us your perspective in terms of what kind of multi-stakeholder perspective was really making a difference, what was the benefit of your multi-stakeholder partnership and if I may ask you, also, to share with us one challenge, one of your major challenges. The floor is yours.

Ms Anshu Mohan, Senior Technical Advisor, WHO

Thank you, very much. I want to bring you back to Aristotle. That is the joy of multi-stakeholder partnerships, we are all sitting at the same table. He is talking children's literature and I take you back to the classics. Aristotle said, the whole is greater than the sum of its parts, aptly defining the very relatively modern concept of synergies which is the driving force of a multi-stakeholder platform like PMCH. PMCH brings together ten constituencies that normally do not sit at the same table, they do not talk to each other, whether they are talking at the global level, regional level or national level.

So, it is very much the need for a platform for a safe space for these constituencies to come together. Secondly, there is more than a substantial body of empirical evidence that shows that to achieve the SDG goals, we necessarily have to work with a multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder approach. The last decades have seen an explosion of research into the complex interactions that feed into health and wellbeing more broadly speaking. While some of these factors are health related or health systems related, for example access to service providers, a systemic approach to care and knowledge being provided to the population. But, others are not health related at all. Let me give you a quick example.

Child mortality decline between the period of 1990 to 2010, half of it has been attributed to factors that are outside health, for example better gender equality which includes increasing age at marriage, improved water and sanitation, improved economic growth, improved education status. These are all

beyond traditional health inducing factors, so increasingly we have to use that approach of not just what is health but, beyond what contributes to health and this is not just limited to health, this is vice versa, other sectors also. Roads, for example.

Very quickly, to answer your question and before I am shown the red rose, I will tell you what we have done over the last decade and a half. EVEC partners have mobilized USD 88 billion in commitment for women's, children's and adolescent health. Let me break it down for you, over the last two years, we have mobilized USD 43 billion and 313 commitments for women's, children's and adolescent health. That is the reward of a multi-stakeholder platform. You get private sector on where the big money is, you get the Governments on. These commitments are not just a global partners, a majority of these commitments actually come from leveraging domestic financing.

Again, a little more information on these commitments, 30 percent of these commitments actually come from Governments. They are leveraging domestic financing and their commitment to improve women's and children's health and wellbeing.

One part of your question was around what it is that this multi-stakeholder platform has done, which if we had not done, would have created an issue, correct? So, PMCH led the multi-stakeholder consultation for both the global strategies in 2010 and 2015 with inputs from 70,000 people across the world. That is huge. If PMCH had not taken on that role of neutral convenor, the global strategies would have looked much different than they do today.

Finally, challenge, transaction cost, Willem spoke about transaction cost. I think there are necessary evils. We have to handle them but, how we have addressed them is a trade-off. We have made all considerations being equal, everyone is equal, everyone has a voice, everyone comes with a value add and we, as a platform, do not attach a cost to it. It is free, it is voluntary, so the people who coalesce around this cause are committed to the cause and the cause takes over then, rather than the power dynamics. Thank you.

Ms Ute Klamert, Assist. Executive-Director, WFP, Moderator

Thank you, Anshu. It is unfortunately a little bit difficult to read but, I want to invite you now to the regional aspect. I am quite excited because the Platform for African/European Partnership in Agriculture Research and Development was established ten years ago and came to an end in 2018. So, Jonas Mugabe, who managed the Platform, if I am informed correctly, please let us know what kind of difference you made and what was your biggest challenge? Thank you.

Mr Jonas Mugabe, PAEPARD Manager, FARA, Accra

Thank you, Madam Moderator. I am from FARA, Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa. When we talk about research today, we are not talking about research only in the laboratory, but we are talking about integrated agricultural research for development which involves a lot of partners, a lot of stakeholders, including private sector, researchers, farmer Organizations and also NGOs. So, that is what FARA does.

Now, coming to PAEPARD, which stands for Platform for African/European Partnerships in Agricultural Research for Development. This Platform brought together farmers, NGOs, private sector researchers from Africa and Europe, of course, with policy makers, to jointly diagnose problems innovation challenges and opportunities and we came up with some platforms. I am just going to mention some examples, like in Uganda, we had a platform formed around indigenous vegetables. In Benin, it was around Soya bean milk processing. In Burundi, it was about improved seed of potatoes. In Malawi and Zambia, it was about reducing a toxin in ground nuts. So, all these platforms, or multi-stakeholder partnerships, were involving different actors and we came up with the capacity building concept which

could not have happened if we are working in isolation and the capacity building led to development of proposals and from 15 million received from the European Commission and partners, we mobilized 41 million. It is not as much at 80 billion of course but, for us, it is a big envelope and from this 41 million, we reached successful results because, for example, in Uganda, from 20 percent of households consuming the indigenous African vegetables, we ended up by 47 percent of households.

Now, there are many challenge, of course, some of them have been mentioned by my predecessors. One of them is the coordination of multi-stakeholder partnership between researchers and non-researchers. To overcome this issue, because, at the beginning, it was difficult to trust each other and also it was difficult to say, let us apply for this call or this other call. So, the solution was that we brought in what we called agriculture innovation facilitators and, with this, we managed to manage the power differences between stakeholders and also we build the capacity of platforms in general in soft skills because, for some people they think that building the capacity, we should go to the formal capacity with researchers only. But, we have project management, leadership, conflict resolutions, all these soft skills helped to overcome the issue of coordination and this led to the successful platform. Later, the platforms became the platform for information sharing, learning and knowledge sharing as well. We have produced a lot of literacy. We have the thematic on managing power differences in agricultural research for development partnerships. Thank you, Madam Moderator.

Ms Ute Klamert, Assist. Executive-Director, WFP, Moderator

I was trying to encourage you to finalize. Our next speaker is a representative of the Government of Bangladesh Ministry of Food, from the section Food Planning and Monitoring Unit, the Director-General, Badrul Arefin and the floor is yours.

Mr Badrul Arefin, DG, Ministry of Food, Bangladesh

Thank you, Chair. Excellency's, Bangladesh now can feed its population from its own production. The population is the eighth largest in the world, the country is 92nd in surface area, a small comparison. The population density is just 1,000 times denser than that of Canada, with 3,000 people per square mile. With this tremendous development in agricultural production, thanks to the outstanding leadership of our service award winning Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, and the farmers as well as the development partners.

We could not improve our nutrition situation, for example, the underweight and stunting, though developed to one third in proportion in ten years to 15 years. There has been large disparity in nutritional status among population of different geographical and social jurisdiction, as well there was and has been problem of obesity. FAO nowadays says that the obesity in women is more than 60 percent. That means not everyone is like me or the food secretary of Bangladesh over there.

This happened despite a large number of nutritional interventions ran under many Ministries, 22 Ministries operated a nutritional intervention separately. The challenges which were identified this year by the Government publication that witness in coordination and coherence among Ministries and stakeholders, lack of comprehensive nutritional interventions to the targeted people and various nutritional governance. Bangladesh has strong constitutional and statutory arrangements and, also, political commitment to ensuring nutrition. But, it did not have a field department or a platform specifically on nutrition. To meet these needs, the multi-partner Bangladesh food and nutrition security programme came up from European Union, United States and even United Kingdom grants.

Three major components covered those three major areas. First, FAO, through its meeting on the nutrition challenge march, covered the policy and coordination aspects. An eight partner consortium led by Save the Children, ran field level nutrition governance and interventions as well as a consortium of around two

dozen partners ran nutrition interventions and field level governance of nutrition in the field. A food supplementary component called national information platform for nutrition, it is also run by a consortium of CSOs, NGOs led by Helen Keller International that provides with necessary data analysis and relevant policy advice.

The number of partners, if I read it, it will run out my time. It involves ICOW, the Inter-Church Organization for Development, World Fish, Save the Children I said, Kia and Bangladesh characters helped us and many others. But, the number of Bangladeshi Ministries and Agencies involved are not also little. In the absence of a field department, these CSOs cover mainly aspects like strengthening local Government structures to address food and nutrition security, enhancing accountability system, participative planning and monitoring. Increase nutrition sensitivity and promoting behaviour change, like diversity care practices, water sanitise and worst climate resilience, especially families with women of reproductive age and children and improving quantity, quality and diversity of food consumption. Like food production, it also helps grow resilient crops for nutritious food and the like and promoting public/private partnership for food and nutrition security.

Four nutrition governance components are included in this. The while finding and regulatory operations, including selection or bidding process, etcetera, are run by the delegation of the European Union which conquerors for the highest GLB level. Ministry of Food, through the office called Food Planning and Monitoring Unit, grants the monitoring and Government ownership with technical assistance from FAO's March programme, meeting the nutrition challenge.

Normally, too many cooks spoil the broth. But, here, we could manage it. We had experiences also earlier. It is run under a country investment plan who just triggered from feed the future initiative of the US8 and it was a prerequisite of the GAFSB, the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme, and they ran for five years, field level, and multi-sectoral interventions as well. So, we are building better.

This designing and operationalizing such a complex process requires lengthy preparation time and negotiation and this was a major challenge. This is demonstrated through the preparation and kick-starts of different components happening from January 2015 to late 2018. This costs a lot and this has a transaction cost. Also, building relationship among even personal and institutional issues was a big challenge and also the components would be complete at different times which will make the evaluation on which the replication and expansion would depend, more difficult, not very comfortable for uncompromising bureaucrats. Thank you, very much.

Applause

Ms Ute Klamert, Assist. Executive-Director, WFP, Moderator

I think we could sense your proudness, what you achieved. Thank you. That is good and energetic. I want to turn to my left. The President and the CEO of the Fabretto Foundation, Kevin Marinacci, the floor is yours and please, if you just want, can share with us what you are proud of, what made a difference and what you think we could have done better, a challenge still ahead of us. Thank you.

Mr Kevin Marinacci, Chief Executive Officer, Fabretto Foundation, Nicaragua

Thank you, Madam Moderator. Thank you, Mr Chairman. Your Excellency's, colleagues, Fabretto Foundation of Nicaragua is very proud to be here with you today and proud to be part of the global 4H network in the Private Sector Mechanism.

For the Partnership to succeed, it must be greater than the sum of its parts, leveraging each of the partners unique contributions in turn must strengthen the other partners and the community. Our Partnership was

created two and a half years ago to provide access to training, appropriate technology, markets and credit. We have benefitted over 2,000 youths and their families with over 40 percent women participating. The training in climate smart agricultural practices helped them engage in value chains such as coffee, chia, fruit and honey, increasing their family income and livelihoods. The introduction of bio fortified varieties of rice, with WFP, and beans has improved nutrition and food security. Working with anchor commercial firms, we have incorporated into the design of the trainings, the practices that can sustainably produce the quality that the market rewards.

These companies share with their customers the best practices being carried out at origin and differentiate themselves from the market. I think, for a partnership to be successful, it should also add value beyond the partners. It should provide a model in how the different actors can come together to achieve their own goals and contribute to the common good.

Our multi-stakeholder partnership is held as an example how to contribute to FAO country programming that has at its heart inclusion, innovation, natural resource management and climate change. These alliances and partnerships are critical in order to achieve zero hunger and eradicate poverty. If our work can inform policy makers and other actors to contribute opportunities to scale beyond the original partners then it can have truly great impact on the public good. This is especially true if the work is done to advance national goals. For example, our 4H and [inaudible: 02:05:03] training, the methodology of learning by doing is done to enhance and complement the national Ministry of Education's rural secondary programme, not to supplant it, helping the goal to access quality post-primary education in rural areas. Digital extension assets being developed and being deployed through video and SMS will be available for many more than the original partners, going beyond the footprint of the project to create knowledge. Perhaps most importantly, the benefits of the partnership will last beyond the period of the inter-American Development Bank funding. The knowledge created through the training will allow these smallholders to produce high value crops and access the markets that were once unavailable to them.

Certainly, there are challenges in any agricultural endeavour. These challenges can be either exacerbated or lessened in the context of a partnership and each partner must bring resources to mitigate the challenge. For example, opportunities that new market channels offer producers can be difficult to achieve the timing, the quality and the volumes that the buyers demand. Support for this transition phase has been provided by the funding of the inter-American Development Bank and other private funders, allowing producers to move up the learning curve and lesson transaction cost. We also need to keep in mind the additional risks climate change adds to the context and the climate smart solutions that need to be deployed. One way we have encouraged the adaption of climate smart best practices and contribute to a stronger partnership is by engaging youth. Using our learning by doing methodologies, again 4H and [inaudible: 02:06:44] that allow youths to take their leadership in their learning through hands on workshop. This generation takes their environmental responsibilities serious and they are more entrepreneurial and eager to use methods and technologies to be smart and improve quality in yields. Our trainers work with the youth and their families to take soil samples, georeference their farms to allow them to make more informed decisions on land use and inputs, optimizing resource. This knowledge is also power and helps keep a healthy equilibrium in the partnership.

Ms Ute Klamert, Assist. Executive Director, WFP, Moderator

Thank you, very much. You have made my life easier in terms of timekeeping. Thank you.

I want to come back to the first speaker if I may, Anshu Mohan. You highlighted the complex city of multi-stakeholders and the related issues in terms of different interests of multi-stakeholders, how do you compromise between the interests of your members and trust to maintain the public interesting? How do you balance that? How do you manage that?

Ms Anshu Mohan, Senior Technical Advisor, WHO

Thank you, very much. A very interesting question and those of you Tweeting from this room, please use #accountabilitymatters because now I am addressing the elephant in the room, accountability.

A little bit of a history lesson for all of us, so bear with me and I will try to be accountable to Ute on the time as well. The objective, PMNCH, hosts something called the Independent Accountability Panel and the emphasis is very much on independent. Independent, protected by firewalls and above it all. The objective of the IAP, the Independent Accountability Panel, is to provide an independent review of the implementation of 2016-30 global strategy for women's, children's and adolescent health and we support the Independent Accountability Panel. It comprises of experts in academia who are good at data, who are good at generating reports, who are good calling out.

Very quickly to say that, in 2010, when the then United Nations SG launched the global strategy, he setup something called the Independent Expert Review but, the previous global strategy was very much limited to 72 high burden countries. The next one, which came up in 2015, in universal, so the then SG was also forward looking and he setup the Independent Accountability Panel as we know it today.

So, how does the IAP function? It has three core principles. It works on M for monitor, R for review and A for act. Monitoring is crucial for accountability. This accountability requires reliable collected data, disaggregated to detect disparities to indicate who is being left behind because those are your most vulnerable population. My colleague here and other colleagues from countries would know, this is how you work, you identify where the most vulnerable is and you put in the maximum amount of resources to get things moving. So, they monitor, then they do an independent review. Now, an independent review means that they can come back to a country or a Government and say, your certain policies or your certain legislations are not working, we need to build on them or strengthen them or, in case when they are working, we need to ensure that their implemented universally in that country. So, they take that role of independent review. The third important point that IAP works around is, remedial action and most country colleagues would find some resonance with remedial action when you have joint review missions or common review missions, you come back and you do a set of remedial actions, that is accountability really being brought home to you that the Government is holding itself or stakeholders around a common cause, in our particular case, women's, children's and adolescent health. They are holding each other accountable by reviewing, by monitoring and also setting up a plan for implementing remedial actions.

Finally, I do want to also highlight that IAP very strongly believes in the notion that voluntary code of conduct for private sectors, for example, I am going to take a random example, the international code of marketing of breast milk substitutes and the voluntary action taken against that does not hold good. They very much advocate that states have an obligation to effectively regulate private entities operating within their borders or under their effective control, such as in marketing of unhealthy foods. So, very much, holding everyone to account, a 360 degree form of accountability.

The IAP also generates reports, for example, previously, they have generated reports on adolescent health, they have generated reports on private sectors, so the example that I share with you is from the private sector and they have called out and I said, this is not happening, this should not happen and Government should take a more proactive stand on adolescence. Very interestingly, there were two recommendations that came out, make adolescents visible and measure how you do that and PMNCH took that to heart. Now, we have made sure that young people and adolescents are part of every global dialogue. They are part of every strategy that comes out of global headquarters like Rome, Geneva, New York and so that their perspectives, which are absolutely unique, we all know adolescents and young people are not homogenous. So, they are fed into policy making and, therefore, they go down to the country level, feed into policy making at the country level. This is one of the recommendations of IAP and we have taken it to heart and tried to implement this. Thank you.

Ms Ute Klamert, Assist. Executive-Director, WFP, Moderator

Good, thank you. I want to pass on and invite our panellist from Bangladesh, again, the same topic, public interest versus interest of members.

Mr Badrul Arefin, DG, Ministry of Food, Bangladesh

Thank you, Moderator. Such a collaborative mechanisms take into account all stakeholders as partners as well as active participation from the civil society, NGOs and private sector actors. I said that we have a country investment plan, it is called the nutrition sensitive food systems. That is the Government's document that guides the intervention process in our country and another reason is that the stakeholders involves the youth and they are accountable themselves. In our country the youths come each year to the capital city to celebrate a nutrition Olympiad. These are the trigger points from the civil society's actions in our country. May it is the boon of the civil society mechanism of FAO also and even they speak to our upcoming new food and nutrition security policy aimed at SDGs and beyond.

Let me give you an example because saying that we, of course, look for independent evaluation, one of which will be kick-started in this month by the European Union. We will look for the third party evaluation results also, but as benefit which came up from this multi-stakeholder partnership, is that we are talking about putting messages on nutrition to the children in the school environment as Germany was talking about. Then, one page of nutrition, colourful message, was proposed to put into the empty back cover, inside the back cover of each textbook. First, everyone loved us because, from 100,000 of target, it will go 100 times bigger. So, 10 million students and their siblings and their parents will see it. But, ultimately, it happened that the Prime Minister's office and Ministry of Education is thinking to include that empty hardcover inside the back cover to put colourful messages on life building information with cartoons and colour because youth love cartoons and colour and I think all the youths are colourful. Thank you.

Ms Ute Klamert, Assist. Executive Director, WFP, Moderator

Thank you, very much. I want to start talking about innovative financing mechanism and just to make sure that you are not always the last speaker, Kevin, let us hear in terms of innovative finance mechanisms?

Mr Kevin Marinacci, Chief Executive Officer, Fabretto Foundation, Nicaragua

Though our multi-stakeholder partnership is small in comparison to global or regional examples, I believe there are some lessons learned. Our three year, USD 4 million budget is funded approximate half by the inter-American Development Bank and the balance of the support from private philanthropy in the United States and Europe. This mix allows us to invest the monies from the multilateral and philanthropic community into the capacity building that the smallholders need to be able to access the formal markets and contracts, creating an opportunity for commercial partners to contribute to the financing of production with mitigated risk.

We also believe that our small USD 750,000 short term fund for pre-harvest and harvest financing from private foundations is an example of funders using their assets to make impact investments and loans. The concessional terms that we have received are significantly less than the local options when they exist, which is not often the case.

Foundations leveraging their assets for lesser return and greater impact is a very important increasing amount of capital globally. We believe that impact investment can play an important role in this space and our commitment to that is to raise a USD 5 million impact fund to scale our work with smallholders. Perhaps lessons from these loans and investments might encourage others that will mention the high-level panel of experts report, such as pension funds and corporate social responsibility programmes to contribute.

Ms Ute Klamert, Assist. Executive-Director, WFP, Moderator

Thank you, very much, Kevin. I thought you should be the last panellist in terms of innovative financing because you finalized your engagement with the platform. Lessons learned you want to share in terms of innovative finance mechanisms?

Mr Jonas Mugabe, PAEPARD Manager, FARA, Accra

Under PAEPARD, what we have learned is that the multi-stakeholder partnership to be operational, we need resources and to get resources we need capacities. I do not know if we can talk about innovative funding mechanisms because apparently they are not there. What we have learned from PAEPARD, actually, is that the current funding architecture, which is based on competition, favour research Organizations with more resources and capabilities to develop quality proposals because evaluation is based on excellence rather than small Organizations in Africa.

The second lesson is that research partnership, rather than partnership between researchers and non-researchers, and also research products are favoured because they are much measurable in the short term because projects are just there for three years, then we are basing the project in terms of product, not in terms of outcomes which come from innovation and change. So, that is what we learnt from PAEPARD.

During the lifespan of PAEPARD, we just got one innovative funding mechanism which was launched by the Government of the Netherlands, which was called Applied Research Fund and to tell you how much this was innovative, we got 10 proposals funded under that mechanism because it was appropriated to my stakeholder partnership which PAEPARD was promoting. Otherwise, what is currently global, it is competitive funding mechanism which will not favour private sector, which will not favour NGOs, which will not favour farmers in Africa. It comes in favour of European researchers and African researchers. Thank you.

Ms Ute Klamert, Assist. Executive-Director, WFP, Moderator

Thank you, very much. I want to invite Patricia Rundall to share with us the perspective of the Civil Society Mechanism. My understanding is, you are sharing with other transversal analysis. Please?

Ms Patricia Rundall, IBFAN

Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you for all the very interesting interventions. Before I start, I want to actually say that nothing in what I am going to say now is intended to criticise the many people who choose to work closely in multi-stakeholder partnerships and closely with the food industry in order to protect health. I am absolutely convinced that everyone who has spoken does so for the right reasons.

However, my presentation is based on IBFAN, the International Baby Food Action Network, and we have worked for 40 years advocating for strong laws, United Nations Resolutions, codex standards, guidelines that aim to improve transparency, address conflicts of interest and end the harmful and misleading

marketing, while facilitating the right to adequate food. The IBFAN concerns are shared by the CSM and many other public interest NGOs, movements and networks.

I will come straight to the point on one thing that I think everyone in this room will agree, whether they take money or not, multinational corporations have played and continue to play a major role in the harm caused to human and planetary health. What I suspect we disagree on is whether working in partnership and accepting financing from corporations and especially food corporations, because we are here at the CFS, is a wise thing to do.

In our experience Governments attempting to retain, improve, adopt effective regulation and codex standards face fierce opposition from the food industry and are pushed to weaken their positions. In fact, I will be going there next month, to codex, and this will happen. This is a fact, yet when properly monitored and implemented, these laws actually save lives and have saved thousands if not millions of lives.

The CSM values its role in the CFS, an important, inclusive, inter-governmental consultative body where Governments remain the decision makers. However, at every turn we see the promotion of multi-stakeholder partnerships as the answer to malnutrition, despite the fact that even the HLPE report states there is little or no evidence of their efficacy. We believe this is a huge risk and that takes us in entirely the wrong direction. Indeed, we see the risk of Governments and the United Nations being reduced to the role of facilitator, rather than the primary actors in address malnutrition.

I am going to take two examples that we have looked at, the scaling up nutrition and the European Commission Platform for Diet and Physical Activity and Health. First, let me say that any multi-stakeholder partnership focused on nutrition that will involve the food industry will inevitably place great emphasis on innovation, micro nutrients and fortification. Rarely is it acknowledged that this can undermine confidence in real minimally processed biodiverse and culturally appropriate food. All too often, these single nutrients are promoted with claims while the multiple nutrients in breast milk, for example, or fresh foods come with no such commercial promotion.

We have done a three country analysis of some and this revealed many other problems. For example, we found a lack of adequate accountability procedures and a lack of truly independent monitoring. Indeed, if things go wrong, no one can be held accountable. SUN's conflict of interest policy is inadequate and confusing, it focuses on trust and collaboration rather than the need for caution. There is no requirement for democratic scrutiny of the implications for Governments before countries join SUN. So, no Parliamentary vote or anything.

Regarding the EU Platform, along with six other leading NGOs, IBFAN has left because the Platform completely failed to achieve its aims. Instead of focusing on curbing marketing, the corporate members would challenge the much needed proposals, focusing instead on funding nutrition education in its effort to appear a benign force.

We ask the following questions to all those in this room hoping to join or create a multi-stakeholder partnership at country level. Do you have adequate safeguards in place to stop undue corporate access and influence on public food and nutrition policies? Do you think it will speed up or slow down the progressive realization of the right to adequate food? Will the multi-stakeholder partnership make it easier or more difficult for the promotion of strategies that address the root cause of malnutrition and equal power, poverty, land grabbing, harmful marketing, these sorts of things?

I just have two more points to make. Just to be wary of terminology, the word partnership, by definition, implies arrangements for shared governance to achieve shared goals. Shared decision making is its unifying feature. I would prefer corporations funding Government programmes. That is straightforward and to the point.

Lastly, we just hope that the United Nations Secretary-General can be persuaded to end the recently signed strategic partnership agreement with the World Economic Forum. Nearly 300 civil society organizations believe that this will risk delegitimizing and weakening the role of the United Nations System in global decision making. Thank you.

Applause

Ms Ute Klamert, Assist. Executive Director, WFP, Moderator

Patricia, thank you, very much, very well noted, I would summarize. In fact, I will come back to your input when I am wrapping up. On behalf of the CFS I want to thank you for the contribution of the panellists, but maybe we want to say thank you for the inputs. Thank you.

Applause

I want to open up and ask for some contributions or inputs from the floor. The first input we expect from Equatorial Guinea. One minute, please?

Guinea Equatorial

Thank you, very much indeed, Madam Chairperson. The Republic of Equatorial Guinea is speaking on behalf of the Africa Regional Group. I would like to congratulate the Chair and the Secretariat of the CFS for the excellent work they have been putting in since yesterday. We are satisfied with the quality of the report from the HLPE on the question of the multi-stakeholder partnerships to finance and improve food security and nutrition in the framework of the 2030 Agenda.

We welcome the efforts being put in by FAO in drafting this report which clarifies the concepts and looks at the difficulties and also shows the evidence and the available data and it establishes relevant criteria so that Governments and non-state actors can conduct their evaluations on the basis of a common methodology. We also welcome the progress which has been made in terms of assistance to countries in assessing the contributions between interested partners in order to achieve food security and nutrition on a sustainable basis.

We hope that we will see capacity strengthening amongst all of the people involved here. We want to ensure that there is adequate funding so that the projects can be rolled out in the field. The recommendations go along the same line as we have already heard mentioned, we want to see involvement of all actors in the plans and programmes which will help us achieve the targets and goals of food security and nutrition.

We are sure that we will be able to move in this direction. Thank you, very much indeed.

Ms Ute Klamert, Assist. Executive Director, WFP, Moderator

The next input is from Switzerland.

Switzerland

Thank you, very much, Madam Moderator. The evidence and data on multi-stakeholder partnerships to finance and improve FNS are still limited and quickly evolving. Therefore, we welcome that, through this discussion, we further contribute to close this gap and work for more concrete evidence and data on this topic.

Switzerland actively cooperates with FAO and other stakeholders in several multi-stakeholder partnerships and would like to share some lessons learned on its effective financing and management and I will focus just on one element and we will send in our statement.

Regarding the internal governance, the Global Agenda on Sustainable Livestock (GASL) has a structure of seven clusters that represent most concerned sectors of society regarding livestock sustainability. Furthermore, GASL has nine action networks, championed by well-known research institutions which generate and communicate evidence on the various livestock sustainability dimensions. All clusters have the same weight when seeking consensus and the GASL Secretariat provides the necessary sponsorships for all clusters to be appropriately represented. Assuring a balanced representation of all stakeholder clusters and keeping the discussions based on scientific evidence has been key in the case of GASL and the SFS programme.

We believe that multi-stakeholder partnerships offer promising mechanism to achieve a dynamic yet systemic interaction between all stakeholders and to accelerate the much need transition towards sustainable agriculture and food system. Thank you, very much.

Ms Ute Klamert, Assist. Executive Director, WFP, Moderator

PSM, please? One minute, would be very polite, please?

PSM

Thank you, Chair. Today's session is a timely contribution to address the need for sustainable finance for SMEs and recognizing the essential role the multi-stakeholder partnership can play. We welcome the excellent comments from panellists, particularly from the partnership in agricultural research and the innovative ways to exchange much needed knowledge.

This highlights the critical need for cross-sectoral and holistic approaches pulling together the resources and expertise of different stakeholders in the achievement of food security and nutrition. There is no one size fits all solution to tackle hunger and we emphasise that there is broad diversity amongst the many successful partnerships. PSM believes that effective and practical partnerships should be inclusive or diverse approaches in addition to public and private partnerships. In particular, with my own work in Guatemala, Mexico, Tanzania and DRC, I have seen how NGOs can work in cross-sector collaborations with investors and SMEs providing capacity building for sustainable practices and financial leaders training to agriculture SMEs. The NGO plays a mitigation role in analysing the risks that the investors can incur when financing small enterprises. We believe today's panel has reaffirmed the successful partnership need to be mutually beneficial, establish clear roles and responsibilities and be honest and transparent. Thank you.

Ms Ute Klamert, Assist. Executive Director, WFP, Moderator

CSM, please?

CSM

Thank you. The first point I would like to make is that under theme 4.3 in the report, it says that CFS is an inclusive inter-governmental platform where responsibility and decisions lie with member states. It is not a space for participation by multi-stakeholders.

We heard the private sector earlier today which said that, at local level, it was difficult to achieve headway on food and nutrition related issues. We would like to give you an example of where there is a lack of consistency in Latin America, in Colombia, where the industrial sector and the Government have established agreements which aim at increasing production and consumption of highly processed foods which are presented as foodstuffs when they are not actually.

Now, we, in the CSM, think that it is not acceptable and not credible to have these multi-stakeholder platforms working on this basis on food and nutrition. These should be public policies which should involve people, the populations and the communities. Thank you.

Ms Ute Klamert, Assist. Executive Director, WFP, Moderator

Thank you, very much. The next contribution from Finland. Please?

Finland

Thank you, very much, Madam Moderator. I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 member states. We welcome the continued attention being given by the CFS to multi-stakeholder partnerships and also this specific format which this has taken at this year's Plenary Session. We are convinced that MSPs are instrumental in achieving effective policy making and impactful innovation and in broadening the resource base for action. If MSPs are to be successful, it is essential to address governance, accountability and decision making processes and to build trust.

We would like to invite all CFS stakeholders to pay due attention to the CFS guidelines, principles and policy recommendations and to follow the principle of inclusivity when designing and implementing projects.

We would like to see MSPs remain high on the CFS agenda. We propose that the systematic collection of MSPs experiences be compiled within the framework of the CFS.

In the end, I want to thank all the panellists for a very important and interesting presentation and especially, Mr Olthof for taking up my absolute heroine, Pippi Langstrump. Thank you.

Ms Ute Klamert, Assist. Executive Director, WFP, Moderator

Thank you, very much. The last contribution we can expect from the World Bank. It seems there is no one here. So, I take the floor and try, not to summarize, but maybe just to conclude what I found. Natasha, sorry. Please

GAFSP

Not at all. Thank you, Ute. Thank you, and good afternoon. My name is Natasha Haywood and I am the head of the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme and I am very happy to be able to contribute to this valuable discussion by sharing a little bit of our experience as a multi-stakeholder partnership.

As some brief background, GAFSP was created in 2010 by the G20 in response to the then 2008 food crisis and it is a funding mechanism designed to invest in resilient and sustainable agriculture and food systems worldwide in low income countries. However, in the face of the dual challenges of the climate crisis and persistent food insecurity, GAFSP's mandate is unfortunately as relevant today as it was a decade ago.

As some of you may know, we are not a delivery agency, but we are a flexible mechanism that pulls donor resources and channels this additional financing through existing multi-lateral agencies, including the Rome-Based Agencies, to where it can be most effective. Our very operational model rests on partnership with these Agencies, including WFP represented by yourself, moderator, and those others best placed to provide technical support in the delivery of our resources to the final country, producer Organization or private sector clients.

While there are many different features of our multi-stakeholder partnership that I could share, including our results on the ground, shared of course my Mr Arefin from Bangladesh, or indeed how GAFSP amplifies the goals of other partnership platforms like the CFS, from my vantage point in the Secretariat, it is our inclusive governance that is a unique factor contributing to the programme's success. Our governing body includes representatives from donors, recipients, implementing partners and civil society and sets the strategic direction for the programme. While it generally governs by consensus, the voting rights are formally equally distributed between donors and recipients and it provides a forum where all stakeholders have a seat at the table.

Over the years, we have had several working group processes that involve all constituents in making tough strategic and operational adjustments and to acknowledge Willem's point, and also that of Patricia, in terms of the challenges and the risks involved, this process does indeed take time and effort. These working groups have required like-minded partners willing to roll up their sleeves and keep the common goals in mind while often coming from different sectors.

I will finish right now. I just wanted to say that I think, with the benefit of these lesson of experience over the last decade, we look forward to continuing to apply those in the forthcoming decade to 2030 with our likeminded partners. Thank you, very much.

Ms Ute Klamert, Assist. Executive Director, WFP, Moderator

Natasha, I think I have to also interrupt the World Bank. Thank you, very much.

I want to conclude and try to summarize what I found quite interesting and thank you for sharing with us your rich experiences and all your contributions and interventions. What I found particularly interesting that everyone was talking about the power of synergies and I think what you mentioned in terms of researchers talking to non-researchers and trying to understand the different professional rationale and just to tap on that power of synergies.

The power of patience, we need to unfold and discover the power of multi-stakeholders. Everyone was talking about transaction costs and how to bring down transaction costs and that kind of awareness. Every one of you was talking about capacity building and trying to appropriate allocation of resources toward a multi-stakeholder partnerships in that respect. What I liked, in particular, that everyone was talking about from various perspectives, including from the civil society mechanism, about accountability. I think accountability is one of the key components. The issues of governance bodies, also raised by the World Bank, how to go about and how to address accountability including different stakeholders like youth, for

example, in these processes to invest in impact and trust how to demonstrate that there is a difference in terms of what could be achieved by multi-stakeholder partnerships.

In particular, I wanted to highlight the last issue in terms of independent monitoring, third party monitoring, including third parties in this respect, and thank you, very much, in particular, very well noted all the critical comments from the Civil Society Mechanism, very well noted and I am sure that we will, in a way, take note of that and include it in our future projects.

With that, Chairperson, I want to give the floor back to you and thank you, very much. It was not just what I promised, a little bit delayed, I hope that is fine. Thank you.

Applause

Chairperson

Thank you. Can we have a round of applause please for Mrs Klamert and for all the panellists and also the Secretariat for having brought this very important issue up for discussion when that workstream is coming to a close on the question of the multi-stakeholder partnerships to finance and improve food security and nutrition?

It is so important because it is this Committee which is an example for this type of partnership. So, thank you, once again and let us now move back to item two which has been left pending since yesterday.

Now, it is coming up to 6.00 p.m. when our interpreting time will run out. So, I am going to make the following proposal. I was obliged to get my head together with the Secretariat and not pay due attention to what was happening here in the room because we were trying to figure out how we can solve the following issue. We have a very lengthy list which is now closed, of course, but it is a lengthy list of speakers who have requested the floor on item two, the state of food security and nutrition in the world 2019. Its policy implications in the context of the Agenda 2030 based on the SOFI report.

Now, the list of speakers we now have would take us over an hour. I have done my sums, you would have five minutes, some people speaking time, or three and it would take us over an hour.

So, let us have a look at the options. The first option already suggested is that delegations would provide their text in writing. In fact, Nigeria has already indicated from the list of speakers I have that they are going to send in their speech, their presentation, by e-mail. I would urge all those delegations who would like to take the floor, please, to do the same. We will upload all of the speeches to the CFS website that are sent in to us in writing.

The second option would be a video recording. All those delegations who would like to record their speech instead of actually making the speech here in the Plenary would simply have to contact the Secretariat, the Secretary or any other member of the Secretariat in order to make their speech with a camera man. We can coordinate that, it can be done at any point during the rest of the week.

Option three, the third option is to extend and run into a night session. What does that mean? Well, first and foremost, we cannot do it today. We do not have interpreters who are accredited by the United Nations who could extend their working day to do a night session today. That is ruled out. It has already been explained. Friday, we cannot do it either because all of the speeches have to be made before the Drafting Committee meets. So, we cannot do it on Thursday either because the Drafting Committee will meet at the end of the daily meetings. The only possibility will be tomorrow, Wednesday. But, tomorrow is World Food Day and FAO, the anniversary of FAO, and that is going to be commemorated as well and so the session tomorrow, as you know, we have approved the agenda. The actual session is going to start not at 3.00 p.m. but, rather at 4.00 p.m. so the three hour block will be from 4.00-7.00 p.m.

So, in order to convene a night meeting, it would have to start at 7.00 p.m. tomorrow evening. It has also been explained to us in FAO that we cannot arrange for half an hour, one hour, three hour, we have to pay the interpreters by the day, for six hours in other words, from 7.00 p.m. in the evening until 1.00 a.m. the next morning and that is total madness, if I can be very honest, six hours of simultaneous interpretation, starting at 7.00 p.m. in the evening.

Let me tell you what happened the last time the CFS called a night session. It was last year in October 2018, the 45th Session. We called a night session and we did not have a quorum. We did not even have half, not even half of the delegation that would have created the quorum. If the quorum was 50 delegations, we did not even have 25. Not even half the quorum, so that is a risk we will be running.

So, what I am going to propose is that we should now take two or three delegations, the two or three at the top of the list and the other ones we will listen to by extending tomorrow's session as of 7.00 p.m. in the evening but without interpretation. In other words, delegations will be able to make their statements but, without being interpreted and if we do not finish tomorrow, then if there is enough time on Thursday, which I doubt because we have already added one of the aspects for other business from Friday, we have put that on Thursday afternoon's agenda, then we could finish there. Anybody that we cannot fit in would then have to submit their statements in writing.

So, these are the options. Now, my list of speakers would start with Spain, then South Sudan on behalf of group of 77 and then we have China and I think we would then have to stop it there for this afternoon. I will give the floor to Spain.

II. SOFI, ITS POLICY IMPLICATIONS and the SDGs (continued)

Spain

Thank you, very much, indeed, Mr Chairman. Now, on behalf of my delegation, having heard your words, I would just like to stress the importance of time management in the course of the Plenary. Delegations prepare their presentations so that they can be delivered at the highest possible level and, for that, we need a clear idea of speaking time so that the agendas then can be distributed around the other events which were part and parcel of the success of the work. If we were not able to do this, then we would be undermining the relevance of this Committee. It is important to give delegations enough time to make their statements, one minute is not an awful lot.

That said, we do appreciate the efforts undertaken by the Chair and the Secretariat to try and come up with a solution.

Secondly, Spain is in line with the comments made by the European Union, represented by the presence of Finland. A little more detail, as pointed out in SOFI, obviously in 2050, more people have to be fed around the world, many of them are living in under-developed areas, prices are exploding, climate change is having its effects and so is inequality and this is being felt in particular in low income countries.

If we were to face this situation on the basis of present production methods, we would not be in line with the Paris agreement, nor with many of the SDGs. We, therefore, have to transform our food production systems and move toward sustainable agra-food systems. There are many reports which identify this as being one of the key sectors which will make the difference. The first global report on sustainable development presented since the coming into being of SDGs, also the inter-governmental groups report from last summer on climate change and the lands, also the solutions for sustainable development.

All of these reports say that moving towards sustainable food production systems can create a clear effect in helping move us towards achieving SDGs and also are key to combating climate change. Over the next ten years, we are going to have to speed up our progress towards food security and nutrition. There is no other option. We urgently need a revolution and agro-ecological transition with multi-sectoral, comprehensive focus points and we always need to bear in mind the human right to food.

This is a crucial challenge which leaves no other path open. Spain has been committed for decades to supporting and promoting that right to food and supporting the CFS. Spain will, for the first time, be in the bureau of the Committee over the next two years and, from there, together with all of you, we will work hard to ensure that this Committee achieves its objectives. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you, Spain. You and all delegations will remember today that we took one whole hour for this discussion when we were going round in circles discussing the Chair's summary. South Sudan has the floor to speak on behalf of the Group of 77.

South Sudan

Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Republic of South Sudan is honoured to deliver this statement on behalf of the group of G77 and China and would like to highlight the following points.

The group of G77 and China is extremely concerned by the key findings of the 2019 Report that identified many areas that need urgent collective attention, namely the goal to end extreme poverty by the 2030 is being jeopardised by the protracted crisis which constitute long, along with the climate extreme and vulnerability, critical drivers of the food insecurity.

Climate change, climate extreme and vulnerability are negatively impacting farmers, pastoralists, fisheries and all other food producers across the globe. Vulnerability to natural disaster is affecting agricultural productivity, food production, natural resources, determining consequences for food system and our rural livelihood which are impeding developing countries in their advance towards 2030 Agenda and the accomplishment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

We should consider it unacceptable that 820 million are still suffering from hunger in 2019. It underscores the urgent challenges of achieving the zero hunger target by 2030. The group of G77 and China acknowledges that some progress has been made in some critical areas demonstrated in the report so far.

Notwithstanding this, global hunger is on the rise in almost all sub-region of Africa, parts of Latin America and worse than that, Asia Region, at least half of the world's population lack essential health services, waters of all children is stranding children in Southern Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Women and girls in developing countries continue to face the structural disadvantages and discrimination. Enhancing food systems should take into account the increasing importance of nutritious food to satisfy the nutritional needs of their population and achieve food security. We underline that foster family farming is an important means to eradicate hunger and poverty, as indicated by the global action plan for decade of family farming 2019-2028, along with the ongoing effort with the United Nations decade of action on nutrition 2016-2025.

We recognize that the joint work being carried out by CFS in areas such as nutrition and food system, multi-stakeholders, partnership and agroecology and other innovative approaches, among others, are of crucial importance. The developing country also see the CFS multi-year programme of work, 2020-2023, are a strategic step forward in the fight against hunger and all forms of malnutrition.

The main component of the voluntary guidelines to bridge the gender divide on how to promote youth engagement and employment in agriculture food system, as well as policy recommendation on data collection analysis, on the overcoming the structural inequality.

Mr Chairperson, it is crystal clear that much deeper, faster, more ambitious response is needed to unleash the social and economic transformation needed to achieve our 2030 goals. Just as a problems are inter-related, the solution to poverty inequality, climate change and other global challenges are also inter-linked.

Mr Chair, with these comments, the group of G77 would like to highlight the importance to integrate food security and nutrition concern with poverty eradication effort in such a way that makes more synergy between eradicating poverty, hunger and food security and malnutrition towards an inclusive transformational vision pro-poor that can contribute to achievement of 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals.

We also believe that the Committee on World Food Security should play a key role in addressing this negative trend and challenges through its convening power. This inclusive model and a science based policy convergent process which CFS is considered the leading pioneer. Thank you, very much.

Applause

Chairperson

Thank you. You were speaking on behalf of G77. I have just been told that we have run out of time. I am going to read the list of speakers. We have received indications from a further two delegations who have said that they will not speak in Plenary but, instead, will send in their statements in writing.

Right now, the list is, according to the order in which they were received are China, Private Sector, Finland, Civil Society, Japan, South Africa to speak on behalf of Africa, France, Cuba, the Gates Foundation, Switzerland, New Zealand, Belgium, The Republic of Korea, Malaysia and the Parliamentary Front Against Hunger for Latin America and the Caribbean.

So, the options are the following, either you can send in your statements in writing, you can speak with the Secretary or the Secretariat so that you can have a video recording made of your statement. We would have to see tomorrow, at the end of our discussions at 7.00 p.m. if we are in a position to extend the Plenary. It would be without interpretation but, it would be an option so that you could make your statements here in Plenary. I think, given the circumstances, that is a very good option. A fourth option would be, again, for those who have not been able to take the floor in Plenary, to actually do this on Thursday afternoon at the end if there is time.

But, I am really doubtful as to whether there will be time. So, I would remind all of you, tomorrow at 4.00 p.m. and I think we have got six side events this evening. It is World Food Day tomorrow that is not a CFS activity, it is FAO activity. It is going to be celebrated here by invitation to those people on FAO's list. The Secretariat, very briefly, is going to give us some information about this.

Secretary

Thank you, and thank you interpreters for staying late for us to finish. Very quickly, we need bureau nominations from three regional groups. Those are Africa, Latin America and South-West Pacific. We need those well before Friday, so as soon as you can.

A reminder about survey responses, we are depending on your input reactions and feedback, so please take a moment to fill those surveys out. Thank you, very much.

Chairperson

See you tomorrow.

16 October PM

VIII. AGROECOLOGICAL and OTHER INNOVATIVE APPROACHES

The meeting was called to order at 16.02 p.m.

CHAIRPERSON

We are starting at four o'clock on the dot. Thank you for allowing us to do so. I have a very important announcement to make. When we closed yesterday's session, I mentioned the various possibilities that we have to conclude item two, the statements on state of food insecurity and nutrition in 2019. The first option is still valid, and I very warmly call upon all delegations to send us your written interventions to the email of the Secretariat, cfs@fao.org.

The second option is still open to all delegations who wish to make a video-recorded statement. Please also contact the Secretariat so that we can coordinate with your photographer or recorder so that you can make an audio-visual statement. And the third option that was raised was... There was option 3A and 3B. One was to continue the plenary session as of 7 p.m. today in the official language of each delegation without interpretation. Now, obviously, that is complicated on various levels. We have discussed with the legal office and with various other Member States and we have ruled out that option.

So, the other option was to hire interpreting. That also entailed some difficulties because we were told that due to regulations and rules, we could only have interpreting for six hours. So, we have been talking to the Secretariat, members of the team and others who are involved and we have managed, and this is excellent news that I am giving you, to secure the flexibility to have one additional hour of interpreting today. So, instead of working from 4 until 7 this afternoon, we will work for four hours, from four o'clock until eight o'clock.

So, during the first three hours we are going to discuss item 8 on agroecology and other innovative approaches and at seven o'clock on the dot I am going to drop my gavel at whatever point we are at of our discussions and we will conclude item 8 at that moment and from 7 until 8 p.m. we will close item 2 on SOFI.

And at 8 p.m. we cannot go on, we no longer have interpreters or the room. We need also to leave the room so that the technicians can come and rearrange the room so that we can continue work later. So, I am now going to introduce item 8, for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition.

With this we are embarking on an important policy convergence process within the Committee on World Food Security. The fact that the 2030 goal of zero hunger also includes sustainable agriculture has drawn attention to the importance of agroecology and other innovations. This is why we requested our high level panel of experts to provide us with a basis for discussion. That starting point is the report we have on the table. From my remarks at the launch of the report on 3 July, I quote "the recommendations and the analysis provided are timely and relevant to the process towards voluntary guidelines on nutrition and food systems, showcasing in thought and action the complementarity and interconnectedness of HLPE reports, of CFS policy outcomes and, indeed, of the sustainable development goals as we make use of all the tools in the toolbox to defeat hunger and malnutrition".

Today delegates are expected to start a conversation and give guidance on the most significant elements of steps required to get us to CFS 47 next October, where the Committee is expected to endorse a package of policy recommendations. The Bureau appointed Ambassador Mohammad Emadi of Iran as rapporteur for the policy convergence process. He, as we all know, is the Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, which I had the honour of chairing in 2012/2014.

Joining me at the podium are Patrick Caron, Chair of the HLPE Steering Committee, and also HLPE Project Team Leader, Fergus Sinclair. Professor Caron is Vice President of the University of Montpellier and also is a leading expert at CIRAD, the French agricultural research centre for international development.

Professor Sinclair is leader of Resilient Livelihood Systems at ICRAF, also known as the world agroforestry centre and teaches at the CATIE, the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Centre in San Jose, Costa Rica and at Bangor University in the United Kingdom.

Also with us is Musonda Mumba, Head of Terrestrial Ecosystems at the United Nations Environment Programme and will serve as climate change expert for the governments of Kenya and Zambia and at the World Wildlife Fund.

And also my old friend, Kwesi Atta-Krah, a Director at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture in Nigeria, previously a research director at CGIAR and also deputy director-general of Biodiversity International here in Rome.

The floor goes to Professor Caron. Please, Patrick.

Mr Patrick Caron, Chair, HLPE

Chair, your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I am very happy to be able to present to you today the 14th report of the HLPE on the agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition.

So, this report would not have seen the light of day without generous voluntary financial contributions and I am very grateful for them and, as you have said at the 44th plenary session of the CFA in October 2017, the summary and recommendations on 3 July, the HLPE published a report online on 17 July in English and the translations are now available in all the official languages of the United Nations.

Since the beginning of this week I have been listening to you and there is one point on which you all agree. We need to change. In any case, that is what you say. However, it does not seem to me that you agree on which road should be followed, so I hope that this report will contribute to our collective intelligence. It will enable us to reformulate the blockages in agreeing to disagree to fuel the process of discussions and in final instance to act together.

All recent publications on food security and nutrition, in particular in the United Nations and the HLPE, describe the very alarming situation that was recalled throughout Monday. Food has become the number one problem of public health throughout the world. Agriculture and global food systems do not meet the food demand at a global level. Urbanisation, conflict, migration, exhaustion of renewable resources, erosion of consistent functions, climate change, loss of biodiversity, these evolutions are already underway and are very much feared for their potentially dramatic effects which could come already tomorrow.

The HLPE urges in this report for an in-depth transformation of agriculture and food systems. We have to recognize that the need for change is not enough in itself. We have to understand what is blocking the system and to promote the necessary changes to take place at a scale which enable us to respond to the global challenges.

At our first origin, the HLPE has tried to identify the reasons for disagreements and to explore ways and means to overcome them, thanks to an inclusive and rigorous process based on mobilisation of knowledge, in particular scientific knowledge. The guiding idea is that understanding among stakeholders and the disagreements as a result of different interests, perspectives and convictions should enable us to overcome our positions, to come up with a constructive debate and have the necessary mediation.

The report of the HLPE does not pretend to respond to all these questions. We are trying to set up an overall expression and language to fuel discussion and action and I hope that our report will contribute to a structured discussion and go beyond a diverging point of view. And it is under this angle that I invite you to examine this report and I know to what extent this report has been expected and it is in the light of this contribution of our collective challenges that we have to appreciate it. In actual fact, agroecology has very much gained in interest and in importance over the last few years, as has been demonstrated by the symposia organised by the FAO in 2014 and 2018. It was, therefore, not surprising to us that among 310 contributions to consultations and 255 nominations to participate in the team project, this report has beaten, and how, all records over the last ten years.

On the basis of an analysis of literature, the two consultations and reading by peers, this report confirms that there's no single consensus in definitions about agroecology. It compares and evaluates different innovative approaches. It shared examples of approach and experiences to adapt and complemented by others and available online.

Yes, we do have a tremendous capacity for innovation throughout all the regions of the world and this, no doubt, is one very important input made by this report. Recognition of the many ways it can be seen as the implementation is of core importance and an essential point. These various paths have in mind that in each territory, in each place there's renewable of the manner in which we evaluate performances and their impact. It also presupposes an effort of articulation between the innovations carried out territorially and structural modifications that need to be established more vastly.

Institutional environments are essential in order to stimulate and facilitate changes in the food systems locally as well as to guarantee their impact at a significant level and this has to be reflected in the recommendations. This 14th report strengthens the messages transmitted year by year by the HLPE. It takes into account the major evaluations and the global policy priorities.

To focus solely on production at the present time would not meet the challenges of food security and nutrition. We are in the 21st Century, no longer in the 20th. We have to consider the whole of food systems, in particular the links between what we produce, what we consume, what we trade, what we waste and what we lose. Some of these same food systems represent a major lever in order to implement the whole of the programme of sustainable development by 2030, as has been demonstrated this morning.

This takes into account food, human system, ecosystems, climate change, economic health, social justice and peace. All these are linked. If we do not manage to transform the food system in depth, we will end in disaster. If we manage to do it, we will have made a great step forward. I hope that this report, therefore, will contribute to the global vision as required by the CFA in its 15th report in 2020, basing itself on the 14 previous reports.

Now, before concluding, I would like to share with you some brief reflections on the role of science in developing policies and on which this report is based over the last four years. Science does shed light to the major complex policy discussions, giving us a new vocabulary which enables us to express very clearly terms to highlight the present state of our knowledge. Uncertainties, the possible research for the future to cast a critical look on facts, on technological progress, on scientific proof and to take into account the world beyond the simple rhetorics, not a process.

The lack of knowledge should not be used as a pretext so as not to act and, as I have said on Monday, on the contrary, we have to differentiate what is a lack of knowledge, conflict of interest, asymmetrical forms of policies and the role to be played by science and knowledge.

And this is all the more essential as our era, unfortunately, is marked by two tendencies, the revitalisation of the notion of knowledge to be put to the prophet of simple affirmation of opinions and beliefs. More than ever, science is supposed to contribute to the production of public wellbeing and that is very important. Polarization of debates where all too often we seem to try to delegitimize the other rather than to come up with constructive agreements.

It is not a question, of course, that we substitute science by policies but of course there has to be a context where it has to shed light or it has to contribute to the process underway to discussions and decisions. Knowledge and techniques are strategic resources. We have to strengthen more and more our capacity to mobilise them.

And I am very happy to give the floor to Fergus Lloyd Sinclair who is in charge of the team that was specifically set up to work on this report for an in-depth presentation of its content and I would like to thank very warmly the whole of that team. I am happy to anticipate the discussions which will take place, and the policies to come, under the enlightened aegis of the rapporteur nominated by your Bureau whose personal competencies will be essential. Thank you very much for your attention.

Applause

Mr Fergus Sinclair, Project Team Leader HLPE

So, this was a very difficult report to write. It had a group of authors who were chosen for their diversity of discipline and geography and we had to agree with a committee of 15 other people, and the Steering Committee, in order to come up with the result. We had 310 inputs from the consultation on the first draft of the report, the V0. So, it is a huge amount of collation and weighing up of a lot of information that has been involved and we are already lucky that we had such huge commitment from so many people and such rich material to deal with.

Patrick has already framed the reason for the report very strongly. So, I will not repeat that. There is a clear sense that a major transformation in what we eat, how it is produced, processed, stored, transported and sold needs to happen if we are going to have sufficient human wellbeing within planetary boundaries and that has brought agroecological approaches and other innovative approaches much more into the limelight as potential ways of addressing these issues, which are becoming more and more acute day by day with reports on climate, on biodiversity, with really alarming statistics that suggest that it is a crisis, not just business as usual.

The CFS starts from a basis of human rights and the human right to food. And so the principles of participation, accountability, transparency, human dignity and these other principles are fundamental in terms of focusing the whole of the report.

Now, Patrick mentioned that agroecology is a dynamic concept and it has evolved over the last half a century, from a focus on practices at field and farm level to embrace whole food systems and how they are organized, everything from production to consumption and all that goes on between those.

It also comprises three aspects. There is the science of agroecology. The key thing about that is it is transdisciplinary. It is problem-focused, it crosses disciplines, it involves all stakeholders in the scientific process. It is reflective in terms of the methods used because it is addressing real world problems. But agroecology is also a set of practices, what people are actually doing, and that harnesses ecological processes and is represented by generic principles that get applied locally rather than a prescribed set of practices, and we will come back to that in a moment.

Finally, it is also a series of social movements that are political, that assert collective rights, advocate diversity in agriculture and food systems. And all these three elements are important, although they are not always in step with each other and these are some of the tensions that we need to work through.

Now, we are talking about two key words here – transformation of the whole food system but also transitions to get there and transition pathways and within agroecological thinking, Stephen Gliessman came up with these five levels of transformation or transition, which starts at the agroecosystem level, the production element, and are incremental, and they involve what you see on the screen there, 13 principles.

Now, these principles are slightly different from the FAO element of agroecology but do not get worried about that because the elements are not principles. The principles are derived from the literature following a very tight definition of what a principle actually is. The underlying analysis of the report that compares approaches is based on explicit principles that are normative and causative. And so there is a table in the report that shows the relationship between these 13 principles of agroecology and the ten elements from FAO. The principles do specifically mention animal health and soil health and they do distinguish biodiversity from economic diversification and there are good reasons for that. But all of the elements are included.

And of course these principles interact and they are intensified where you have a greater level of functional diversity in the system. But the report is about innovation. It's about how do you change things to address these critical issues and the critical thing is we need to move from the status quo and that means changes in rules, in institutions as well as in practices and I think it is important that we understand the process of change and innovation as being as important as specific changes, the technologies and new market interventions, new institutional arrangements that represent specific innovations.

So, there is an increasing emphasis on democratizing and responsible innovation and the co-creation of knowledge together with stakeholders you are expecting to take up the innovation process. So, you are bringing innovation closer to where it is actually happening and that has a lot of issues in relation to how our science is done and the relationship between science and practice.

In agriculture innovation is inherently localized. That is because the context varies very much in terms of soils, in terms of culture, just about everything that determines how agriculture is going to happen is locally configured. So, you need to adapt things to local circumstances.

So, the approaches that you take, which could be agroecological, they could be sustainable intensification, they could be climate-smart agriculture, these all have sets of principles and that are put together within a philosophy and a mindset in relation to how you go about your transformation. They have a strategic vision for the future.

And it is on the basis of these principles, so those are statements which form a basis for a system of belief or reasoning that can very importantly guide decisions and behaviour and you can read more about principles in Michael Quinn Patton and others who have put a lot of effort into defining how principles are useful.

The critical thing for us is two things. They can be normative, that is that they state how things should be, food systems should be equitable, it is a starting point, it is an assertion, but also there are causative principles, like, for example, more diverse systems and more resilient, and those in a sense are hypotheses until you have got enough evidence to back them up. And, obviously, if they are going to be useful, then principles do need to be fully explicit.

In terms of the innovation approaches that we looked at on the basis of these principles, we can see that you get rather different outcomes as a result of starting from different principles and that means that all of these approaches are not the same. There is quite a considerable overlap. There are convergences and there are divergences. Let me give you an example to characterize sustainable intensification and agroecology.

So, something like conservation agriculture may be mentioned in a paper on sustainable intensification or on agroecology. Now, if you have conservation agriculture, minimum tillage and so on, and you use herbicide in order to control the weeds, that fits in sustainable intensification but not in agroecology because of the use of the chemical. So, we can see, on the basis of these principles, how we can separate the approaches and in the report that is done in detail.

The key thing is it results in lots of different transitions and you need lots of transitions, one, because you are starting from different places and, secondly, because you are intensifying in relation to different factors of production, depending upon the objectives of people, the circumstances that they are in, the way that they food system is configured. So, we might expect very different transition pathways from one place to another. So, there are multiple transition pathways that need to suit the context that occurs locally.

What you see in the graph there is various intensification pathways relating to agroecology approaches in relation to how natural ecosystems are, how labour is intensified, capital is intensified and so on. But that's entirely looking at the production system. Of course, once you bring in the people who are consuming things, then you have got another set of issues associated with what people are consuming, the extent to which people are participating in deciding about how food is produced and how it is prepared, how it is stored, transported and processed.

So, participation in the food system becomes critical. So, this analysis of principles leads to two key recommendations coming from the report. One is to consider adding agency as a fifth pillar of food security and nutrition. So, that is being, A, explicitly aware of the extent to which people can participate in food systems as a key element of them, how democratic they are, the extent to which people can make informed choices about the food that they are eating and that they can, through their purchasing decisions and other mechanisms, affect the way in which agricultural systems and food systems are set up.

And the second is around a really important concept in relation to metrics and that is looking holistically at how we measure agriculture, taking into account climate effects, taking into account effects on biodiversity, all things which are often externalities at the moment in terms of production.

Now, ecological footprint is a potential starting point for that. It comes with a big warning attached to it and that is at the moment it does not... The method of accounting is not taking into account the degradative or regenerative nature of the production system that is involved. So, it does manage to connect consumption and production but it is not yet detailed enough in terms of dealing with degradation. And given land degradation as a huge global issue, that is very significant and important.

Patrick mentioned diverging perspectives and these are important and we took, in relation to key factors that drive innovation and relate to livelihoods, human health, ecological footprints, governance and knowledge and cultural diversity a set of issues around things like biofortification in relation to diversified diets, scale of production, use of synthetic fertilisers, genetic engineering and modification and approaches to big data within agriculture and digital agriculture. These are all areas that have a range of views associated with them and in the report you can look in detail at the analysis.

But, please, when you look at it, we were not attempting to adjudicate amongst these points of view. Our purpose was to understand the basis for disagreement so that you can then begin to look at whether you can go forward from there. And the critical lessons are that divergence was more around how technology is accessed, used and controlled rather than the fundamental nature of technologies themselves.

Second thing is that there is a real moralization of food that is happening, which increases the motivation of policymakers to act on the one hand but it makes it much more difficult for them to do this on the basis of evidence as opposed to weighing up competing convictions rather than evidence. Thirdly, that there is a need for clarity on asserting normative starting points that we agree on for transforming food systems but then the causative mechanisms to achieve transitions in different contexts and getting clarity rather than mixing the normative and causative really helps to get beyond divisions.

And, finally, understanding the basis and the nature of controversies does start you potentially going beyond them. Now, it is quite clear that it is not just at the whole food system level that metrics are important. They are important right the way from the field through the integration in farms and livelihood systems through to landscapes and we need appropriate metrics at each of those scales in order to work appropriately.

And we have this tension that sometimes develops between social movements on the one hand, that are spreading agroecological practice very widely, often very fast, and science, which often does not feel as strong scientific underpinning. If you start bringing these together, this is from India with a zero budget, natural farming, getting practitioners and scientists together in a room, coming up with all of their ideas with nobody preventing anybody from stating what they thought, you end up with quite a complex set of processes that people believe in which can then be examined, explored and taken on. And we can take a rigorous approach to try to understand behaviour change and social movements that is leading to the spread.

So, there are five key areas of recommendation, taking into account the value and diversity of food systems and their context across scales when developing transition pathways, broadening performance metrics for food systems, recognizing improvement of ecological footprint as in the operational principle to transitioning to more sustainable food systems, encouraging integration of trans-disciplinary science and indigenous knowledge and support for local innovation and considering the emerging importance of agency as a possible fifth pillar of FSN, and those detailed recommendations are then set out under those headings, and you can read them in the document in more detail. Thank you.

Applause

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Fergus, Professor Sinclair, for your detailed explanation. I have heard you giving this explanation a couple of times already and every new time I learn something more. I am halfway through reading the document. I have to confess I have not read it in full but I am halfway through and I thank you very much for providing the basis for the discussion to start today. And thank you, Patrick, Professor Caron, for your general explanation about how HLPE is this extraordinary pillar for CFS, providing, again, a basis for our political discussions. I will give the floor now to Ms Mumba. I believe you wish to speak from the podium. You can speak from wherever you feel more comfortable. Please.

Ms. M. Mumba, Discussant, Chief, UNEP

If I may be allowed, as the only woman on the panel, I will speak from the podium.

CHAIRPERSON

You are allowed. I am gender-blind, so I did not notice until you said it. But that is all fine, please.

Ms. M. Mumba, Discussant, Chief, UNEP

Thank you very much. Ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon, I am so excited to be here. My name is Musonda Mumba and I work with the United Nations Environment based in Nairobi as Head of the Terrestrial Ecosystems. I think I am going to speak from a point of experience because I am Zambian by nationality but I have dual heritage. My mother was from the Eastern Cape, Xhosa, and my father is Bemba, partly from Congo/DRC, former Zaire, and Zambia. Now, I grew up in a rural town. Happy International Rural Women's Day yesterday and happy World Foods Day today.

It is really exciting to be here but I want to also speak from a point where, as a woman who has not lived in Zambia since 1997, I had the gift of giving birth to a daughter seven years ago. Now, as a Bemba woman, when you give birth to a child, your noko senge is sent over and somebody was sent to Kenya, to Nairobi where I live, and in arriving my aunties bring with them foods and they bring with them certain herbs that they need to take care of my body as the life-giver.

Now, these herbs grew up in the forest next to my village and when I go back in Zambia today, and to my hometown, these herbs are not there anymore. So, it is very telling of how our ecosystems have shifted and have changed and at the centre of these agroecological systems are women. Because when the change happens, they know first that something has changed. Now, in listening to Dr Sinclair, I am really glad that you contextualized and put this into perspective in terms of the real issues and the cracks and really the power of agency. I think that is quite important. I just want to pull out a little bit on the principles and on those 13 agroecological principles that you outlined there and maybe just pull out three of those.

The issue of cocreation, knowledge and also local knowledge and the global science, I think it is important that when we are bridging these two, it is iterative and it is cyclic because a lot of times we find that information does not go back to the users of the land.

Social values and diets. As I remember, as a child there are certain fruits we ate, and mushrooms that came only at the rainy season, and they had a value and we would be told, they are good for your bones. I had no idea whether they were good for bones or the termites were good for bones. We ate them anyway. But today, with recent science, it is beginning to show that the protein content of termites, caterpillars, etc., is much higher than that of beef.

So, we begin to see that when science converges with these different food systems, there is a marriage there that is happening and why it is important to have this dialogue and back and forth. But at the centre of all of this is land and natural resources which is the basis of agroecological systems. And I think, listening to Dr Sinclair, we also realize the complexity of the landscape but also the importance of the integrated nature of a landscape.

And so central to the discussion, really, is the relevance not only of the sustainable development goals, which are important, but also of the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, because these post-2030 agendas bring to the core the relevance and importance of how these systems are interacting. How do we then manage land in a 1.5 to 2 degree world? What does that even mean for people at the community? We will no longer be able to grow the foods, nor will our specific food systems thrive within this change and these agroecological systems.

Innovation is exciting and I think it is so important and I do not know how many of you have watched on Netflix, there is a film from Malawi, the boy who harnessed the wind. It is a very fascinating film but not only is it fascinating, it really speaks to the complexity of the factors that you just articulated. Just looking at the barriers of innovation, the young man in that film builds a windmill using pieces from a bicycle, from God knows where, whatever he could get from the garbage pit.

But then we also realize the challenges of governance. You could see the political constellation and the complexities of that, issues of economic, knowledge... He sneaks into his school, reads the book about how to put a windmill together to really help his family and, mind you, at this point in Malawi they have

had consecutive droughts. Now, this boy managed to do a windmill so that the water from the river could be pumped up to the land for them to grow the food. And it is fascinating, when you watch the film, to see, and when you dig deeper into the depths of that understanding.

So, what is needed to really go through some of these barriers? I think, in listening to you, Dr Sinclair, I realize that there is need for strengthening capacity, for sure, and also looking at supporting local innovation. But not only that, because we do not live in a flat, uncomplicated world, we live in a global village, not so long ago, some time last year, I happened to be in New York and I walked into the world food store market and found that there is baobab on the aisle and baobab powder.

I mean, as a kid we just used to look at the baobab tree. Yes, it is a big tree, it is massive, it is gorgeous but if the baobab powder has six times the vitamin C of oranges, it is telling us something. And it is labelled superfood. Wow. And it was US\$25 for a small jar. But the fruit falls off the tree naturally, so how do we then begin to transpose this information also back to the communities that are dependent on these systems.

In conclusion, I just want to say, as someone who is working within the United Nations environment, and I am sure you are all very familiar, and the Member States in here, that this year has been a special year. We have had several reports, actually, come out within the environmental sphere. We have had the best report, the Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, the very ecosystem services that support our agroecological systems. We have had the Global Environment Outlook 6 which has also touched a lot on the land issue and I think in that report there was recognition that land and soil are really important and food production accounts for more than 50% of use of the actual land system. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Report on Climate Change and Land came out this August and it was also evidenced by the interactions and how we need to really have sustainable food systems and it is really important.

But, lastly but not the least, I want to say whether we like it or not, people, you and I, are central to this conversation. People at the community level are really central to the agroecological and sustainable food systems. This year in March, on 1 March, the United Nations General Assembly came up with a resolution that we helped through the Government of El Salvador. It was tabled and the United Nations Decade of Ecosystem Restoration was passed as a General Assembly Resolution.

What is that saying? That is saying, really, our planet is degraded. How do we restore it? And thank you to the leadership of El Salvador, that ecosystem restoration has been put on the table and this decade is from 2021 through to 2030 and I think central to the conversation that we are going to be having and I think that Member States would be having is really looking at how do we restore our landscapes and our food systems so that they are sustainable in providing not only sustainable production mechanisms but also nutritious foods that are important.

So, I will end here and thank you so much, and I am really looking forward to the discussions in the coming two hours. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Ms Mumba. I will now ask Mr Atta-Krah to moderate the discussion that starts right now. The floor is yours. And let me also say that we will have two minutes for interventions, three minutes if you are speaking on behalf of groups, that is regional groups, and there are two mechanisms that we have, that is the civil society and the private sector. Mr Atta-Krah has been given the magic bell that you all know. Kwesi, please.

Mr Kwesi Atta -Krah, Moderator, IITA

Thank you very much, Mario, my friend. Ladies and gentlemen, our job in the next few minutes, probably up to an hour, is basically to create a platform where we can share ideas. This is a platform where we can all see how we can aggregate in such a way that we can support the policy convergence process that this process actually requires. Agroecology is a very important element that we all have to be familiar with and, as I have spent the last three days listening and being in different side groups, I see that this is definitely an areas of transformation that is very much desired and very much talked about.

I would also want to say that there are different levels at which transformation is taking place. Sometimes you get into certain fora and people are talking on transformation but looking at it from a technology point of view. Sometimes you get into other fora, people are talking about transformation but if you get deeply into it, they are basically talking about a particular commodity and the value chain that relates to that commodity and that is also called transformation.

What we are talking about within the agroecological approaches, it is much deeper than that. This is something that places people at the centre and places issues of health, it places issues of communal rights, societal rights at the same time as looking at the environmental dimensions. So, I am hoping that in the discussions that we are going to have, we will be able to have advice from various groups. I will open the floor to participants, bearing in mind the following guiding questions as the basis of our discussion, and I would like us to keep this in mind as we make our contributions.

First of all, what are the priority policy issues to be addressed during the CFS policy convergence process? At the end of whatever we do here, we must be aware that what we are hoping to generate in the first phase after this whole thing is the policy recommendations and that will have to be influenced by agreeing on that policy convergence process. So, it is important that we can address that.

Secondly, this policy issue is fully addressed in the recommendations provided by the high-level panel of experts report. There, again, if you have specific views you want to express, that would be very helpful. But there is also the possibility that there may be some important policy issues that you consider missing. You do not see it in the report or you do not hear it and you feel you want to table it.

We will listen to a first set of interventions and we will then see how we move along. I will, at the appropriate time, bring in other people, including Musonda on my left here, to contribute in the process. So, I think we are at a point where we are going to open it up, open the floor to participants and I think we will begin with Brazil, representing the Friends of Agroecology group. So, Brazil, you have the floor. Let me also add that it is three minutes, please.

Brazil

Thank you, Mr Chairman. I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the members of the group of Friends of Agroecology. As members of the groups of Friends of Agroecology, we recognize the need to develop and promote sustainable approaches for transformation towards more sustainable agriculture and food systems. We are convinced of the place of agroecology among those approaches and its potential to offer a holistic solution to overcome the challenges ahead of us in an integrated manner.

We therefore welcome the HLPE report on agroecological and other approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems. We also appreciate the work done so far within the FAO and underline the recent adoption of the resolution on further integration of sustainable agricultural approach, including agroecology, in the future planning activities of the FAO.

It is most welcome that the CFS is fully addressing the issue as an inclusive body gathering all stakeholders. We look forward to the CFS policy convergence process, aiming at adopting recommendations at the next CFS session in October 2020 as well as to an inclusive multi-stakeholder

process that leads to a strong set of action-oriented policy recommendations for the transformation of agriculture and food systems. Thank you, Chair.

Mr Kwesi Atta -Krah, Moderator, IITA

Thank you very much, Brazil, and particularly for speaking within the three minutes. Thank you so much. We will now want to hear from Finland on behalf of the European Union.

Finland

Thank you very much, Mr Chair. I am honoured to speak on behalf of European Union and its 28 member states. First, we want to express our appreciation for the report produced by the high-level panel of experts. The report provides rich and documented evidence and useful insights in this rather broad but crucial issue.

The report demonstrates, based on evidence, that agroecological approaches can be promising in responding simultaneously in an inclusive and integrated manner to ecological, social and economic elements of sustainable development. It also studies other innovative sustainable approaches and provides valuable information on knowledge gaps and diverging perspectives.

We welcome the fact that the report starts from the recognition of human rights as the basis of ensuring sustainable food systems. Furthermore, we share the view of the HLPE regarding the urgent need to design transistor pathways towards creating the sustainability of food systems if we want to achieve the 2030 agenda and, in particular, the food security and nutrition targets.

The principles for defining agroecological approaches in the report offer a useful basis for future discussions. It would be important to ensure, however, the necessary synergy and consistency between the CFS process and the discussions on the ten elements of agroecology which are currently ongoing in the framework of FAO.

We consider the HLPE report to be a robust basis for the forthcoming discussions with the view of adapting recommendations on this important issue. We believe that the discussions should use the HLPE recommendations as a first draft. We agree with the proposed process, including the nomination of the rapporteur to guide the work.

Regarding the suggestions made by the HLPE that CFS consider adding the new concept of agency as a fifth pillar of food security and nutrition, we believe that this new concept would need to be further defined and discussed, potentially under a different process before considering any amendments to the internationally agreed definition of food security and nutrition.

While we appreciate that the aim is to emphasise the importance of people's participation in decision-making on food systems, at this stage the concept is new and rather imprecise.

Finally, we reaffirm the commitment of the European Union and its member states to achieving an ambitious outcome for this workstream next year. Thank you very much, Mr Chair.

Mr Kwesi Atta -Krah, Moderator, IITA

Thank you very much, also for keeping on time. I appreciate the point you made about the need to see how these 13 principles align with the ten elements that are defined in the FAO document. I think that is a very important process that needs to be followed through. You also made a very important point with regard to agency and the fact that we may not be able to make a decision, which way that should go, but

that it is important that probably another process needs to be defined to look at that. Thank you very much. I now want to call on Switzerland and that is two minutes, please, for Switzerland.

Switzerland

Thank you, Mr Chairman. Switzerland welcomes the HLPE report on agroecological and other approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition and congratulate the HLPE team for their excellent work. We are particularly pleased by the scientific quality and rigour of this report.

To overcome the complex challenges the world faces today, transformation of global culture and food systems is needed. Switzerland considers agroecology as one major pathway towards sustainable food systems. In this sense, we align ourselves to the statement of the Friends of Agroecology.

The HLPE report presents in detail the basic principles that can transition the characteristics for comparative analysis of production systems. It identifies the most controversial issues, the five levels of transition and the huge potential for incremental change. Some principles of transition can be followed easily, others will be more challenging.

We call for a pragmatic implementation of agroecology. We consider agroecology as one of the most comprehensive and systemic approaches to accelerate transition towards more sustainable agriculture and food systems. We see the 13 agroecological principles of the HLPE report and the ten elements of agroecology developed by FAO as complementary.

Both should be seen as a guiding tool for stakeholders for the transition of agriculture and food systems at a large scale and to achieve the SDGs. The principles and elements respectively are living documents to be continuously amended and reviewed based on the emergency of new evidence.

Switzerland would like to highlight four points that are of special relevance for the transition of food systems. First, the need for assessing and redirecting incentives; second, the need for a stronger focus on research and development of nature-based solutions such as agroecology.

This requires increasing public and private investments for trans-disciplinary research, co-learning and integrated innovation; the need for a strengthened agency addressing inequalities in food systems; and a need for establishing performance metrics that consider environmental, social, economic impacts, compare the relevance of different approaches that address the site-specific conditions.

Switzerland looks forward to an inclusive multi-stakeholder process that leads to a strong set of action-oriented policy recommendations on the transition towards sustainable food systems. The policy recommendations are to be endorsed at CFS 47, including a follow-up on progress of their implementation. Thank you, Chair.

Mr Kwesi Atta -Krah, Moderator, IITA

Thank you very much. Your point about the need for an inclusive multi-stakeholder process to drive forward the issues that will come out of this discussion are very pertinent. Let me now call on the Private Sector Mechanism and you have three minutes, PSM.

PSM

Thank you, Mr Chair. The Private Sector Mechanism welcomes the HLPE report on agroecology and other innovative approaches. Agriculture must continue to improve to ensure the viability of our food supply and the wellbeing of our planet. As we review the HLPE report, we also endorse the decisions of

the July FAO conference to recognize both the five principles of the common vision on sustainable food and agriculture as well as the recognition of the coexistence of a broad range of sustainable agricultural approaches that can contribute to meeting the challenges facing farmers and food systems. The understanding that there are a range of sustainable agricultural approaches is a priority policy issue that needs fuller clarity in the recommendations.

As the HLPE report highlights, food systems are complex and they require a holistic and a coordinated approach from all stakeholders. They require interactions, dialogues and actions from all actors involved in increasingly globalised food systems, with clear data metrics to measure impact and effect. This will be increasingly important in light of the HLPE's recommendation to redirect subsidies and incentives so that we can ensure that food quality and environmental quality standards continue to be met and, we would add, to also facilitate effective trade.

We also would highlight that the innovation agenda must be strengthened in the forthcoming CFS policy workstream to catalyse scientific evidence and co-create knowledge. Innovative approaches are needed to address the climate crisis, land restoration and ecosystem services.

This includes innovations in precision agriculture, improved technology and streamlined food systems. For example, no-till agriculture is five to ten times better than conventional practices in preventing soil erosion and nutrient loss. As a farmer, we practised this on our own fields and have seen the benefits in soil health.

In this regard, it is important to recognize the need for strengthening science and evidence-based normative work on all sustainable agricultural approaches. That includes creating metrics for sustainable agriculture that measures outcomes.

Chair, raised as I was on a family farm, producing both crops and livestock and now CEO with the Global Farmers' Network, I look forward to working with all CFS members on these important tasks. Thank you.

Mr Kwesi Atta -Krah, Moderator, IITA

Thank you very much, PSM. I reemphasize your point about the recognition of a broad range of sustainable agricultural approaches, and there are several of these approaches. You just gave the example of the no-till but there are so many others and I think it is important for us to appreciate the fact that all these are part of the agroecological approaches. I now want to call on China.

China

Thank you, Chair. China wishes to thank the CFS HLPE for preparing a report with rich contents and detailed information. As a member of the HLPE, I have also participated in the various stages of the report preparation. When the international community is facing environmental issues, food security and other problems, the CFS proposal to apply agroecological and other innovative approaches to address food security and nutrition is an important and an innovative path.

China has a long history of agriculture civilization. Many traditional agriculture methods have gone through thousands of years and these methods emphasize the relationship between people and knowledge and agriculture and these methods are still exerting productive functions and they are very typical agroecological models.

At present, China is advocating a green economy and promoting the protection of important agriculture heritage in the world and we have done a lot of practical work in agroecological and related innovative approaches. For example, Hani Terraces in Yuanyuan and Chongqing [?] County in Guizhou in Southwest China have developed agroecological compounds for raising fish and ducks in paddy fields and Longshin [?] in Kwangchow [?] has carried out multi-functional agricultural development.

All of these have achieved remarkable results in economic development in mountainous areas, raising income for farmers, achieving ecosystem protection and protecting farmland environments. We believe these practices are of great reference for international practices. I thank you.

Mr Kwesi Atta -Krah, Moderator, IITA

Thank you very much, China, for giving us some examples from the rich history that Chinese agriculture has gone through and I believe all those examples and all those practices will support the agroecological approaches spectrum that we are trying to develop in the context of CFS. Thank you very much. I now want to call on Burkina Faso. Burkina Faso, you have two minutes, please.

Burkina Faso

Thank you, Chair. Since I am taking the floor on behalf of a regional group, I think we have actually three minutes. Chair, Mali and Burkina Faso are taking the floor on behalf of the regional group of Africa and we would like the CFS for having set up a high-level and providing very high-level work.

This is an inter-disciplinary group which brings together agriculture, scientific ecology, economy and social sciences. Agroecology brings together biological agriculture, regenerative agriculture, conservation and some aspects of permaculture in a perspective of sustainable development. So, there are a few states who do not intervene directly in order to guide transformation to agriculture in the country since agriculture plays a very important role, too important to be left simply to market laws.

Agroecology represents an area of techniques to practice agriculture which is more respectful of the environment and ecosystem which contributes to the survival of humanity on our planet. The data provided by SOFI 2019 highlights the growing concern of the number of hungry people in this world and this for three consecutive years.

In spite of the efforts deployed by the international community and our states in order to attain the objective of zero hunger by 2030, the problem of food insecurity and nutrition remains of great concern and is exacerbated by the damaging effects of climate change.

It is absolutely vital, we feel, to scale up the agroecological and other innovative approaches in order to transform agricultural systems with the aim of leaving the one behind, the Africa group supports the recommendations made by the HLPE in helping decision-makers, administrations and international organizations, research institutions, private sector and the civil society organizations to conceiving to implement specific ways for a transition towards more sustainable food systems at various levels. However, Africa would like to be informed on strategies invested by the CFS in order to implement their recommendations which we feel are not clearly delineated in this document.

We share the concept of recognition of human rights as the basis for sustainability of food systems and the aspects highlighted in the report conform to the vision of the African Union. Chair, we have just adopted the programme for the Decade of Family Agriculture and we feel that there has to be a link established between the recommendations of the group of experts and the Decade programme in order to benefit small-scale producers, in particular women and the youth.

The many conflicts and terrorism that takes place in certain regions, in particular in the Sahel and Saharan strip, is a threat to our vision of agroecology. We have to note that not all models can be operational. Only if the populations feel secure in the territory. In order to do this, the Africa regional group encourages the CFS to service a participatory model, take into account civil society and the private sector for the implementation of the recommendations of the HLPE within a context of security. Thank you very much.

Mr Kwesi Atta -Krah, Moderator, IITA

Thank you very much, Burkina Faso. I just want to highlight this point about scaling up the agroecological processes. That has always been mentioned as one very important element that requires further study because it is not only about being successful in small localised areas. The question, really, is how do we learn from the successful cases and begin to talk scaling up?

So, I think that is a key thing. And then you also made the point that Africa will need to be kept informed of the processes that will lead to actually coming up to the recommendations, the policy recommendations.

That is a very important thing. I hope by the end of this process there would be some indication of what that process is going to take but for now we do not want to put too much emphasis on the process issues. We want to focus our thinking on looking at some of the content issues which we have been hearing about. Thank you very much.

So, at this point I would like to invite Spain for two minutes. Spain, please.

Spain

Thank you, Chair. We endorse the position of the representative of the European Union expressed by Finland and we would like to thank you for the detailed report on innovation and other innovative approaches. We share the idea that we need greater sustainability. Without these systems we would not be able to achieve SDG2 and other targets for 2030.

We also believe that this report can contribute to greater debate between countries, international organizations, academia and civil society, which will allow us to take the right measures going forward and to achieve sustainable agriculture for the future.

Obviously, beneath the principles that have been mentioned, we firmly believe that we need greater investment in research for agroecology approaches as this has been less invested in than others and, as the report says, there are great knowledge gaps, among other things, on yields and reactions of agroecology compared to other alternatives.

We fully agree that we need agroecology approaches that defend women's rights and ensure access to land, particularly focussing on gender inequality. We need to move towards institutional plans that favour sustainable agroecology systems.

And I would also like to say that Spanish cooperation has been fostering agroecology since 2007 when it published a strategy to combat hunger. The Spanish International Cooperation Agency, which I represent, has included this in its action plan since 2011 on rural development and fighting hunger. This Committee can depend on us as allies to work on this. Thank you very much, Chair.

Mr Kwesi Atta -Krah, Moderator, IITA

Thank you very much, Spain. As someone who comes from the research side, I would agree with you that we definitely need a lot more targeted investment in research, especially in the area of agroecological approaches. I think a lot of the work that is being done in research institutions sometimes focusses too much on specific commodities and not looking at broader environmental impacts and I think what we are talking about here is that we are not talking simply about making things better, the way we have been doing things.

We are talking about looking for completely transformative ways of really avoiding the sort of crisis that we all see ahead of us and that calls for research, research that we will plough into the agroecological approaches and make sure that we are coming up with how to actually get where we want to get. Thank

you very much. And I would like to at this point call on the Russian Federation. Russian Federation, two minutes, please.

Russian Federation

Distinguished Chair, I will now point out the importance of the launch in 2020 of the process for preparing for CFS recommendations on the topic of the agroecology. We think that it is a very important support for countries in need in setting up their own national projects and programmes for sustainable agriculture. These recommendations need to be precise, implementable and must correspond to the mandate of the CFS. We welcome the leadership role of the FAO in providing a theoretical basis and practical implementation of agroecological concepts.

Intensive use of fertilisers and pesticides, resource-intensive agriculture leads to deforestation, water deficit, loss of biodiversity, soil exhaustion and a high level of greenhouse gas emissions, which is why agroecological approaches can be an effective instrument to counter these threats. It is also very important to take into account the national context of states and to take into account other innovative approaches for the sustainable development of the agricultural sector.

At the present time the member states of the FAO are coming to an agreement on the ten elements of agroecology and we hope that this document will become an important instrument in the recommendations for the future for the CFS. We are ready to participate actively in this work and we hope that we have a constructive dialogue.

We would like to draw your attention to the fact that the report of the HLPE on agroecological and other innovative approaches at the present time is not made available in all the FAO languages on the CFS site. We think that this problem should be removed to ensure equal access of all CFS members in preparing recommendations.

Distinguished Chair, food products that are marked eco, bio, organic are becoming more and more popular. This trend of modern society necessarily leads to the need for having ecological standards governing these labels and marks which ensures the purity of the product and corresponds to the standards at every stage, from perform to point of sale. Russia is not immune from these trends and this is the topic that we chose for the agriculture exhibition, the Golden Autumn, which opened last week in Moscow.

In our country we are preparing a bill on organics. We are developing protective brands of national green products. We are ready to cooperate with all interested countries and to exchange experiences on this very important topic. Thank you.

Mr Kwesi Atta -Krah, Moderator, IITA

Thank you very much, Russian Federation and for highlighting also the intensive use of fertilisers. And I like the word intensive and sometimes excessive use of fertilisers and other pesticides, which basically draws me to the point that we really need to talk about targeted and efficient use and be able to know where there is a need and what quantities. Because when we talk about agroecology, as much as possible we want to avoid environmental damage.

So, we need to look at how best to do that in that broader context. Your point about the report is taken by the Secretariat and definitely I believe there is a... In spite of the process, that will be looked at furthermore.

At this point I would like to invite France. France, you have two minutes, please.

France

Thank you, Chair. France, of course, endorses the declaration of Finland on behalf of the EU and its member states. We also support the statement made by Brazil on behalf of the group of Friends of Agroecology. We would like to thank the CFS for its very important and detailed report and, as it highlights, we cannot remain inactive in the light of this collective challenge.

There are many challenges. We are talking about a fight against climate change, the problems of biodiversity, preserving natural resources and the need to provide irreplaceable quality products as society expects, and to create decent work and to enable men and women who work in the agriculture and livestock sector, fisheries and forestry to be able to live in dignity from their work.

And I would also like to talk about the need to strengthen the role of women here. We need to take up these challenges and the report does show the innovative and integrated approach. This is something that France supports fully and that is why we feel that agroecology is a very promising way to ensure that farming and food systems operate even better economically, socially and from the point of view of health and this is why in 2012 France started an agroecological project in France.

We set up a number of plans to support, for instance, bioecological products and to ensure carbon fixing in soil, to look at genetic production and to become more efficient. We feel that we can draw economic and ecological benefit from this as well as from quality of life. The number of research that is involved in this is increasing and this is vital in order to look at the ecological and economic impact of agroecology.

Therefore we are very happy to see the dialogue that has been launched here. We support what has been said here in order to ensure that in 2020 we can adopt recommendations on the basis of the report and the recommendation to the HLPE which is led by Mr Mohammad Emadi, which is also supported by the Secretariat. France will actively participate in this very important collective step. Thank you.

Mr Kwesi Atta -Krah, Moderator, IITA

Thank you very much, France. Let me say I am very happy with the process thus far. I mean, there is a saying which says do not count your chickens before they hatch. Because yesterday evening one of the delegates asked me, are you engaged in this agroecology session, and I said, yes, I am, and his next question was, which side of the fence are you? And I said, I am not on any side of the fence. So, I said, well, I am helping to moderate, and he said, good luck.

Now, that gave me sleepless nights but coming in here, I see that there is a lot of consensus already emerging and that for me is very pleasing, that we are all saying we cannot continue doing the same things we are doing and tweaking around the edges. Somebody told me yesterday that electricity did not materialise just by making better candles.

So, I think we are at a point where we are saying tweaking around with what we are doing is just making better candles, so we are thinking of the transformative change that has to happen to make food systems really sustainable, and I am really very pleased with where we are heading.

I will very shortly be asking my colleague to give her intermediary comments on some of the things we have heard so far but before then I would like to call on Thailand and then after that Argentina and then I will go to Musonda. Thailand, please, two minutes.

Thailand

Thank you. Thailand welcome the HLPE report and we agree that the agroecological approach is one of the approaches to enhance sustainable food security and nutrition. We observe principles of agroecological, such as recycling, reducing the use of inputs, soil health and biodiversity and are fully in

line with Thai agriculture policy, especially the sufficiency economies philosophy of SAP which promotes sustainable management of soil and water resources and climate resilience, including SEG.

We would like to share some of the successfully implemented project on soil health. Thailand, as the first chairperson of Global Soil Partnership, has promoted sustainable soil and water management for food security at the regional and global level.

Thailand recently established the centre of excellence on soil research in Asia which will provide guidance for policy and decision-making and serve as regional hub for capacity-building in soil management. In addition, the promotion on organic agriculture in our priorities, Thailand plans to increase the organic planting area in 208,000 hectares in the year 2022.

Mr Chair, innovative approaches contribute to sustainable food systems but which approaches should be promoted is still being debated. Especially modern technologies and digital technologies, these approaches should be scrutinised and implemented under international agreement and national regulation.

In conclusion, Thailand believes that agroecological and innovative approaches can achieve sustainable agriculture and food systems and we need strong cooperation. Thailand is willing to transfer their knowledge and experience in agriculture to member states through the social and triangular cooperation on the partnership programme between FAO and Thailand. Thank you very much.

Mr Kwesi Atta -Krah, Moderator, IITA

Thank you very much, Thailand. Emphasising this issue of soils, you cannot have sustainable agriculture without a very healthy soil, so it is a very important dimension to mention. But another important thing you have talked about in terms of sharing knowledge, knowledge is based on data and data, at all kinds of different levels, including data from indigenous systems and data from other levels.

And I think that is one area where we need to put emphasis. How can we generate the kind of data that is necessary to provide the evidence that supports the potential that agroecological principles carry.

So, that is something that moving forward we will need to invest some more time to really look at that. I will at this point now call Argentina and then after that I will ask Musonda to share a couple of comments. Argentina, please, two minutes.

Argentina

Thank you very much and good afternoon. Argentina thanks you for the work done on the report and agrees that we are facing changes that are increasingly rapid and major which gives us huge challenges, particularly for SDG2. So, the challenge today is to produce more sustainably and reduce loss and waste in food. This scenario means that innovation is key in the quest for solutions and alternatives, Chair.

We welcome the report highlighting the importance of innovative approaches in achieving food security and nutrition because this would allow us to have fruitful debates on these practical approaches and technologies and the role they can play. Agroecology is a valuable instrument but it is just one among many other options that countries can adopt to achieve sustainable food systems.

Applying agroecology principles for agriculture is not exclusive to agroecology but rather is part of agronomy in all productive systems. With regard to the reports mentioned of connectivity as one of the agroecology principles, Argentina stresses the importance of guaranteeing trust between producers and consumers. This goal doesn't necessarily exclude links to producers that are far from where food is consumed but means that food must be consumed sustainably and preferably locally.

Last but not least, Chair, with regard to the reports mentioned on the various scales of agriculture, I would like to say that degradation of agroecosystems and biodiversity is not linked to the size of farm but rather

how resources are handled. Chair, we have more comments on the various recommendations and we would like to share those with you in writing as we do not have enough time to do so now. Thank you.

Mr Kwesi Atta -Krah, Moderator, IITA

Thank you very much, Argentina, especially on your last point. At the end of the session we will talk about how you can continue to contribute in this process. So, it is a very good point that you have made. At this point I would like to ask Musonda to give a brief remark on what she is hearing.

Ms. M. Mumba, Discussant, Chief, UNEP

Thank you very much, Kwesi. I mean, just listening in to the conversations, I realize I think there is some level of coherence around the issue of inclusivity and also making sure that there are synergies and sharing across the different sectors and I think the last intervention from Argentina on the need for trust I think is a fundamental one between, obviously, the consumers and the producers.

I just want to reflect a little bit on the presentation from the lady from the Private Sector Mechanism. I think indeed land restoration is a very critical element and something that we need to take into account and the issue of science and evidence, the matrices I think are really critical to making sure that we are looking at these sustainable food systems.

I also want to recognize the fact that China was actually taking the leadership during the United Nations Secretary-General's climate summit on focussing on nature-based solutions and I think it is great to see these examples and the smooth advocacy towards this green economy and sharing experiences.

I think 2020 is going to be a very interesting year because the Convention on Biological Diversity is happening in China and I think provides, really, a basis on how people can learn from the country. The lady from Burkina Faso I think really does flag the challenge of our African continent but I also want to say that even as we look at issues of trying to restore land, we have to recognize that there is instability and there are challenges of conflict where people are trying... We move two steps forward and go ten steps back. How do we find this...

And as such, the African Union to really reflect on making sure that if we are going to be looking at issues of sustainability, just when the women make some gains on their food systems, then something comes in. I think this is important, that we need to recognize the need for stable countries.

I want to welcome the point from Russia as well. I think the issue of language is a complex one because as these documents get translated, it is important that people are all on the same page and contributions are made.

Lastly but not the least, I want to thank Thailand for your intervention on the issue of soil health. During the United Nations Environment Assembly, the third session, there was a resolution that was tabled by member states that was looking at soil pollution. So, right now UNEP, together with FAO, are working together on this and we are really calling upon you because FAO is going to do a global assessment in different regions, looking at the issues of soil pollution and I think this kind of information, this data, as you rightly point out, is relevant in infusing or just informing some of the conversations that we are now having within the agroecological conversation.

Lastly, Argentina, you raise a very valid point on the issue of reducing loss and food waste. I think, let us face it, we have been terrible at really this element and this sector. This issue of food loss and food waste is a big one for the Continent. When we are talking about hunger and then there is an extreme end where the wastage is just really beyond, I think it is totally, for lack of a better word, inhumane and I will end there.

Mr Kwesi Atta -Krah, Moderator, IITA

Thank you very much, Musonda, for a very mid-stage analytical commentary, which I find very interesting and useful. Let us now invite USA, the United States of America. You have two minutes, please.

United States of America

Thank you, Chair. The United States acknowledges the work of the panel in producing this report and its recommendations on such a complex issue. We recognize that agroecology is one of many possible innovative approaches for transitioning to a more sustainable agricultural and food systems.

We appreciate the report's acknowledgement of the knowledge gaps related to the performance of agroecology systems and a need for practical scientifically-grounded and comprehensive performance metrics and indicators of agriculture and food systems as a basis for assessment, policy implementation and investment decisions.

The United States takes note, however, the report does not provide a balanced assessment of agroecology and other innovative approaches. Instead, the report describes aspirational agroecology systems that by definition achieves all its objectives. Until agroecology is held to the same empirical outcomes, base metrics as other systems, it is difficult to truly judge its relative merits.

Also, the summary does not address how critical it is for approaches to be productive and economically viable in order to characterize as sustainable. The reports on area evaluation of agroecology does not adequately recognize the value of economic wellbeing and opportunity, including the opportunity for smallholder farmers to transition out of this cycle of poverty.

In the report we strongly disagree with the criticisms of biotechnology and regret that the report fails to take into account the history of the safe use of biotechnology innovations. Such innovations have been in the international markets for over 25 years and with none of the adverse consequences as claimed in the report. Farmers need access to modern and innovative agriculture tools and technologies in order to produce food with fewer inputs, reduce crop losses, reduce impact on climate change and ensure safer, more nutritious and higher quality food for consumers.

Adoption of these technologies is growing. 26 countries, including 21 developed countries, allowing for their farmers' access to these tools to support their livelihoods while 70 countries allow their consumers access to these crops through approved cultivation or importation.

Biotechnology crops, the most widely adopted crop technology, are here today. And as a side note, farmers using biotech seeds are doing more to protect the climate and sequester carbon than those using conventional seeds. Adoption of other innovative approaches should happen and will need to be included if we are truly going to address global hunger, improve access to nutritional foods and minimise the impact on our climate and the environment in which we live. Thank you, Chair.

Mr Kwesi Atta -Krah, Moderator, IITA

Thank you, the United States of America. I like the point you made, that agroecology is one of several other systems for achieving sustainable feed systems. The emphasis here is on sustainable feed systems and you have also questioned whether the report does a thorough enough assessment on the economic aspects/outcomes of agroecology and also on the productivity that comes out of the agroecological approaches.

I believe some of these elements are in the report but obviously there is room to look at it and see how we move forward on that. The third point you have made, which I believe we will receive at that discussion, is the whole area of biotechnology and that is also very well noted at this point.

Thank you very much. The next presentation will be from the Civil Society Mechanism, CSM for three minutes please.

CSM

Thank you, Chair. Esteemed delegates, we would like to convey our deep appreciation for this discussion taking place at the CFS.

Small-scale food producers have been practicing agroecology for centuries. It is our life. We welcome the fact that finally it is to be discussed at the CFS, the famous space to address food security and nutrition in the UN. We welcome the HLPE report on agroecology and other innovations as a good first step for the discussion. The HLPE report presents us the evidence of the impact of different models of production and gives us a basis to assess what steps are needed towards the real transformation of food systems we desperately need.

We also welcome the HLPE report reflects the conceptual framework on agroecology that social movements of small-scale farmers, pastoralists, fisher folk, indigenous people, consumers, agricultural workers, women and youth develop in the [unclear 01:39:32] process. We are not here to debate the framework of agroecology but rather to define the policies that will help us move towards an agroecological transformation.

Agroecology is the only solution we have to address the multiple crises we are facing. Agroecology presents us with a holistic vision that embeds agronomic practices, ecological principles, social economic culture and human rights dimensions. Agroecology allows small-scale producers to define life, produce affordable healthy food in healthy conditions. It eliminates dependence on costly input and adopt practices which regenerates seeds and soils while mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change.

Agroecology has the capacity to overcome the traditional gender division of labour as it recognises the strategic role of women in the daily creation agroecology. This promotes women and it calls of debt in decision making processes at all levels.

Industrial agriculture is one of the biggest contributors to the ecological crises which is now the fight for survival for many. It is also a major cause of poverty, hunger and malnutrition including through grabbing of resources, concentration of power, homogenisation of diet and exposure of young people from rural areas.

The last decade has seen a plethora of UN studies confirming this. The HLPE report demonstrates that agroecology is the only transformational option to address all the structural changes needed in our food system in a systematic and integrated way and shows that sustainable intensification and climate smart agriculture can only provide one dimensional solution via incremental changes.

Agricultural innovation is essential as long as it does not lead to further concentration of knowledge and power. Agroecology needs to be supported by public policies. Currently the vast majority of funding and public support still go to industrial production or incremental approaches to change. We need the CFS process to redress that balance in order to bring about a radical transformation to end hunger and poverty while preserving the ecosystem and the natural resources base for the next generation. Thank you Chairperson.

Mr Kwesi Atta -Krah, Moderator, IITA

Thank you very much to the Civil Society Mechanism. I apologise for ringing the bell before your three minutes was due. But I liked the point where you remind us we are not here to define the technicalities only of but try to guide our discussions to the policies that will support and promote agroecological approaches in our respective countries. Here I want to emphasise that what we are talking about is, if you look at The High Level Panel of Experts study it is on agroecological and other innovate approaches.

So, I have heard a number of delegates saying agroecology is one of several. Well if that several fits in the 'other innovative approaches' on the business of sustainability and the key elements, then it definitely is part of that process. So, it is all about inclusivity and how we actually develop all these into policies.

Let me at this point now, invite Australia. Australia please.

Australia

Thank you Chairperson. Australia appreciates the work that has been undertaken by the HLPE and we welcome the opportunity to provide comments on the zero draft of the report in November 2018. We note with thanks that many of our original concerns were addressed.

However, we remain concerned that the report appears to strongly favour agroecology over other innovative approaches to sustainable agriculture and that there are a number of instances where it is implied that agroecology is the sole innovation capable of addressing sustainability, food security and nutrition.

We consider this as not in alignment with the proposed report's scope which suggested that it should answer the following question: to what extent can agroecological and other innovative approaches, practices and technologies improve resource efficiency, minimise ecological footprint, strengthen resilience, secure social equality and responsibility, and create decent jobs in particular for youth, in agriculture and food systems.

While we have a number of comments which we look forward to providing in due course today Australia would like to make three points.

Firstly, we consider that policy recommendations going forward need to present a more balanced overview of other innovations for sustainable agriculture and be clearer that agroecology is one potential innovation amongst others. For example, through recognition of conservation agriculture, climate smart agriculture and sustainable intensification.

Secondly, we encourage that policy recommendations moving forward seek not to bias social and political elements of the agriculture and food system over other more technical or outcome driven approaches such as sustainable intensification.

And finally, we respectfully call for policy recommendations moving forward to reflect the voluntary nature of the report's findings and recommendations by refraining from the use of language such as 'States should'. And we also ask that policy recommendations acknowledge the reality that a number of the report's recommendations may not applicable or appropriate for all contexts. Thank you.

Mr Kwesi Atta -Krah, Moderator, IITA

Thank you very much. Thank you very much Australia. I am going to do something which I have not done. Can you go back to the three points? What was the second point? I am interested in knowing about that.

Australia

Certainly. So, the second point. We encourage that policy recommendations moving forward seek not to bias social and political elements of the agriculture and food system over more technical or outcome driven approaches such as sustainable intensification. Thank you.

Mr Kwesi Atta -Krah, Moderator, IITA

Okay. Thank you. Thank you very much. Alright, so at this point we would like to call on Hungary. Hungary you have two minutes please.

Hungary

Thank you very much. We align ourselves with the statement delivered on behalf of EU and its member States. Furthermore, as one of the friends of agroecology, I subscribe to the statement made by Brazil on behalf of this Group.

We welcome HLPE report and appreciate the excellent presentation made by Dr Sinclair, in particular his clear explanation about the five levels and the 13 elements of agroecology. We fully support the concept he outlined about the transformation and the transition.

We look forward to further discussing the fourth operational principle of sustainable food systems about the ecological footprint that considers all environmental and social externalities. In fact as we could hear, there are sufficient scientific evidence in this regard, therefore we propose to give due consideration to the true cost accounting during our policy convergence process. This would clearly demonstrate the economic viability of agroecology and other sustainable approaches.

We agree with Burkina Faso regarding the interlinkages of agroecology with the UN decade of family farming. Similarly, the policy convergence on agroecology should have a mutually supportive role with the workstream on nutrition and food systems. We also support the proposal by China regarding the need for including GS in our deliberations.

Finally, we consider that the recommendations of the HLPE report are excellent basis for the policy convergence process in which we confirm our constructive engagement. This process should start immediately at conclude at the CFS 47 in 2020. The outcomes will not be imposed on any countries or farmers, rather they will provide opportunity, in particular for developing countries to follow a sustainable pathway and not to commit the errors of destroying their soils and ecosystems. Thank you very much.

Mr Kwesi Atta -Krah, Moderator, IITA

Thank you. Thank you very much Hungary. We are making progress, I think, on the list now. We have just New Zealand and I am assuming that will at least draw us to the conclusion. But first of all let me ask New Zealand to take the floor for two minutes please. New Zealand.

New Zealand

New Zealand thanks the HLPE for producing this report and welcomes the Chairperson's acknowledgement that this report is an opportunity to present the divergence of perspectives on this issue rather than attempting to define what agroecology is.

It is important to acknowledge that the science of agroecology is still in its infancy. The science suggests that there are many different pathways for governments and farmers to follow towards achieving sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food and nutrition security.

This is a complex issue and while New Zealand is of the opinion that further research is needed, we want to ensure that this report is converted into a practical guide that countries can refer. However, we believe that given the variety of food systems across and within countries, and the diversity of the challenges and constraints that countries face, it is important to acknowledge that a one size fits all approach to achieving sustainable food systems will not work.

We agree that transformation in the agricultural sector is inherently local and this is why in our opinion, the policy output should contain a range of sustainable agricultural options, approaches and tools that governments can adopt based on their specific regional, national and local context.

In New Zealand for example, we have experience in a range of sustainable agricultural approaches including farm systems that are based on the application of indigenous practices, adopting traditional knowledge using traditional seeds and conservation agricultural practices. These exist side by side with highly efficient farms that use the most precise agricultural approaches to minimise resource use and protect our ecosystems and freshwater. Thank you Chairperson.

Mr Kwesi Atta -Krah, Moderator, IITA

Thank you. Thank you very much. I would like to call on the Special Rapporteur on Right to Food. The Special Rapporteur on Right to Food for two minutes please.

Special Rapporteur on Right to Food

Thank you. Thank you to offering me an opportunity to make a short comment.

The transformation of food system poses many challenges and I welcome the effort made by the HLPE report to addressing in a comprehensive manner the important issue of the agroecology. I especially welcome the proposing to include agencies as a critical dimension of any food security and nutrition assessment.

Poverty and lack of access to natural resources severely constrains agency or food producers reducing their ability to claim their human rights. Ensuring agencies offers them an opportunity to exercise their rights over natural and productive resources, the very same resources that they do so desperately need to achieve their human rights to food.

Inclusivity is key to this process. We need to promote agroecological approach in ensuring the small-scale food producers who are those most affected by intensive agriculture are empowered across all domains.

Working on agroecology should also be done by keeping in mind the strong link between the positive impact of agroecology on climate change. By reducing the effects of climate change we offer small-scale farmers a true possibility to be food secure and self-sufficient for the achievement of their right to food.

Agroecology calls for human rights principles such as participation of farmers to be at the centre of policies. I hope that the foreseen policy convergence process and the policy recommendations that will emerge from it will take into account the strong connection existing between agroecology and the principles of the human rights based approach to food security and nutrition. Thank you.

Mr Kwesi Atta -Krah, Moderator, IITA

Thank you very much. Thank you very much the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food. We are at the point where I am going to ask Fergus Sinclair, who did such an excellent presentation of the report of their study. For his commentary, not to attempt to respond to the depth of what has been read, but for his overview commentary on what he has heard.

Now whilst he is running through his papers, let me tell you that when I was growing up Saturdays were farm days. You have to go to the farm. We did not like it very much because to go to farmland walking sometimes five kilometres/ten kilometres to get into the farm. But once you are on the farm, it was so peaceful. We had a little stream flowing and we used to collect certain shellfish out of that stream. There was nothing like pesticide or fertilizer. You know, you just go and harvest. You eat paw-paw, you do everything. It looked really ideal.

Recently I went back to that area and I saw that all that land has been demarcated into buildings. So, people have been pushed to some very narrow space of land. And within that narrow space they still have to produce what will support them. And they have been forced into fertilization and other things which obviously have not been very, very helpful.

So, I think the kind of issues we are talking about is basically to say, let us act now, because before the situation gets to the point where we can't redeem it we are already very deeply in the red. But it is good that we are having this discussion today so that we can put in place the appropriate policy guidelines that will support countries to take the steps that are needed to drive us towards a more secure future based on sustainable food systems.

Let me Fergus Sinclair to share his thoughts.

Mr Fergus Sinclair, Project Team Leader HLPE

Thank you very much Moderator and for that very rich set of comments. This engagement process in developing the report and seeing the reactions to it has been an extremely and exciting one. And partly, because there are a number of key differences of opinion and tensions that I think emerge. Even in the very diplomatic language that people are using in the forum like this. But I think it is important that we try to pinpoint some of those areas and to address them.

I want to say a couple of things that are quite important about what is and what is not in the report. So, we do not make recommendations about whether biotechnology should or should not be adopted or should not be part of transition pathways.

As I explained in the introduction, we took six areas where there are disagreements and biotechnology was one of them. And we looked at what is the basis for different people's views. So, it is not the case. So, those views are in the report. They are there. They are cited in relation to where they are held, but it is not that we are saying that they, that any one set of those opinions is more or less important than another.

What we are trying to do is to understand why people have a disagreement. And as I explained, it is not with nearly all those issues, it does not come down to the technologies themselves. It comes down quite often to power asymmetries in the food system and therefore, what powerful technologies may do in terms of affecting access and control of resources for different groups of people. And that is something which is as scientific and subject to rigorous analysis as anything else. And what is needed is to look at these things objectively for what they are rather than coming at them from predetermined positions.

And this is the difference between an evidenced based approach and what we need to be clear about is we are asserting values and being normative, or where we are thinking about being causative. Obviously, you need to agree on the normative basis, otherwise you can't get anywhere. But the causative elements are subject to evidence. So, I think it is really important that we approach that in a sensible way.

The issue of economic viability is a really important question. And it is tied in with a lot of the problems in any sort of analysis of these different innovative approaches. And that is that there is not a level playing field. We know much less about some interventions. And I am talking here about the economic trade-offs between adopting one approach over another approach, one practice over another practice.

Now, less than 2 percent of the budget of research for the UK, for example, it was DFID who spent on agroecology less than 5 percent of FAO in the figures that we have got in the report for the recent years that the data were available. And that means it is quite difficult to make definitive points.

Our assessment is that there is enough evidence to suggest that it is really worth investing more in trying to clarify the key economic trade-offs, but to do that in a way that takes a holistic view of the economics. Because one of the real difficulties is another aspect of there not being a level playing field is that there are quite a lot of policies, incentives, subsidies, which make agroecological approaches more difficult for people to adopt.

If you subsidise nitrogen fertiliser, obviously it is going to disincentivise biological nitrogen fixation. Quite often forest legislation makes it quite difficult for farmers to have control and access of trees on their farmland. So, there are lots of ways in which our current set of policies can make it difficult for people to adopt.

So, there are basically three areas that seem to come out from various comments where you need to make changes if things are going to be evaluated properly. In relation to a level playing field there are market failures on where some things are not costed, where consumers can't necessarily make choices because they do not necessarily have the information that they need to do so.

The second thing is embracing complexity. There is a real tendency to want to simplify things, to go for that one size fits all silver bullet type of approach. It is very appealing. But because of the inherent localisation of agriculture, that really does not work. But we then need methods to cope with understanding option by context interactions. And those are being developed in the scientific sphere and we need to operationalise them.

And that brings very much to the fore the concept of co-learning and co-creation of knowledge which helps then to put that global knowledge into local perspectives. But of course, you have to have the right power relationships between the global and the local if that relationship is going to result in co-learning.

The third element of the complexity I think is this tension between social movements and science. And the key point is we really need to try to find ways of getting beyond that as though they are different and opposing aspects as opposed to trying to understand one in the light of the other and to be able to bring more science to underpin what happens in some developments brought by social movements. And to get scientists to look at what is happening in social movements with an open mind. So, it goes I think both ways.

And finally, there is a need for integration. And this integration needs to be both vertically in terms of different scales and that is quite clear that the field, the farm, the landscape, the food system, we have got different emergent properties. And they are all complex systems that involve people and the environment. It is a social/ecological mix.

We need to really develop our skills in being able to understand the emergent properties of these systems at these different scales. And ensuring that you have got the instruments, the policy instruments, the social capital at the scales which you need them if you are going to manage the environment and the agriculture. And on the whole, local landscape scales were missing that sort of social capital and policy structures.

And then finally, there is the horizontal integration across sectors. And it is really difficult to take a holistic view to food systems if you have got water in one ministry, energy in another one, agriculture in another one, forestry in a different, environment somewhere else. And really getting joined up policy and thinking is really important otherwise you have got one set of policies pushing in one direction at the same time as another is pulling somewhere else.

So, that systems view is really going to be an important element of policy recommendations. Yes, they need to be precise. But if they are going to take option by context interactions into account then they also have to be nuanced to allow for that. And that is perhaps a key challenge. How do you be precise in your

recommendations while allowing for the fact that different countries, different places are starting off from different positions and will have different transition pathways.

And that brings me to the final two quick points that I want to make. In relation to agency, what the report identifies is that the current focus on access does look at what we would term 'asset based agency', so the agency determined by the resources that you have. It does not look at the institutional opportunity structures that exist. The way in which things are organised and the extent to which people can assert their wishes in relation to the food system.

So, it is not saying that again, it is suggesting that considering that explicitly in the way that we look at food security and nutrition is a necessary part rather than being more proscriptive than that.

And finally, okay I will stop at that point because the Moderator is ringing his bell.

Mr Kwesi Atta -Krah, Moderator, IITA

I think Fergus Sinclair strategically chose to sit the furthest distance from me so I can't control him in terms of the time allocation.

Ladies and gentlemen for all of you who are here, I want to really say you have won a medal. A medal of sustainability in this very important subject matter of agroecology and other innovative approaches that we are discussing. It is a very historical process we are going through, so I really appreciate the fact that you have continued to be patient and to sit through all this development.

I just realized, we skipped one country when we were going through the listing. So, please forgive me I will ask Canada. To give Canada two minutes if Canada is still in the room.

Canada

Yes, Canada is still in the room. And thank you Chairperson for your commitment to inclusive dialogue however belated even to those of us in the very margins physically of those discussions. I will, however, be brief, but this is an important topic, so we did wish to take the floor.

Canada is supportive of agroecology and sees it as a promising and important approach, one of many approaches that can be used to achieve sustainable agriculture.

We noted in particular the report's identification of the important contribution that could be made by trees, forest and agroforestry in achieving sustainable agriculture and sustainable food systems.

We also note that the HLPE report identifies that there is no single consensual definition of agroecology. While this presents certain challenges it also provides flexibility that allows for agroecological approaches to develop in locally adapted ways and to be combined with other approaches and initiatives to achieve and ensure food and nutrition security.

Discussions on agroecology have been constructive, but they should not be overly proscriptive or distract from pursuing a full range of approaches in order to face the challenges that we have before us.

Canada is of the view that options to promote a transition towards sustainable food systems should combine complimentary approaches including agroecology, climate smart agriculture and biotechnology. The combination of innovative approaches that identify opportunities for synergies and integrated actions could address social inequity concerns and enable a transition towards sustainable and circulate food systems. Thank you Chairperson.

Mr Kwesi Atta -Krah, Moderator, IITA

Thank you very much Canada. I would wish to, as we draw to a close, I would wish to invite Dr Caron to make his any closing overview comments and then after that we will ask Ms Mumba if she still has some closing comments to make and that would be the beginning of wrapping up. So, Mr Caron please.

Mr Patrick Caron, Chair, HLPE

Yes, thank you very much Moderator. And before the bell rings, I would like to thank all those who took part in the discussion for the possibility to make the whole discussion alive and for all those who have taken the floor. I have a few points, but do not worry I am not going to be very long.

The first one, is first of all I am very happy about three things. First of all, is that everyone agreed. Nobody countered this. That there is a need for an in depth transformation of agriculture and the food system in order to meet tomorrow's challenges.

Secondly, is the very positive assessment that you have made one and all, especially on the third point and that is the way that a report is prepared as prepared today is in a position to stimulate dialogue and too for people take positions on that.

And another point and this has partly been covered by Fergus Sinclair, is the need to have a new framework for dealing with questions that we encounter now and that are to come. I am not going to paraphrase Einstein when it comes to the problems from the past, but we do need to look at agriculture and the challenges of food and nutrition in a new. And every one of you has agreed that this is a very complex matter. Sometimes this is overlooked. And this on the basis of an interdisciplinary approach.

And many of you have stressed this. We probably need, and I am saying this explicitly, so as to maybe to strengthen this point, we need to distinguish between the approach that enables us to understand the world and to see what is happening before us. What is happening today, the way we can react and to separate that from the standard setting vision that we have of the world and the policy that this implies. So, the approach and the vision of the world have to be distinguished. And we need both of them.

Thirdly, I noted a number of paths outlined of guidelines outlined by the report, and I am very happy to have heard those. In particular, the relationship between the ten elements of the report, that is the conclusion of the FAO and the 13 principles in the report. And that is a proposal that has been made on the urgency. And I am happy to see that the discussion has led to a greater in depth approach.

Fourthly, when it comes to the metrics, many of you have outlined the fact that we do not have enough data, we do not have enough figures of available data. And I would go even further. We also lack the way of measuring them. Not just the data but the way that they can be looked at, understood, encompassed, take into account this complexity that we have had to deal with.

So, of course it has been said, and to certain extent, we are at a very early stage that is to take this complexity on board and also to take on board matters that did not occur yesterday or did not come in the same terms yesterday. So, we need to look at greater depth, greater understanding, but nevertheless this is a not pretext not to act. This should not be excused an excuse.

So, another point that many of you stressed and that is the need to document practice that we already have, that are already in place and this not only in order to say that we have to keep what is good and to continue it in the future. But rather, as Hungary for instance said, that we need to base ourselves on this knowledge and to imagine new paths for transformation.

The sixth point many of stressed diversity and specificity and the role that is played. In particular, at the national level. And this is a point that we have indeed stressed in the report and has Fergus has said, there is no miracle solution which would work for everything even if the technologies and innovations and the

technologies remained very important. But nevertheless, it is important to affirm the specificity, the need to translate into recommendations adapted to each country, to each territory, to each locality.

But there is another challenge as well. Transformations were not simply the result from this process of adaptation. They will result from an intelligent articulation between what can be done locally and the policies that are at the national level and the way that we are thinking about international agenda.

And the seventh point that I noted, in particular, this was stressed by the Russian Federation. And it is a very interesting convergence between what we are discussing today and the voluntary guidelines on the food system and this is something that we need to keep in mind.

So, in conclusion this discussion has fuelled our dialogue, and this is a very good idea, and I am glad to hear that is going to continue throughout this year. Thank you very much.

Mr Kwesi Atta -Krah, Moderator, IITA

Thank you very much Patrick Caron. So, ladies and gentlemen we are now approaching the very end. I would like to say that there is very great consensus on the value of what the study team has produced. There was overall praise for the scientific quality and the rigor that is provided in the report. So we really thank the team lead by Fergus Sinclair and the other members of the team for doing such great work. I always want to thank all of us here for the contributions that have been made.

I understand that the CFS Secretariat will be writing to all stakeholders to actually ask for further contributions where you have some very specific elements that you would wish to see built into the process of preparing for the policy convergence and you have not been able to state it during today's session. There is an opportunity for that to be done.

I want to highlight just a few key elements that came across. First, I was struck by the overall consensus of the importance of agroecology and the fact that it is needed in terms of the food systems, sustainable food systems, as we move towards the future.

We also talked about the fact that we are talking about agroecology and other innovative approaches and a point was made that the report was a bit biased in not giving adequate visibility towards some of these other innovative approaches. But the report is a report. I think the key thing is as we get down to preparing the kind of policy issues which is part of the policy conventions some of these issues will be taken into account.

A suggestion was also made that the 14 recommendations that have been made by the High Level Panel of Experts study is a very solid base, however, we should see how that links with the ten elements. We need to find a way to see how these stick, so it does not create confusion. Because if you look at the ten elements and you look at the recommendations there would have to be some mechanism that enables us to see how they come together.

A very specific comment I will also raise relates to this issue of agency. And we have heard quite a lot about what it is supposed to imply. And I like the point that was made, I think it was by Finland, that we may need to think through that in a new, another process as we move along to see whether that should be added as a fifth point or not. So, that is something that the Secretariat will think further about.

A lot of emphasis has been placed on the fact that agroecological approaches, we need to make sure they are inclusive. It is a multi-stakeholder process and therefore we have to give space to recognise all the players who are involved in making sure that these elements are there. And for that to happen dialogue mechanisms are critical. We really need to ask, how are we going to build those dialogue mechanisms both horizontally and vertically. How are we going to create the platforms that brings stakeholders together to discuss and deliberate. We are talking about co-learning. Co-learning happens when we are all together and learning together. And that also promotes co-ownership of the process.

Another very important point that has been made is that we are not here making specific policies that must be taken up by countries. We are essentially putting together thoughts and ideas that countries will consider in terms of how they are going to move to support agroecological approaches in their line of work. So, I think that is something that we need to be very clear about.

Also, in talking about agroecological approaches we should be careful not to just focus on thinking only on crops. There is crops, there is fish, there is trees, there is all these other dimensions that are involved in those approaches. So we need to make sure there is clear and adequate visibility.

For me, one point that we should not miss, and I heard that word only once, but it is very significant and that is the mechanisms for scaling up and scaling out the agroecological approaches. We all say they are very context specific but there are ways in which they can be given some scale. We have to bring scale into it at the end of the day. So, I think that bit is important. And to do that we have to give some sense to the issue of data. How are we going to get the data that we need, who is engaged in that data etc. So, all that is key.

And then we recognised the fact that we have not had a very level playing field when it comes to research into agroecology issues. And so, there has been a call that we need to get more research which is targeted in supporting agroecological approaches and other innovative approaches. So, that is an important element that I would like to see expanded.

There were so many other important elements and I think I am particularly struck by the commonality of purpose across the room. Of course there were some issues of concern that were raised including a feeling that the issue of biotechnology has not been fairly addressed. Those sort of issues will be looked at.

There is also the point that was made, I think it was by Australia, that there was a bit of a bias in describing agroecology and inadequate treatment of other innovative processes. Like climate smart agriculture and all those other elements. Now the degree to which these have to impact on the policy convergence process will definitely need to be looked at moving forward.

So, ladies and gentlemen I do not think I want to go on too much detail. I just want to end by saying, I have really appreciated the sense of commonality of purpose. We all recognise the fact that our present systems there are challenges and in moving forward. We really have to be bold, we have to be innovative, we have to respect various perspectives from different groups. And we have to work together to make this terminology of agroecology a terminology that does not bring about immediate which side of the fence do you fall.

But that is something that basically points us to the fact that we need to do things better taking environmental concerns into account and recognising the role of the social systems. And the groups that have been practising these things for several years so we can build together a future that ensures that we have sustainable food systems and nutrition moving forward without damaging effects that come through these processes.

So, with that I would say thank you and I am going to pass on the floor to, I guess I pass it on to you yes. So I am going to pass the floor on to the Chairperson who would then take us up and close the meeting when he is ready. Thank you very much ladies and gentlemen.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. Thank you Moderator for you being a moderator here.

Thank you very much to Patrick Caron, the Chairperson of the HLPE Steering Committee, Professor Fergus Sinclair, Miss Musonda Mumba.

This has really been a very informative, very interesting experience and I am not going to repeat what has already been said, but I would like to highlight the very positive comments that we have heard from all of those who have taken the floor this afternoon.

And I would also like to pull out another point which is a political obligation for the Chairperson of the Committee. We are here working on policy recommendations not on drafting laws or binding regulations.

We are here basing work on solid scientific foundations which give us information on when we are starting a process of convergence and coherence of policies to be able to recommend to our member States, to local and national governments, to other UN agencies to recommend to civil society organizations, the private sector, to integrate be it in their national laws or in international dialogues or be it in meetings that they held at all levels, a model that bears the stamp of the legitimacy of a committee like this one which engages all stakeholders to achieve that convergence.

Now we are seeing the faces of those of us who have made presentations and addressed us. But it is also important to say that Professor Sinclair is the coordinator of a technical team. There are another four people in that team. And Professor Caron is the Chairperson of a committee which has another four members and hundreds of experts and lecturers and researchers. People who are very committed to our Committee and they are part of this Committee.

And they are working all over the world, working like they are pro bono. It is voluntary work. They are not getting paid. They are not getting a commission. And they are there in their universities, teaching, they are studying, they are also writing and researching. And at the same time as all of their work, they are working with us with our Committee to take part in this process giving their time and their energy and the quality of their work.

We also have the Secretariat [[unclear name 02:29:47](#)] and we also have the Secretariat to the CFS who provides their support also. And this is a new step forward for all of our work. So I would like to ask you to give us a round of applause for our speakers here and for ourselves. We are really starting this off with the best foot forward for this process of policy convergence and coherence in agroecology and other innovative approaches for food security and nutrition.

So, we have closed Item VIII. We have all agreed that for the Chairperson's summary, we have agreed that for all items there will be the text that we are already familiar with. The names of those who have addressed the Committee, their post, the fact that we have had a conversation. A very rich debate, a very informative and valuable debate. And there will be the link to the Committee's website with the transcription. That is what we have agreed.

II. SOFI, ITS POLICY IMPLICATIONS and the SDGs (continue)

CHAIRPERSON

And so, now we are going to move on to go back to Item on the State of Food Security Nutrition in the World 2019, or the SOFI report. And I have a list of speakers and I am going to give the floor without further ado to the Republic of South Africa who will speak on behalf of the Africa Regional Group. You have the floor for five minutes South Africa. South Africa, you have the floor.

We could not continue because of time. We continued yesterday and again we had to cut it short because of time. And we are finalising it now, item II on the SOFI report. Do you have a statement to be made on behalf of the Africa Group? Please.

South Africa

I am aware of the statement but the statement was supposed to have been posted via the email yesterday.

CHAIRPERSON

Okay. I understand Sir. Thank you very much.

South Africa

All right. Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you South Africa and thank you to the Africa Regional Group. We need silence. We need silence in the hall to proceed with the Committee. We have not adjourned. We have not finished. We are on Item II so please take your seats or take your leave. We will now listen to Indonesia. Indonesia. Do we have Indonesia in the room on Item II? You have the floor sir, three minutes.

Indonesia

Thank you Chairperson. Due to the time constraints I will convey a very short version and the full version I will as the national statement will be conveyed to the Secretariat.

I would also like to align our statement with G77 and China and Asia Group. Similar to the previous delegation, we note that we are concerned and alarmed the fact global hunger continue to be on the rise. We believe this serious situation calls for extraordinary action that involve policy convergence along with developed policy domain and stronger collaboration among relevant stakeholders.

To tackle the challenges of improving food security and nutrition the Indonesian government commit to continue to focus on food availability, accessibility and utilisation. To ensure food availability Indonesia has increased food production by optimising the use of the marginal land boosting agriculture mechanisms, development of water storage and education infrastructure.

And actually the knowledge and innovation for climate change adaption and mitigation and providing agricultural insurance to minimise vermin risk. In dealing with the fishery and aquaculture development again, I would like to say that we try always to protect our marine from the illegal fishing, we call it IUU fishing, foreign intervention and conserve our marine ecosystem.

Indonesia also aim to improve national logistics system maintaining the stability of the food prices, expanding market access and developing essential food safety net system and delivering food aid for the emergencies area.

In the aspect of the food utilisation Indonesia is focused on education and promoting of a variety of balances of safe nutritional, food safety development and improvement of sanitation and health services. Indonesia use the food security and vulnerability atlas to monitor vulnerability and spot programme planning and implementation and the district, sub-district and community levels.

We use all our efforts according to the global food security index Indonesia food security ranks continue to improve for the last three years from 75 in 2015 to 65 in 2018 out of 113 countries in the world. We have also managed to reduce food price inflation and reduce the prevalence of stunting, overweight and undernourishment.

Thus our success story highlights the importance of using local resources, developing local capacity as well as ensuring policy and inclusivity. On this occasion I would like to offer Indonesia's commitment to participate and support the global effort in achieving food security and nutrition including through the agricultural cooperation with the South-South and Triangular Cooperation Framework. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you sir. I gave Indonesia some more time on account of the noise that was coming out of the door. Some colleagues were leaving the room. So that is why I gave them some more seconds. I will read the list of speakers so that everybody knows it and especially the speakers to be ready.

I will now give the floor to China followed by the Private Sector Mechanism, then France, the Civil Society Mechanism, Cuba, Switzerland, the Gates Foundation, New Zealand, Belgium, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Thailand, Angola and the Parliamentary Front Against Hunger in the order that I have mentioned them. I will ring the bell when you have, that's a 30 second warning, when you hear the bell 30 second warning. China three minutes.

China

Thank you Mr Chairperson, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. China thanks the Secretariat for the presentation of SOFI 2019. and we note that the Global Food and Agricultural Development is undergoing profound changes. The number of the hungry in the world is on the rise posing new challenges to the achievement of SDGs.

China thinks it is important to conduct policy dialogue, technical exchange information sharing and strengthen multilateral cooperation. China will continue to firmly support the work of the CFS, and we will engage in, as I mentioned, policy dialogue, technical exchange and information sharing.

Ladies and gentlemen, early October of this year, China marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China and over the past seven decades through hard work and self-reliance the Chinese people have overcome poverty and backwardness and through 40 years of reform and opening up efforts, 700 million Chinese people have been lifted out of the poverty. The poverty rate in rural areas had dropped from 97.5 percent in 1970 to 1.7 percent in 2018. In 2020 China will eliminate absolute poverty achieving SDG on poverty elimination ten years ahead of the schedule.

This will boost the confidence of the international community on poverty reduction efforts. China has always been open and engaged in equal mutually beneficial and win-win cooperation with all countries in the world in all fields. Elimination of hunger is a major challenge and we are ready to share with all countries our experiences and contribute to the acceleration and implementation of SDG2 and full achievement of all SDGs. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much sir. And we will now listen to the private sector for five minutes please. Five.

PSM

Thank you Chairperson. Good evening. The findings of the 2019 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World are extremely sobering. For the fourth year in a row the number have gone up and we have failed to make meaningful progress towards the many targets of the SDG2. This persistent lack of progress should serve as a call to action for everyone in this room as the DG notes, we do not have the luxury of business as usual.

Our actions must become vastly more coordinated and more effective and we must do the same as a matter of great urgency. With the new findings come from more of the world's hungry and undernourished call Asia home. We also have the double burden of rising obesity rates across the region as well. This troubling trend only heightens the need for renewed effort to build stronger and more impactful partnerships among governments, industry, civil society to develop shared solutions and act now.

As the Executive Director of CropLife Asia, it is also clear that we must invest more in science, infrastructure in rural areas which bears this disproportionate share of the global burden in malnutrition and food insecurity. We must strengthen the resilience and adaptive capability of the food system this area of support in the face of climate change and adverse economic cycles.

Asia is the home to most of the world's smallholder farmers. This men and women remain on the front lines in the fight against hunger as they are the most severely impacted by the disruption arising from these challenges.

We must ensure that they are enabled and empowered to grow more safe and nutritious food sustainably. That means that having the access to market, social protection, services and technology, they need to realize successful livelihood and good nutrition. The role of women in this respect is also crucial as we are pleased to hear that the DG has stated this yesterday.

We commend the inclusion of estimates of the combined prevalence of moderate and severe food insecurity as a means of providing a more complete picture of the obstacles that we face in combating hunger and the means of overcoming them.

To that end, I hope that this report may play role in galvanising the redoubled efforts that are so sorely needed. The stakes in Asia and across the world are simply too high not to act now. Thank you Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you to Private Sector mechanism. And we will now hear the Republic of France. You have the floor.

France

Thank you. Thank you Chairperson. France welcomes the statement given by Finland on behalf of the European Union.

The new edition of SOFI has unfortunately confirmed that we are on a downward trend. The figures are very alarming, and it is our collective responsibility to buck that trend very quickly if we achieve the SDGs by 2030.

This year the report shows the impact of the effects of slowdowns and economic slowdown on food insecurity. Economic crises compound the seriousness of food insecurity and lead to greater crises that are often caused by climate change and conflicts also.

We must act on these three pillars then. Firstly by reducing conflict. Secondly, adapting to climate shocks. And thirdly, by reducing economic vulnerability which entails less dependence on commodities, diversifying the economy and accumulating human capital.

France through its international action and development policy is working towards this. On 20th October it will publish its new international strategy on food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture.

This has five axes stepping up world governance of food security and nutrition with a central role played by human organizations and the CFS. Secondly, develop sustainable agricultural systems particularly agroecology in a context of climate change and reduced biodiversity.

Thirdly, stress nutrition through a multisectoral integrated approach. Fourthly, support the creation of employments in rural areas particularly through young people and family farming. And fifthly, to step up food assistance for vulnerable populations and to improve their resilience.

Additionally, as part of the Chairperson of the G7 on Fighting Inequalities, France addressed the issue of decent work for rural youth in the Sahel and called upon mobilising resources to attack this scourge. These are just a few examples of the work we have done, but we must not rest on our laurels.

I would also like to mention the last GEAC report which is unprecedented and describes how land degradation is affecting the climate. We know that climate change has a huge impact on the four pillars of food and security availability access, use and stability. These effects vary from country to country, but it is clear that they are worse in low income countries. General mobilisation for sustainability is key today to tackle climate change and our discussions on agroecology have contributed to this.

France work with FAO and the other Rome based agencies as well as the CFS to increase the impact to make sure that we are effective in attaining the sustainable development goals. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you France. I had to give a little bit more time to France, as you have realized, because of that technical glitch. So, you all saw that. Civil Society Mechanism, you have the floor.

CSM

Chatrika Selwandi [?] from Sri Lanka [unclear 02:48:28] Nationalist Federation. The Civil Society and the Indigenous People Mechanism for relations with the CFS appreciate the SOFI report 2019 its analysis and reflections.

However, the result of the report are shocking. Hunger is on the rise. Today, almost as many millions of people are undernourished as ten years ago when the CFS was reformed. Since 2015 the number of the hungry is increasing. The SOFI report confirms what we witness every day in our communities and countries. Millions of people are left behind struggling for their right and livelihoods. Again, the

criminalisation, exclusion and other resource grabbing, market concentration unwinding inequities within and among countries.

The recent report of the International Panel on Climate Change shows that land is under increasing pressure and the current food system is a key driver of the climate crisis severely impacting food security. We see unprecedented losses of biodiversity, persistent conflicts and food prices increasing criminalisation of human rights defenders, violence against women as other reports point out.

The 2030 agenda and the sustainable development goals are heading for failures especially SDG2. Acceleration is not enough we need to change direction. If a train goes into a wrong direction acceleration is not a solution. The new direction of policies is based on the certainty of the people and their human rights and the urgent need for a profound agroecological transformation of the food system toward food sovereignty and the full realisation of the right to adequate food.

Chairperson, the CFS has developed and adapted policy instruments that can and should guide a shift towards more people and community centred public policies. Member States and UN agencies should make much stronger efforts to use and apply CFS policy instruments and ensure policy requirements and accountability in close cooperation with us as peasants and smallholder family farmers, agricultural and food workers, indigenous peoples, pastoralists, fisher folks, landless, consumers, women, youth, children and urban food insecure.

Chairperson, the CFS, its members and participants must promote the respect, protection and fulfilment of women's rights and ensure that they become a transversal priority for the CFS in the ongoing and upcoming policy negotiation.

Chairperson, the urgently needed change of direction includes a different relationship with us. The young people, our agency our agency autonomy and diversity as youth must be recognised and respected. We have the right to decent work, living wage and decent incomes. The right to land and other natural resources is fundamental for us as young food producers.

CFS and member States should give priority attention to those of us in the youth who live and work with the communities most affected by hunger and malnutrition. Our voice must be heard. Our rights to participate in policy decision making on all levels must be ensured.

Chairperson the world is at the crossroad and our future is at risk. We can't afford to not change direction. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much indeed CSM for that statement. I have just received a message from the representation of Cuba sent to the Secretariat saying that they would prefer to record a video tomorrow whenever it is suitable. So, please take note of that. And we now move on to Switzerland.

Switzerland

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, Switzerland is deeply concerned that after decades of steady decline the trend in world hunger reverted in 2015. Ever since hunger is on the rise again reaching an alarming number of 821 million undernourished people in the world with the highest prevalence of 20 percent in Africa, but 500 million people in Asia. This is unacceptable.

The SOFI report 2019 highlights well the causes of hunger. Economic shocks many of them are manmade, prolonging and worsening the severity of acute food insecurity. Transformative change of food and agricultural system is necessary.

Switzerland sees the following three critical aspects to accelerate this required transformation. One, an integrated sustainable food systems approach. Two, inclusive multi stakeholder partnerships. And three, agroecology as a pathway to more sustainable systems.

On these points, first, we understand an integrated sustainable food systems approach as: A, ranging from before production to consumption and beyond. B, including all four dimensions of food security. C, taking into account the social, economic and environmental dimensions. And D, including related systems outcomes.

Two, inclusive multi stakeholder partnerships are key to find robust global solutions to address multi-faceted, complex and systemic global challenges like climate change and food security. Such multi stakeholder partnerships allow for the required dynamic and systemic interaction between all stakeholders, policymakers, governments, private sector, civil society, academia, and most importantly the 570 million smallholder farmers alike.

Three, Switzerland recognises agroecology as one major path towards more sustainable systems. Agroecology is a relevant systemic and holistic approach that promotes sustainable agriculture and food systems in support of the SDGs.

The HLPE report on agroecology and other innovations as well as FAOs ten elements on agroecology are important reference documents that provide guidance towards more sustainable food systems.

Ladies and gentlemen, one potentially powerful policy are the voluntary guidelines on food systems and nutrition. Switzerland is pleased to see progress and acknowledges these guidelines as a great opportunity to address today's policy fragmentation across food, agriculture, trade and health sectors.

Switzerland, therefore, stresses the important to define and develop sustainable diets as healthy for humans, for society and the environment. Thank you Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Switzerland. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has the floor. Actually they are hosting a cocktail at this time, I believe. Pardon. Yes I have been told that the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is probably not present. Let us see if we can find anyone else before we finish the session. New Zealand.

New Zealand

Thank you Chairperson. The overall challenge the world is facing over the coming decades has already been well described by other speakers. Essentially, we must produce more food that is higher in nutrition in more efficient manner using less resources.

Changes to the global agriculture and food system are necessary if we are to address climate change, eliminate hunger and halt biodiversity loss. There are many challenges that lie ahead of us to achieve the level of transformation needed to scale up efforts in ways that support small scale farmers, improve the productivity of farms, build resilience and significantly reduce emissions across the entire agricultural system.

To achieve this triple win we must simultaneously increase productivity, reduce environmental impacts and ensure people have access to an affordable and stable supply of nutritious foods. Our economies must focus on increasing agricultural efficiency and increasing the amount of food that is lost or wasted.

In fostering a sustainable food system the focus must also shift from calorie intake to nutritional quality. Over two billion people suffer from micronutrient deficiencies. In some countries people do not have enough iron, and others not enough vitamin A, while in many countries people have excess energy intake resulting in increased rates of obesity.

New Zealand believes the report provides a useful and comprehensive contribution to discussions on different pathways towards sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition.

New Zealand agrees that given the huge diversity of food systems across and within countries and the diversity of the challenges and constraints they face contexts specific pathways towards sustainable food systems can be developed. And these transition pathways may be grounded in different narratives and these will lead to different sets of options for how change is realized. Thank you Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much indeed New Zealand. Belgium please.

Belgium

Chairperson, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, first of all Belgium aligns itself with the EUs statement.

The general observation after years of SDG implementation is that despite the many efforts we are not on track to reach the SDGs by the 2030 deadline. The observation is supported by various reports including the Global Sustainable Development report presented in New York at the SDG Summit.

The 2019 SOFI report discussed as the FSC this week also makes this case with particular focus on SDG2 eradicating hunger and malnutrition in all its forms is further away now than it has been over the past decade. More 820 million in the world are still hungry. This number underscores the immense challenge of achieving the zero hunger objective by 2030.

Four years down the line in the Agenda 2030 and ten years after the reform of CFS Belgium is convinced that three observations remain particularly relevant if we truly want to accelerate progress on SDG2 in order to achieve all the SDGs.

First, as we have a little over ten years left to reach the Agenda 2030. That means that our actions to tackle these troubling trends will have to be bolder. Not only in scale, but also in terms of multisectoral collaboration in order to provide the adequate frameworks and policy guidance by involving all relevant sectors and aiming at achieving a pro-poor and inclusive transformation.

The active engagement of the Civil Society and engaged citizens at large is crucial. Also the inclusion of the private sector in new ways of financing are key. All actors need to be involved such as academia and youth. We acknowledge the crucial role of CFS in this regard as the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform to work together towards the elimination of hunger and ensuring food security and nutrition for all human beings. Second, we need to continue to focus on those furthest behind. Development will never be sustainable if it is not fair and inclusive.

Therefore, we need to further intensify our efforts to realisations of human rights, in particular the right to food. The food insecurity experience scale shows us another disturbing number, namely that about two billion people in the world experienced moderate or severe food insecurity. In every continent the prevalence rate is slightly higher among women than men. Gender equality, women and girl's rights and women's empowerment need to be systematically mainstreamed. Also, least developed countries and conflict affected countries continue to merit our full attention.

Peaceful, just and inclusive societies are important levers in fighting poverty. Belgium stands ready to support efforts in these areas including through the application of the CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in protracted crises.

Third, we need to recognise better the main interlinkages between the different SDGs, the climate agenda and the financing agenda. Implementing Agenda 2030 is about synergies as much as it is about trade-offs. The tough policy choices will need to be made. Belgium will continue to strengthen our approaches for policy coverings. Thank you Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Belgium. The Republic of Korea please.

Republic of Korea

... of the Republic of Korea. Today we confront undeniable challenge that the number of the world's undernourished people is sliding backwards during the last three consecutive years reversing the positive trend in the preceding years. The number of the undernourished people increased by 10 million in 2018.

It keeps increasing across every cline in Asia. About 500 million people are suffering from malnutrition. It is truly a red light in achieving sustainable development goals by 2030, particularly goal number two: zero hunger. Moreover, the increasing number of refugees, enforced migrants due to regional conflicts and natural disasters, bring negative impacts on the world food security.

Against this backdrop we all recognise that the international community's cooperation is more critical than ever before. In this regard, Republic of Korea joined the Food Assistance Convention last year. We have donated 50,000 metric tons of rice to four countries in the Middle East and Africa last year and also this year.

The Korean government is also exerting efforts to improve agricultural productivity and promote rural development in developing countries. We have established several centres named ACOPIA [?] in Asia, Africa and Latin America to transfer our experience of agricultural policies and technologies.

Furthermore, in order to enhance agricultural infrastructure we have been implementing rural development and irrigation projects in 12 countries. Through these projects we are contributing to the improvement of agricultural productivity and income growth of rural households and are promoting the sustainability of agricultural system in developing countries.

Chairperson, before conclusion I would like to make a brief reference to transponder of animal disease as related to the world food security. On September 16 the first outbreak of African swine fever was detected in Korea, and we are struggling to block additional outbreaks. Despite our utmost efforts for disease control we still have difficulties due to the lack of full understanding of the fever.

I hope that the international community will share their relevant information and experience of preventing or eradicating this scourge. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. Thank you very much. And now we are going to hear from Malaysia please.

Malaysia

Thank you Chairperson. Malaysia aligns itself with the statement made by the Philippines on behalf of the Asia Group and the statement by South Sudan on behalf of the G77 and China.

SOFI 2019 report reminds us that business should not be as usual. The increasing number of global hunger and undernourishment while the trend of overweight and obesity are on the rise showed us that

there is a growing disparity in access to food. These pose great challenges for us to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition by 2030. We do not have much time left, we must be bolder.

Chairperson, most of the countries experiencing undernourishment in correspondence with economic slowdowns and downturns are developing countries that are highly dependent on commodity exports and imports.

Malaysia is a country that depends on export of commodities while being a net importer of food products. The change in commodity prices affects terms of trade, exchange rates and balance of payments which will impact the prices of food and inputs for food and agriculture production.

To mitigate this effect the government of Malaysia adopted pro-poor policies that support vulnerable groups including women, youth and indigenous people. This is reflected in our national budget for 2020 which was announced a few days ago. Where significant allotment is dedicated to improving farmers' resilience through the provision of infrastructures, new production technology, improving access to financing, as well as provision of incentives and income support with the aim to reduce inequalities and increase the vulnerable groups resilience to commodity price volatility.

The United Nations systems in particular the Rome based agencies play a key role in providing integrated support for countries to understand the nexus between economic growth, poverty and food security and nutrition. These could improve the ability to adapt and mitigate factors affecting food security and nutrition. Therefore, resilience building is salient for countries to minimise negative effects to food security and economic and social stability.

Lastly Chairperson, Malaysia would like to emphasise the importance of more aligned partnerships between multi stakeholders in resilience building for countries to accelerate its effort to improve food security and nutrition. As the food systems constitute many players including those beyond the food and agriculture domain, partnerships should expand to non-traditional partners and engagement with these stakeholders must be done on a systematic basis for a more concerted contribution to its achieving 2030. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you sir. Now the floor goes to Thailand please.

Thailand

Thank you Chairperson. First of all, Thailand align with the Asia statement delivered by the Philippines.

Hunger and poverty are our utmost concern which related to our other problems such as conflict, migration and climate change. Thailand realize the importance to nutritional values and healthy food for our people to lead a healthier life.

Over the years, Thailand have adopted sufficiency economy philosophy or SEP as a key strategy of our country to achieve the national sustainable development and SDG. The initiated SEP for SDG partnership programme has successfully ensured food security and nutrition. This knowledge has been distributed to our neighbouring country.

With regard to the eliminating hunger the initiative of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn who is FAO Goodwill Ambassador for Zero Hunger and WFPs Special Ambassador for School Feeding, helped support the food security and nutrition of target groups nationwide through the home grown school feeding.

Essentially Thailand has implemented a policy on collaborative big farming system which engage the groups of smallholders to work together to increase their productivity and reduce productivity cause through the public/private and producer partnership.

In addition, young small farmer programme has been launched to empower local communities and local enterprises with new innovation. This approach has strengthened the country's economy at the grass roots level. We aim to enhance and link farmers and producer to the market for sustained development.

Lastly, Thailand commits itself to achieve food security and eliminate malnutrition at all forms. It will continue its role to enhancing partnership of our country and all stakeholders to share experiences and best practices. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. Thank you Thailand. We will now give the floor to Angola please.

Angola

Thank you Chairperson. Because we do not have much time we will send in our statement to the Secretariat and I would like to add also, that my delegation is in line with the statement made by the Group of 77 and Africa. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

The delegation from the Parliamentary Front Against Hunger please.

Well we had a meeting with them this afternoon and they assured me they would be present. Maybe they have been held up somewhere. But in any case, the Gates Foundation has not arrived and that takes us to the end of the list of speakers. If I could just have a second please.

So in respect of Item II on our agenda we, I think, can say that it has now been concluded. And I would like to thank all of those delegations who have taken the floor here in plenary, also those who have sent in their statements in writing and those who intend to record their statements by video.

The conclusions from this issue will be established according to the same method that we decided upon and that we have done already. The Secretariat, well this concludes Item II and the Secretariat is now going to deal with some administrative matters.

SECRETARY

Thank you Chairperson. Thank you everyone who has remained after this long day. I will be short.

The statements that you have made here please feel free to send them to the CFS Secretariat. We will be posting those statements on the CFS website. Ideally those will be as delivered.

We still are waiting for at least one Regional Group's bureau nominations. So, if you could take that back to your groups to make sure that everyone has communicated those formally to the CFS Secretariat.

Also, just outside these doors in the hallway are two white boxes that our youth delegates have asked us to provide our inputs, questions, comments in advance of the Special Youth Event programmed for Friday morning. So, if you could be so kind, please take a minute or two and provide some input to make that a valuable and useful discussion.

Similar, on the CFS website the address of which is FAO.org/CFS/CFS46 is the survey site for each of the sessions that we have concluded so far. Again, having your feedback input will help us plan for next year even better. That is it, Mr Chair, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Chris, Secretary Hegadon. If there are no other questions on administrative issues, the 46th session of the Committee on World Security will reconvene tomorrow morning at 10 a.m. here in this room. Thank you all.

Meeting adjourned at 19.17 p.m.

17 October AM

IX. MARKING THE KICK-OFF OF THE UNDFE 2019-2028

CHAIRPERSON

I really do hope that you are rested nicely yesterday. I hope that you were able to attend the block of side events that we had this summer morning and last night of course, and that concluded recently and that we have all the necessary energy to face a very interesting day, full of work of course. And a day that we have prepared for this 46th of the Committee on World Food Security. We have today and tomorrow left, today is the 4th day into our week.

In the change, the podium was rearranged, and it seems to me that, okay I couldn't find this, I have the magic bell right here, that I'm going to use to make sure that we keep time.

Okay so let's move on to item number 9 on our agenda of the 46th session of CFS. And I'm going to now switch to English.

Marking the kick-off of the UN Decade on Family Farming. The UN Decade of Action on Family Farming. CFS will take a further step in support of this systemwide initiative that is putting a spotlight on family farmers between now and 2028.

This partnership has already started as the office of the CFS Chair has been integrated as a standing member of International Steering Committee for the Decade of Action. We all know that FAO and IFAD jointly operate the Steering Committee.

During the global launch of the Decade here at FAO last May, and again at the regional launch for Latin America and the Caribbean held Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic, that is my home country, in August of this year. I called attention on the fact, quote, that "80%, 80% of all food is produced by family farmers. And at the same time, 80% of those suffering from chronic hunger and malnutrition are family farmers and their children".

I also said there is a simple logic in searching for people with a full stomach among diners exiting a restaurant. We must however suspend common sense to find the hungry and the malnourished among food producers. More than a paradox I said then, and I repeat now, this is absurd, and this is disgraceful.

Next the Secretary is Marcela Villarreal, FAO director of partnerships who will moderate the discussion that will feature from the podium, Martin Uriarte, Chair of the World Rural Forum. I spoke as CFS Chair in the assembly that elected him in March of this year in Bilbao Spain.

We also have Sam Herodian, a senior adviser to the Minister of Agriculture of Indonesia. Welcome Sam. And next to me is Amarilli Villegas, the Charge d'Affaires of the permanent mission of Costa Rica, the country that spearheaded the International Year of Family Farming 2014, as well as the Decade of Action.

Without further ado I will ask Miss Villarreal to take over. She is a Doctor of rural sociology from Cornell University New York. That is one of the Ivy League colleges. And systems engineer from the Universidad de Los Andes in Bogotá. She is an international expert in numerous issues including gender,

equality and rural development. And I have to say that in my years I have seen no finer moderator of discussions. Marcela the floor is yours.

Ms Marcela Villarreal, MODERATOR

Thank you so very much, Mario, for those very kind words. Good morning to all. It's a pleasure to be with you here this morning for this very, very important topic. Family farming as the Chair said is the predominant form of agriculture today in the world, not only in the developing world but also in the developed world. It also offers an opportunity to ensure food security, to improve livelihoods, nutrition, better management of resources, protect biodiversity and achieve sustainable development, which means family farming contributes throughout the SDG agenda, to almost all of the SDGs in a direct way. And it is also a way of ensuring sustainability, because at the roots of the idea of family farming is that the family leaves the farm for the next generation, and that's the idea of sustainability.

So in December 2017, the UN General Assembly proclaimed the Decade of Family Farming, starting 2019 to go to 2028. And the idea is that this decade is going to be a framework to be able to develop public policies on investment in a coherent way. To provide strong support to family farming and to be able to make family farmers able to develop the potential they have to contribute to all of the SDG agenda.

This was possible for us today to be discussing the decade, was made possible not only by the very big success that we had in the International Year of Family farming 2014, but thanks to the commitment of actors throughout the world including those that are here, and that you will be hearing from, but that includes hundreds of organisations of rural workers, of farmer's organisations, governments, civil society, academic and other organisations. And therefore the success of this decade is thanks to many and will only be successful if all of you also participate.

So the UN resolution gave FAO and IFAD together, and today I'm speaking on behalf both the FAO and IFAD. This is a Rome-based agency initiative, the mandate to implement the Decade. And so we set up a Steering Committee, International Steering Committee with the objective of overseeing the implementation of the Decade, ensuring the coherent implementation of the different policies. And this committee is confirmed by member countries and by organisations that come from the rural sector, farmer's organisations from around the world. And we are very happy to have here the Chair, which is Costa Rica, the vice-Chair of the World Rural Forum. And we also will be hearing today from Indonesia who is the member representing, one of the members representing the Asia Regional Group.

The oversight of the International Steering Committee and their participation of people throughout the world to engage in a consultation process that lasted months and that culminated at the launch of the Decade of Family Farming this year. We put together a global action plan. You will see it, hopefully you can pick up a copy when you leave, and it has basically 7 pillars. 7 pillars to be able to offer potential solutions, not only to the issues in the rural areas, but throughout the development agenda.

So the 7 pillars are, 1 is about enabling environment, that is necessary for this potential to be developed, coherent policies, investments, institutional frameworks, legal frameworks.

There are 2 crosscutting pillars of course on women's empowerment and gender equality and another one of course on youth access to resources, exercising their potential in leadership.

Then we have pillars that are of a substantive nature that will be strengthening family farmers organisations that will be improving the socioeconomic inclusion, resilience and well-being of family farmers. That will be promoting the sustainability of family farming for climate resilient food systems, and that would also be strengthening the multidimensionality of family farming to promote social innovations contributing to territorial development and food systems that safeguard biodiversity, environment and culture.

So in a nutshell that is what it is in this global plan, but of course the next steps are going to be to take what is here and make it relevant at the national level. And we have set up for ourselves very ambitious targets to make sure that that is happening. We will hear from some of our panellists, it's already happening, that's the good news. It is already happening. We already have, for example, from the country from the Chair of the committee the National Action Plan on family farmers already launched. So we are already moving towards our targets.

So Excellences, ladies and gentlemen, now we will hear from our distinguished panellists and we will be asking them to give us their thoughts and their reflections on 2 issues.

On the one hand we will be asking them on, how can the Decade of Family Farming benefit from the policy guidance that is produced here in this committee, the CFS policy guidance. And also, what support can be developed also in the broader use of the framework of accelerating progress of the SDG2 to achieve all the SDG's. So that's the first question.

The second question I'm going to ask our panellists to give us their reflections and their views on, is, about the connections of the Decade of Family Farming with other international years, other international initiatives and decades such as the Decade of Action on Nutrition, and the Decade of Water. Decade of Biodiversity. So these are the 2 questions I'm going to be asking our panellists.

And now I am very pleased to give the floor to Amarilli Villegas Cordero who is the Minister Counsellor from the Costa Rican Embassy and has been, as I said before, Costa Rica is the Chair of International Steering Committee for the Decade. Amarilli you have the floor.

Ms Amarilli Villegas Cordero, Costa Rica

Thank you. Before all else, I'd like to thank you all for having me come here this morning to attend this event. I understand it is very early on and our message today is, let's be positive as of now. Because I'm here to be able to convey to you a lot of good news concerning what we have been working on from May until the present day. As the result of the launch of the Global Plan, we had 500 participants, and this speaks volumes about the success and the interest elicited by the Decade of Family Farming. There were delegates from 113 countries and 216 were family farmers representing civil society, academia, the private sector. There were small and medium businesses, as well as foundations.

We are very happy to know that now after the launch, which as Marcela said, many of you that might be interested in can grab a copy of the Global Plan of Action. Anyway I was saying that I'm happy to see that already there are countries that make their transition to the implementation phase, but there are some like in the case of Costa Rica that are still in the phase of drafting policies.

What does this mean? It means that this is a decade and the primary role will be given to family farmers and that means that family farmers themselves contributed their ideas, in order for our Secretariat to take notes and incorporate them in such an important document as this.

So I am truly very glad to be able to tell you that in addition to the launch that happened here in FAO in May, there was also the launch in July in New York and in October in Geneva. And already you can see some of the outcomes that have come to our Secretariat, coming from the different regions of the world. For example, Latin America and the Caribbean, the regional launch of Decade of Family farming happened in the country of our Chair of CFS, and the 00:14:01 approved and recognised the prominent role of family farming and the achievement of the sustainable development goals, which is the great obviously target and great objective we are pursuing that we hope to achieve.

I was saying this plan was launched in the Dominican Republic and it's the outcome of the discussions between the different actors and that is the exercise that all of us need to engage in. I mean of course policies come from governments, but they need to have the involvement of those who are directly involved. And this plan recognises the strategic role played by rural families and households, and it is conceived, in order for each country to be able to adapt it to its reality according to their own concept of sustainable development.

So I can truly tell you that in the case of Latin America, there are countries that already launched the plan, and this is amazingly good news like Uruguay, Guatemala, Bolivia. And in addition of course to the Dominican Republic. Other countries announced the launch like Ecuador, Honduras, Peru and Panama.

So what is going in Africa, Europe and Asia? Well other launches have been announced to our Secretariat. For example, in Africa, PROPAC organised a regional seminar for the drafting of the national plan for Central Africa. The other regions especially in Asia and the Pacific, Near East, North Africa, Europe and Central Asia, a reflection on family farming will be a theme or a topic of discussion at the next regional conferences of FAO, that will begin in the early months of 2020.

So what do we expect? Well if we continue at this pace, I think we will be able to achieve a goal, i.e. that by 2024 we will be able to have the implementation of over 100 national plans on family farming. And this is just a very brief summary of what we have been able to do up until now at the Secretariat.

Now of course there are already other regions that have already confirmed their plan of action. We have Gambia, Madagascar, Philippines, Kyrgyzstan, and of course we would like to very warmly thank you for giving us this space here, this platform, because through this forum and the worldwide forum, we were able to indeed collect and collate all the information that we are now presenting to you. Some of the countries are already developing policies, that is the case of Costa Rica, but also Gambia, Sierra Leone, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines and Colombia. Other countries are in the process of doing that, like Mexico, Senegal, Nepal, ARC in Asia, Mali, Cameroon, Togo, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire and Tanzania. The necessary dialogue is already underway in order to be able to move on to the drafting of the national plans.

So this is a very quick and brief summary, but I just wanted to tell you that this is a very special day. We need to be positive and during this whole week we have received the news that perhaps is not so encouraging, we weren't hoping to hear that, but at least we have tools and at least we have a departure point and we have an extraordinary guide that saw the participation of many actors and stakeholders. So we have that guide to keep working.

And I'd like to now tell you a story about a girl, a family farmer who lived out in the mountains. It's a small story. Going back home with her mum after a long day at work, she went into her room and she realised they were 4 candles that had been lit. There was a lot of wind, but she was able to hear the conversation that these candles had between themselves.

So the first was very depressed and said, I don't want to keep burning this flame because I just don't see that people understand that we need to live in harmony. That we need to make an effort to agree. I see that war is raging on and so is hunger and starvation, and weapons are wielded by some people kill each other and I just want to go out, and she went out. The candle was the candle of 'peace'. Then the next candle next to it said, well in this darkness I don't think I need to keep burning this flame either. A lot of people use me. They take me, they love me today and tomorrow they dispose of me. I don't have any reason to live, and that candle went out. And that was the candle of 'love'.

The third candle in seeing that her 2 next door neighbours were out said, you know what, often I'm there, sometimes I'm not and some opportunities they even deny my existence. I shouldn't be burning my flame. I should go out. That was the candle of 'faith', and it went out.

The fourth, well the girl saw that the room had become really dark and she started crying because she was so scared. But the last candle said, don't be afraid. I'm the only one left but with me we are going to put on the other 3 candles. So we are going to continue and forge ahead, because I am 'hope'.

So may we leave here with a message of hope, of positivity. We can do it if we all get together and do our work. Thank you.

Ms Marcela Villarreal, MODERATOR

Thank you so much Amarilli Villegas. Indeed together we stand, and together we have to make sure that these candles will all be lit once again, and their flames will be burning. Thank you so much for telling us about the quantum leaps that have been made and we are beginning to see already. Of course our goal is quite far-reaching. For 2024 we hope to have more than 100 national plans in implementation in the different countries and I am sure that we are going to be able to achieve that goal. Thank you very much for that. Next Sam Herodian who is Adviser to the Minister of Agriculture to the Republic of Indonesia. You have the floor Sir.

Mr Sam Herodian, Indonesia

Thank you Chair. Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, it is an honour and pleasure for me to be here today to share Indonesia's views on the implementation on the UN Decade of Family Farming, UNDFP 2019 to 2028.

For the Indonesian government increasing the welfare of smallholder farmers has been one of our top priorities. In this regard Indonesia has further shown its leadership in the implementation of this Decade, among others, by hosting the regional conference on strengthening CFS food security, nutrition and farmer's welfare to UN Decade of Family Farming in April this year.

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, going forward there are 2 aspects that we believe are vital in the implementation of UNDFP. We should take advantage of existing CFS recommendations especially if Family Farming Decades, as a basis for developing policies and actions that could support the implementation of the 7 pillars of UNDFP Global Action Plan.

In this context the Indonesian government has been implementing to offer equality in land share structure, offer permanent land ownership to landless farmers for farming. In addition the Indonesian government

has also provided subsidies for agriculture inputs such as machinery, seed, fertilisers, also provide insurance, financial support, and establish full price of agricultural products.

Second, we need to align the implementation of the UNDFD with ongoing and develop for other UNDER Decade, to create more opportunities for synergies and joint exchange. For example, the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition, has underlined the need for implementing national policies and investment to strengthen local food production and processing for family farmers.

In the case of Indonesia, we have implemented a programme to alleviate poverty and ensure prosperity and sustainable food is safeguarded. These programmes aim to create a better livelihood options and ensures the achievement of socioeconomic inclusions with silence and well-being of family farmers.

The synergy and implementation of published programme that we have done, has seen remarkable results. Such as decreasing food inflation, decreasing poverty in rural areas, increasing farmer welfare and even reducing something.

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to reaffirm Indonesia's strong commitment to support the implementation is of the UN Decade of Family Farming, including through our development of the National Action Plan of Family Farming.

We invite Rome-based agencies to continue providing more specific and targeted support, including through recommendations and capacity worthy effort for the benefit of family farmers.

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, there is not 1000 steps without a single step. Therefore let us begin to take a step for the success of the Decade of Family Farming, and the welfare of family farmers throughout the world. Thank you very much.

Ms Marcela Villarreal, MODERATOR

Thank you very much indeed. Thank you for sharing with us the achievements that your government is already having in terms of implementing the principles that are in the Global Action Plan, and also in your National Action Plan on the Decade of Family Farming. Indeed no 1000 steps without a single step, but I see that your government is already moving ahead with more than one single step. So thank you very much for that.

Now it is my pleasure to give the floor to Martin Uriarte, who is the President of the World Rural Forum. And I would like to remind all of us that the World Rural Forum was one of the main activists that made possible for the world to have an International Year of Family farming in 2014 and then again the main actor in ensuring that the world can benefit now from the Decade of Family Farming. Martin Uriarte.

Mr Martin Uriarte, World Rural Forum

Thank you very much Marcela. The first thing I would like to do is to thank the Committee on World Food Security for giving the opportunity to the World Rural Forum to participate in this event. And I also wish to thank FAO, IFAD and our representative from Costa Rica for their engagement in the process.

As you might know the World Rural Forum is a group. It's a mixed global network made up by agricultural producer organisations, research centres, cooperatives, federations of cooperatives. And basically, we group together more than 32 million farmers across the 5 continents of the planet.

Our organisation includes groups like PIFON, COPROFAM, PROPAC, UMNAGRI, AFA, UAGA, UPA, and more.

As with regards the questions that we were asked, I would like to answer one of them by saying that initially the first phase for us was the launch and now we've moved on to implementation. And I was really interested to hear the words spoken by Miss Villegras, about the fact that things are moving along. Something is happening. It's not just the launch that is happening. We have moved beyond that. We are already generating global plans of action and national action plans as well.

We encourage that to continue because we really do feel it is crucial to get to the ground, to really go out into the fields and to have national plans. That's why we encourage governments to work in each country with their organisations, agricultural organisations and national committees and any actor that might contribute something positive to generate these plans of action for the Decade. And it would be important to develop together public policies that foster family farming. Indeed the commitment that was made that we might be able to come up with 100 action plans, and we see that that is actually quite feasible. We are moving towards that goal. So we would like to reiterate our engagement towards that goal.

We also encourage governments to tap into the guidance provided by the Committee on World Food Security in order to help with the development of these action plans. As for example, the voluntary guidelines on land tenure or the link between smallholder producers and markets.

As regards the existence of other decades, like the Decade on Nutrition, Biodiversity and Water. Well, as regards that question, we don't really think there is much of a connection between these different decades and we think that our Decade has to learn from the good practices and good experiences gleaned in those earlier decades in order to indeed, continue make to make progress. And for this to happen we believe that monitoring is a formidable tool.

We have to make sure that this tool is used so as to transfer these good practices, so that in our responsibility for this Decade, we will have an easier task trying to achieve our goal and therefore honour our commitment.

As to the design of tools to achieve SDG2, well we believe that of course this SDG is a very much inherent in the UN Decade of Family Farming, and its launch too.

We believe that working in favour of family farming means that working towards the achievement of SDG2, which has to do with reducing hunger, of course. And we believe that SDG2 is absolutely crucial in order to be able to attain the other goals under the 2030 Agenda.

Thus we really feel it is crucial to involve and have the commitment of the governments in order to design public policies that will facilitate the life of these family farmers and their work as well. We have an experience that we acquired during the International Year of Family Farming. During that time we were able to develop 16 new policies for family farming in 13 countries. We were able to gain public recognition of family farming and we even got to the point where international bodies and organisations were able to introduce a strategy on family farming, whereas they didn't have that before. And I think there were about 52 national committees that were created on family farming and many of them are still in existence today and working quite well.

We therefore really do feel that we have the right numbers, we have the commitment, and what we hope is that we can keep working to foster public policies that place family farmers at the centre. Our engagement at the World Rural Forum is to continue to work and to assist you all to achieve this goal.

And I would like to finish my presentation by telling you about the slogan of our organization, which is, let us feed the world by looking after our planet. Thank you.

Ms Marcela Villarreal, MODERATOR

Thank you, Martin Uriarte, Chair of the World Rural Forum, especially for highlighting the enormous importance of monitoring and moving from an International Family Farming to a Decade of Family Farming, of course objectives change. They have to do with policies more and how these policies can be implemented in order to have a positive impact on the life of individuals, so that this can contribute to all these sustainable development goals. So monitoring is truly a very important pillar of the implementation of the Decade.

It is my pleasure to open the floor for discussion. We do have very limited time and I'm sorry for that, but this is the way it is. So I would like to ask you to please limit your interventions to 1 minute, and if you are speaking the name of a regional group, I will give you up to 2 minutes, but sorry no more than that.

So the floor is open. I see we already have a list. The first speaker is the Philippines. Chair of the International Year of Family Farming 2014.

Philippines

Thank you, Marcela and good morning to everyone. Our delegation commends the successful global launch of the UNDF, the regional launch and the Latin America and Caribbean region and the recent national launches in some countries.

We are very pleased that seeds planted during the 2014 International Year of Family Farming initiated by the World Rural Forum has grown and expanded into a Decade, which would advance the gains of the year, noticeably the policies and legislations in favour of family farmers worldwide up to the highest level. In fact we are grateful that family farming was incorporated in the statements of Italian Prime Minister Conte, and a number of ministers and heads of delegations during the World Food Day in this CFS session.

We encourage members and stakeholders to use UNDF as one of the premier vehicles to promote the role and contribution of family farming in achieving Agenda 2030 SDG's. And we are glad that CFS is well integrated into the UNDF. The Philippines is now in the process of formalising its national committee conducting the national launch and drafting a national plan.

We look forward to collaborating with FAO, IFAD, WFE and other state and nonstate actors for the regional launch of UNDF in Asia. Finally, long live the family farmers.

Ms Marcela Villarreal, MODERATOR

Now Finland has the floor. 2 minutes.

Finland

Thank you very much Mdm Chair. I'm honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 member states. We welcome the launch of the UN Decade of Family Farming as a recognition of the indispensable role of family farmers in providing food for the great majority of the world's population.

In response to the first guiding question, we wish to commend the Secretariat for the Family farming package of relevant CFS policy guidelines and recommendations. This plenary session is an excellent opportunity to draw attention to those valuable CFS products, which should be duly taken into account when developing public policies and investments to support Family Farming. We invite Rome-based agencies in particular, to use the reference to those products in the future.

The holistic approach is key to fully using the complementariness and synergies between the different CFS areas of work, particularly at field level. Adapted to national context, the relevant CFS policy guidelines and recommendations can be excellent tools for formulating country level policies. In this context it can also be useful to apply the CFS multi-stakeholder model at national level to ensure the necessary inclusiveness.

As regards the second guiding question, we would underline that the relevant UN International years and decades are strongly interlinked. Obviously, the UN Decade of Family Farming has a specific focus on the people who play an essential role in providing fresh nutritious quality food for healthy diet, to their own communities and to the market.

It is also important to acknowledge the clearest possibilities, which involves family farmers, irrespective of their scale of location, in responsibility to managing our natural resources.

Finally we would like to encourage policy makers at all levels to create an enabling policy environment for family farmers, in particular smallholders to improve their livelihoods and to stimulate wider use of sustainable practices, such as agroecological and other innovative approaches. Thank you very much Mdm Chair.

Ms Marcela Villarreal, MODERATOR

CSM, 2 minutes please.

CSM

Thank you. My name is Patty Naylor. I am a family farmer from the United States speaking on behalf of the CSM.

We would like to convey our deep appreciation for this discussion taking place at the CFS. We welcome the fact that the UN Decade of Family Farming is being discussed here, the foremost space to address food security and nutrition in the UN. The guidelines and policy recommendations selected by the CFS as a family farming package are a great first step for integrating the Decade in to the CFS and vice versa. We also congratulate the initiative of the CFS Chair to join the International Steering Committee of the Decade.

In order to achieve the objective of the UNDF, family farming must be based on agroecology and food sovereignty, embracing small-scale food producers including fisher folks, pastoralists, forest people,

waged workers and indigenous communities as the key agents of sustainable development. Based on the latest data of FAO the number of undernourished people in the world has been on the rise, climbing to 821.6 million people in 2018.

In order to realise a Zero Hunger goal the implementation of the UN Decade of Family Farming must also be synchronised with the progressive realisation of human rights, which are universal and inalienable. Indivisible, interdependent and interrelated.

In this vein we would like to emphasise the importance of the UN Declaration of the Rights of Peasants and other people working in rural areas, which should be the source of inspiration for future policy convergence processes here in the CFS, and for the public policy process related to this Decade.

The recognition, fulfilment and protection of the rights of peasants contained in this UN declaration will be a basis of norms and indicators of the success of implementation of the UN Decade of Family Farming Agenda.

Finally, we wish to conclude by saying the CFS can play an important role in the implementation of this Decade. We are committed to work with our governments, with the Rome-based agencies and other CFS participants for building a solid process for an effective implementation of the Global Action Plan for the UNDFP at national and regional levels. We hope this Decade is a chance to end poverty and hunger and elevate the human rights in rural areas. Thank you.

Ms Marcela Villarreal, MODERATOR

Japan please.

Japan

Thank you, Mdm Chair. Japan recognises the importance of family farming, and its development from now to the future. Actually the majority of our farmers are family-based farmers, almost 98% and each of them have 2.5 hectares farm as an average. Therefore Japan has been supporting any type of farmer, including family-based farmer, especially farmers who have strong motivation for continued farming in the community as a deed farmer.

Japan would like to exchange our knowledge and experiences in the global community. Furthermore, Japan also recognises the importance of sharing the co-commission of the family farming and UNDFP in the global committee such as CFS. It is a key for education, hunger and poverty in the SDG. Thank you very much.

Ms Marcela Villarreal, MODERATOR

PSM has the floor. PSM you have 2 minutes.

PSM

Good morning. My name is Karl Kassan, and I am a farmer from Ireland [unclear 00:41:48]. It is a pleasure to speak today on behalf of the private-sector mechanism. The PSM welcomes the UN Decade of Family Farming, and its Global Action Plan, and looks forward to actively contributing to its success. Its success farmer's contributions to the 2030 Agenda and achievements of the sustainable development goals depends on farmers being able to become economically sustainable.

We are happy to see that in clarifying the plan recognises the importance of improving the livelihoods and economic viability of farmers. Because let's be frank, the top priority for the farm sector is to become economically sustainable. There is an honourable calling and farmers deserve to make a decent living. Economic viability is usually derived from some degree of trade in agricultural products at local, regional, national or international level. Such trade can help achieve the goals of sustaining agriculture, improving living conditions in rural areas particularly in developing countries ensuring increased food quality and quantity, providing employment opportunities, contributing to the protection of natural resources and environment. So economic policies that promote open and fair trade of agricultural projects are in the interest of all stakeholders.

Today many people have referred to family farming as the backbone of the economy in many developing countries, but also those who are suffering the most. Let's help all family farmers improve their livelihoods, build value chains and on-farm processing, and use innovation to improve the sustainability of their farms. We have many ideas to do this and look forward to actively sharing them within the Decade framework. Thank you.

Ms Marcela Villarreal, MODERATOR

Thank you very much PSM. Now Spain has the floor.

Spain

Thank you, Mdm Chair. Spain would like to endorse the statement delivered by the European Union for the action implementation of the UN Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028 and going on to the questions we were asked, concerning the first, we believe the CFS has a large number of recommendations and guidelines in terms of policies that can focus on family farmers.

Joint work, the exchange of positive experiences, a further dialogue and common engagement are definitely key to giving impetus to the Decade. It's important to jointly implement the action plan of the Decade for Family Farming as a key tool to implement SDG2, and promote the planning, implementation, and follow-up and evaluation of public policies for sustainable rural development and the improvement of the quality of life for family farmers.

As to the second question, the nature of the 2030 Agenda such that we need to apply an integral comprehensive approach. We need to make the transition from a traditional approach that simply promotes agriculture, to one that is integrated and that focuses on the links between different stakeholders. Thank you.

Ms Marcela Villarreal, MODERATOR

Thank you, Spain. The USA.

United States of America

Thank you, Chair. The last 5 months I have had the benefit of serving in Rome with the rest of you, serving at WFP and FAO. Prior to that for 45 years I have been a family farmer. I know what it's like to put my hands in the soil. I knew what it was like to grow up walking in the steps of my father as a young child. And then later in life to see my own children have that same experience, my son and daughter who run the farm today. So I am a family farmer more than I am anything else.

We appreciate the Decade of Family Farming and being one of 2 million farms in the United States which is made up by 98% family farmers. We see this as a very important issue. We look forward to being involved in the discussion.

We know how farmers contribute to food security in our local communities and across the region and around the world. And I know first-hand how family farmers need access to modern agricultural tools and innovations like biotechnology, crop care products, fertiliser, digital tools and mechanisation. This includes many digital tools and I think really will revolutionise those in the developing nations. With hunger and malnutrition on the rise, access to modern agricultural tools is more important than ever. So in order to make progress on SDG2, I hope we can consider all innovations as we look at agroecology and the Decade of the Family Farm.

We as members pursue several options to implement and promote this Decade. We welcome the opportunity for collaboration on these activities with interested stakeholders, including the international and regional organisations, civil society, private sector and academia to actively support the Decade including through voluntary contributions as appropriate. We look forward to participating in the Decade of Family Farming. Thank you.

Ms Marcela Villarreal, MODERATOR

Thank you so much Ambassador. Now Portugal has the floor.

Portugal

Thank you, Mdm Moderator. Portugal fully aligns itself with the statement made by Finland on behalf of the European Union and its member states.

Recognising the key role of family farming in 2011, COP, a Committee of Portuguese speaking countries agreed to launch a common food and nutrition security strategy, in which family farming is one of the basic pillars. Despite of that strategy, in June 2017, the CPLP adopted in Brazil, the guidelines for the support and promotion of family farming in CPLP member states.

In Portugal family farming is on the top of the agricultural policy agenda. In August 2018 the Portuguese government approved the family farming strategy, which established a set of economic, social, financial

and fiscal positive discrimination policies aimed at protecting the family farming as well as give favourable conditions for sustainability.

Portugal together with other CPLP member countries has supported the declaration of the Decade of Family Farming, which we hope can make a key contribution to the recognition of these kind of farmers, while creating a favourable environment for development worldwide. Thank you.

Ms Marcela Villarreal, MODERATOR

Now the floor is for France.

France

Thank you, Chair. So of course I endorse the declaration made by Finland on behalf of the EU. 1 minute is extremely short to deal with such an important subject, so just a few points to mention the importance of France of this Decade, because of course the cultural and family farms produce 80% of all our production. And also are pre-eminent in the way that they deal with climate change, and the way they are affected, most of this is affected in rural areas.

Now when it comes to the impact on how they can benefit from our work within the CFS, well in fact everything we do benefits them, whether it is the importance of land policies, and the importance of the investment of those responsible, the work we do, what we are going to discuss in MYPoW, whether it's the women or the young on the importance of data, agroecology. All this is at the very heart of the Decade on family agriculture. So what I encourage you and I would encourage the whole of our committee to work along those lines. Thank you.

Ms Marcela Villarreal, MODERATOR

Thank you, France. Now to give the floor to Switzerland.

Switzerland.

Thank you. Switzerland welcomes this kick-off session on the UN Decade of Family Farming, and assembly of the family farming package of CFS guidelines and recommendations in this regard.

Since May and the official launch of the UN Decade of Family Farming, Switzerland has been active to implement the UN Decade. Let me mention 2 initiatives. The first was the creation of an International Innovation Award for sustainable food and agriculture, together with FAO. This award is designed to encourage innovations that meet the needs of family farming. The first award ceremony took place during the FAO conference under the patronage of the International Decade and the prize will be awarded every 2 years throughout the Decade.

The second was the organisation of 2 events in June 2019 here in Rome, with the permission Costa Rica and September in Geneva with the permission of Bolivia to present the link between the UN Decade of Family Farming and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants, and other people working in rural areas.

A good example then, of cross feeding within the United Nations between the Geneva Human Rights hub and the Roman Food Security hub. In Switzerland as in most countries around the world, family farming is the backbone of agriculture. Without farmers the transition to more sustainable food systems would not be possible. The Decade is a great opportunity to promote the role and commitment of farmers as key actors in building our food future. Thank you so much.

Ms Marcela Villarreal, MODERATOR

Thank you very much, Switzerland, and the last speaker is Hungary. You have the floor Hungary.

Hungary

Thank you very much. We align ourselves with the statement on behalf of the UN and its member states. As a member of the International Steering Committee, I very much appreciate the role of the Secretariat in preparing the activities of the UN Decade of Family Farming. In particular, the active contribution of the RDA, FAO, IFAD programme. We wish to strongly recommend that CFS policy guidelines and recommendations are applied in synergy throughout the UN Decade of Family Farming. While preparing national policies and actions, we fully support the principal inclusivity to be respected in warming local communities including smallholder family farmers.

In this regard, we agree that economic viability is an important issue and it draws attention to the need to consider all the positive and negative environmental and social extremities of all the food systems. Based on scientific evidence, true cost accounting can clearly demonstrate the economic viability of family farming, even if they are small-scale farmers.

Finally we support the UN Decade of Family Farming, and happy to know that this issue and the use, will be on the agenda of the Indigenous Conference in 2020. Thank you.

Ms Marcela Villarreal, MODERATOR

Thank you very much Hungary. Thank you very much to all of you. Thanks very much to all of our panellists. One of our panellists had to leave because he had to talk to his meeting now with the Director-General. But it has been in my view a very, very productive session. I'd like to thank you all very much.

I think the discussion that we engaged in, how to have interaction and how to benefit, how to create much more benefit between the Decade and the CFS, is more than evident.

We heard very clearly how to go about, how to ensure that as we are implementing the Decade throughout the 10 years, we will be applying the CFS multi-stakeholder model. We will be using dialogue as is done within the CFS. We will be sure to be listening from all of the different needs of the family farmers. And today we heard about some of them like the importance of becoming economically sustainable, innovation, biotech, access to input, agroecology. And very importantly one of the important lines of action as well in the Decade is, how to apply the very, very successful and very powerful instruments that have been developed by the CFS, which are the [unclear 00:54:33] CFS, and hopefully we will also be in time to apply some of the guidelines for food systems.

So I see very close links between the CFS, the work of the CFS, the policy recommendations that are coming out of the CFS. The instruments and also a successful implementation of the Decade of Family Farming. For that I would like to propose a dialogue, Chair, and if you agree I think today's dialogue has been extremely productive and we would like to see it happening more regularly throughout the next 10 years, including on how we are monitoring the Decade, and how we are giving voice to the different actors, like the CFS model, with the power of doing it at country level and through our national action plans in our family farming that we know we will have at least 100 by the year of 2024.

This in our view applying what is in the Decade of Family Farming Action Plan, is nothing less than an SDG accelerator. By addressing the needs of family farmers we are talking sustainability. We are talking throughout the development agenda, throughout the SDG agenda. So I would just like to end by what our Chair of the International Year of Family Farming said, long live family farming. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Marcela, and thank you to all the panellists. We have to break with the paradox of the 4/5. 4/5 of the hungry for example, in the world are family farmers and at the same time 4/5 of the whole food production throughout the world, comes from family farmers. This is a paradox that we need to break with. And this Global Plan of Action is a useful tool. It's a valuable tool, and absolutely necessary to achieve our goal.

CFS Secretariat has prepared a package of information on family farming. It is available in the Flag Room, which is across from the Atrium downstairs on the ground floor. And there we will have information and all the information is available also on the Committee's website.

We are all called to disseminate as broadly as possible, all this information and to use it in our dialogues in our countries. These are tools that we need to use in order to foster family farming throughout the globe.

The summary of this item on the agenda will be dealt with as we have done for all issues for information. So at this point we have come to the end of this item. Thank you very much. And we move on to item 10.

17 October PM

XI. MONITORING CFS POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ON SMALLHOLDERS

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, everybody, for your approval. Now, we move to item 11, Monitoring CFS Policy Recommendations on Smallholders. This is the time CFS is monitoring the use of its policy recommendations. The two previous CFS monitoring exercises, the Plenary Global Thematic Events in 2016 and two years later, in 2018, focused on the use of two CFS policy guidelines, the voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security, these are the famous VGGTs, and the voluntary guidelines to support the realization of the right to adequate food.

This session will take stock of the uptake of three sets of CFS policy recommendations to support smallholders. These are of great relevance to smallholder producers who are important contributors to food security and nutrition and the most numerous category of family farmers. As we have heard this morning, they are key protagonists of the United Nations decade on family farming. This stockholding event will constitute a specific contribution of CFS to the United Nations decade of action on family farming. The event is informed by the experiences and good practices of a broad range of stakeholders. We will focus on how smallholders have effectively benefitted or are expected to benefit from these CFS policy recommendations. We will also look at the contribution of the recommendations to the SDGs.

Let me give a warm welcome to those participating in this event. First of all, Minister Gilberto Silva from Cabo Verde. A warm welcome to him. Also, Mr Jan Douwe Van Der Ploeg, Professor Emeritus of rural sociology at Wageningen University in The Netherlands. Jan is also Professor at the College of Humanities and Development Studies of China Agricultural University in Beijing. He specializes in the comparative analysis of rural development processes and has recently published two books, *The New Peasants the Art of Farming* which are highly relevant to our event. He is also an old face in the CFS. If I remember correctly, sir, you were on a panel in CFS37 in 2011. My memory has not begun to betray me. I also welcome our moderator, Ms Hlamalani Ngwenya, International Development Consultant and Lecturer at the University of Free State, South Africa. Lani, as you are known, according to my notes, has over 25 years of international experience in the broader agriculture, food, nutrition security, natural resources management and climate change. She is also the founder of Facilitating Systemic Change Consulting. This is her company and has moderated a wide range of high level policy dialogues and multi-stakeholder engagements worldwide. We also have four panellists that have come a long way to be with us today. But, for the sake of time, I will ask Lani to introduce them at the appropriate time. We will now listen to Jan first for his keynote. Please, you have the floor.

Mr Jan Van Der Ploeg, Professor Emeritum, Wageningen University

Thank you, sir. This session will discuss activities of policy recommendations that regard investments in smallholder agriculture that regard linkages with markets and, finally, the use of all kind of animals within smallholdings. These are very practical and very important questions, of course, but underlying them there is another issue, a major issue, that I want to address briefly. That is, is it indeed possible to

maintain and to develop smallholder agriculture in today's world or are smallholders deemed to disappear?

When talking about smallholder agriculture, about smallholdings, about smallholders, there is always the danger that the notion of weakness is smuggled in. The term small, very easily associates with weakness, with vulnerability, with being pitiful, being lamentable and, in the case of smallholders and smallholder agriculture, this is absolutely not correct. There is an impressive book written by a Brazilian priest, [inaudible: 00:33:18], who has been working for all his life with the Brazilian smallholder association and he writes the smallholder family is able to live and to survive with little land and that is exactly how it is. Smallholders excel in the art of making, even on a small piece of land, a good living and to produce food for themselves and for others. They turn even a small piece of land into an important resource base that allows them to go ahead.

They are not pitiful, they are to be admired. They are agile, they can adapt to different circumstances, they resist and they produce, per unit of land, more than other types of producers are able to do and they contribute, according to a recent CFS document, one on investing in smallholder agriculture. They contribute to overall economic development. They feed the majority of the world and they are crucial for food sovereignty and food security. Alongside that, they protect biodiversity and scenic landscapes and they are an essential ingredient of our cultures. There are many of them, there are at least 500 million smallholdings on our planet and calculating four people per smallholder, father, mother and two children, I am very modest as you see, then this makes for 2 billion people. That makes smallholders into the largest professional group on Earth. But, to perform well, they need the required conditions.

It is important to take into account, ladies and gentlemen, that smallholder agriculture is not limited to what we call the Global South. It is only present in the Global North as well, in Europe we have more than 12 million farms, 97 percent of them are family farms and 80 percent using a ten hectare limit which is common use in Europe. More than 80 percent of all these are smallholdings.

Looking to the United States, with 2007 census data, and using economic size as a border, there are 91 percent of all farms are smallholdings and being smallholdings does not make them irrelevant. There was a senate commission on small farms in the USA that studied this data and they recognized the small farmer as the cornerstone of our agricultural and rural economy, arguing that a rural renaissance is needed that is anchored in a vibrant, dynamic, small farm sector.

In the 1960s, '70s and '80s, we have had, in many parts of the world, a modernization of agriculture, also known as green revolution. The central idea was to move labour out of agriculture and to move capital in in the form of new technologies, new seeds, many inputs, mechanization, loans, you mention it. Now, this modernization, at that time, reflected the historical context, especially of Europe and the USA, there was an urgent need for more labour in industry and agriculture could provide that. There was a need to enlarge food exports, etcetera.

Now, if you look to the current context, in many countries in the world you see that it is radically different. Industry cannot absorb all the available labour force. Instead, new attractive employment opportunities are to be created in the countryside and instead of exporting food, there is an urgent need to feed the own population. In this vein, there are many other contextual differences. It means that a simple repetition of modernization, as it was done in the USA and in Europe, is not viable. A new solution, based and centred on small scale farms are needed.

Currently, we have a new scientific methods and new databases that allow for a more precise study of the role of smallholdings in the overall process of agricultural and rural development. Let me briefly refer to my own country, The Netherlands. In 1980, we had 70,000 farms with grazing animals, cows, sheep, and goats. Out of these 70,000, 50,000 were smallholdings, then there were 18,000 medium farms and 2,000 were considered as large farms.

Now, these farms can be followed over the period of 1980 to 2006 and then it shows that there are farms disappearing. But, not only small farms disappearing, also medium farms and part of the large farms are disappearing and alongside the disappearing farms, there are newly created farms. Over the same period, 12,000 new smallholdings were created because young people, professionals from the city, like to build and construct a farm and make a living there. All size categories showed a complicated and event contradictory dynamic. Some of them are growing, others decreasing in size.

It showed us there was considerable throughput. Indeed, some small farms disappear, other small farms grow into medium farms and medium farms develop into large farms. You see, there is not this simple reality of small farms disappearing, large farms growing, it is far more complicated. You can ask, what does this mean?

Well, it was studied, the overall effect of these complex processes. It was studied, what is the net contribution of the different size categories to the overall process of agricultural growth in The Netherlands. It shows that small farms contributed 175,000 economic units and large farms only 40,000. That means that, in the core of Europe, it shows that smallholdings contributed nearly four times as much to overall agriculture than large farms. At the level of single enterprise, the growth of a large farm may look very impressive, very strong, and very macho. However, a small farm, when growing, looks modest.

But, since there are far more small farms, the overall contribution of small farms to agricultural growth and rural development outnumbers the contribution of large farms. At the same time, of course, it applies that many smallholders are pushed out of the markets. Their resources are often grabbed by other, more powerful actors. Smallholders are denied access to major services, sometimes they are subordinated to regulatory schemes that hardly match with the specific conditions. All this often blocks the productive potential entailed to smallholder agriculture. Agriculture policies are needed to address and remove these major hindrances. More generally speaking, adequate agricultural policies are needed to put smallholder agriculture centre stage and to give it the conditions that allow them to contribute to the development of our societies. Thank you.

Applause

Ms Hlamalana Ngwenya, Moderator

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. In the interest of time, the Chair has already mentioned and given a brief background of what this session is all about and we have also heard from our keynote address.

I want to go straight to call our panellists. We have four of them. Our first panellist that I am going to call, or maybe before I call the panellist, I want us to come together regarding the three policy recommendations that inform this discussion. The first one is the policy recommendation on investing in smallholder agriculture for food security and nutrition. That was endorsed in 2013 by the CFS. The second policy recommendation is connecting smallholders to market. That was endorsed in 2016 and, lastly, sustainable agricultural development for food security and nutrition, what roles for livestock, also endorsed in 2016. These are the basis that inform these discussions today.

We know the process already, we are going to have our panellists speak then, after that, we will give the time to the floor for your inputs and if we have sufficient time, I will also give you some time to ask questions to the panellists. I would like to call our first panellist; that is Mr Gilberto Silva. He has been introduced already. He's the Minister of Agriculture from Capo Verde. He is going to share the experience of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries. Over to you, sir, you have seven minutes.

Mr Gilberto Silva, Minister of Agriculture, Cabo Verde

Thank you, very much, Moderator. Ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon. As Minister of Agriculture and the Environment of Cabo Verde, I am the President of the Council of Food Security and Nutrition of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries. I would like to start by thanking the Chair of the CFS for the invitation. For us, it is a wonderful opportunity to share, in this session, the progress we have made in our work in food security and nutrition at the CPLP, which is, of course, the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries and from now I will refer to it by its acronym.

As you know, the CPLP, as a community of countries that share the Portuguese language also has something else in common, a common history, cultural and economic links and other links which are very strong. The CPLP includes Angola, Brazil, Cabo Verde, São Tomé and Príncipe, Timor-Leste and also Equatorial Guinea and Portugal, of course, Mozambique as well. We are talking here about a community of 280 million people, spanning four continents. Within the CPLP, these countries have decided to strengthen their diplomatic relations and their cooperation in the main development areas like education, health, security and others. It is also a space for consultation and exchange of experiences and good practices. It also involves harmonizing practices for good governance.

Food security and nutrition is one of the top priority areas of cooperation within our community which decided to create a council of food and nutrition security, CONSAN. This is an advisory body made up of heads of state and Government of the CPLP. Of course, working in the area of food security and nutrition.

Allow me to speak a little bit about the main activities undertaken by CONSAN. The example that I like to give is that of our food security and nutrition strategy and a special focus on its third priority which goes to strengthening family farming. The other priorities include governance, food security and nutrition and social protection. I would like to say that the food security and nutrition strategy was born in 2011 inspired by the United Nations work in this area and the United Nations strategy in relation to food security and nutrition inspired by one of the first documents, which was actually adopted by the CFS.

Our strategy is based on a formal participation between actors at the national and regional levels, headed by the CONSAN Council and, also, national Councils for food security and nutrition which they participate in. That is to say that in each country there are also national Councils for food and nutrition security. These are bodies that consist of representation from Government, civil society, they also include family farmers, the private sector, academia and members of Parliament.

CONSAN is the advisory body for the summit of heads of state and Government of the CPLP. Declarations and resolutions approved by the heads of state include the recommendations and the ideas coming out of CONSAN. Over the last eight years, we have setup a multi-level institutional architecture involving many different stakeholders on governance of food and nutrition security in line with the recommendations from the Committee on World Food Security. To give you an example of this, we approved the guidelines on food and nutrition security in the CPLP countries and, also, the idea of promoting family farming in 2017. That covers various different chapters, taking account of the documents and recommendations coming from the CFS, particularly investing in family farming for food security, connecting smallholders and connecting them with market structures.

The CPLP guidelines recommend, for example, that member states should adopt legislation and specific programmes on family farming, supporting the development of access possibilities to markets through public purchasing of foodstuffs. The promotion of local food systems with the active participation of young people and women, encouraging the economic autonomy or rural women investing, also, in technological transfer for rural families and their access to productive structures. The CPLP member states have committed to establishing national legal frameworks which aim in that direction. I can give you the example of Capo Verde which approved the human right to adequate food. All of this is moving towards achieving the SDGs, namely one, two, eight, ten and 13.

We are also involved in implementing the decade on family farming. I am moving towards my conclusion for the CPLP. There are various different options but, I do not have enough time to mention them all here. I would like to conclude, however, by saying that we are all convinced that the CFS can help us to continue strengthening our capacity and that our own experiences can inspire other regions to introduce their own institutional architecture along the lines of the CPLP for governance of food and nutrition security which will allow them to become more effective in promoting and strengthening family farming at regional, national and local level. Thank you.

Applause

Ms Hlamalana Ngwenya, Moderator

Thank you, very much, Mr Silva, for sharing with us your experiences. In the interest of time, I am not going to commentate much. Let us see how we are progressing and we can summarize later on. Let me take our next presenter.

I would like to introduce Mr Mamadou Goita. He is the Executive Director from the Institute for Research and the Promotion of Alternatives in Development. He is going to present the global experience on mapping of territorial markets. This is the activity in response of the CFS recommendations on connecting smallholder to markets, to improve the evidence based policies. Mr Goita, the floor is yours. You only have seven minutes. When you are about six minutes, I am going to ring the bell so that we keep to our time. Over to you.

M Goita, Executive Director, IRPAD, Mali

Thank you, very much indeed, Madam Moderator. Thank you, very much indeed, ladies and gentlemen. I am going to speak to you about an exercise which was rolled out between FAO and other members of civil society, as well as some Universities, to react to a concern flagged up in a report from CFS in 2016. This was about access of smallholders, small farmers to the markets and this was connecting particularly to the territorial and local markets. The markets, in other words, where most of the food that we eat are marketed. As you know, the statistics established by bodies such as FAO show that only between ten and 12 percent of food which is produced actually goes through international markets and we are talking there about very specific types of products.

We are talking about those markets where all of the rest of the food we consume go through these local markets and so we have established a set of decisions and one of the conclusions was that these markets are not well known and, since they are not, then we have to encourage the various different stakeholders to start collecting information by gender.

So, now, I am changing the microphone. This means, Chair, since we give it time on Euros, I will translate it in CFR. So, I have 14 instead of seven.

What I was saying was that these markets, it is here that most of the foodstuffs we consume translate through them because only between 10 and 12 percent of what we consume at global level go through international markets. So, recommendation one made following recommendations from CFS involves saying that the stakeholders have to start to collect data to ensure that these markets become better known but, also, so that this information can be used to enhance policy and practices in member states. That was a recommendation and, in 2017, FAO together with various different actors from civil society and also research they conducted participation based research. The project which emerged from that was run an NGO but, also involving research institutes from France, The Netherlands, Mali and elsewhere and there was a co-responsibility for smallholder Organizations, Via Campesina and also civil society. The

smallholder Organizations were very much involved, together with research, to establish this participation based research which would collect data about these markets to make them better known. The pilot project was conducted by ROPA and it established a research framework to collect the information. It produced two reports, they have just been produced, one was on Burkina Faso, the other on Senegal.

This is a process which is still running and the aim is to collect precisely this type of information. As I have already told you, this followed up recommendations made when CFS took certain decisions and the point was to see how these markets could become key markets for smallholder farmers and help them in decision taking as well. This initiative was linked to SDG-1, eradicating poverty, but also SDG-2, to combat hunger.

This initiative aims at establishing optimal conditions to ensure that the majority of people who produce can actually have access to a market which will pay them because the problem was not the problem of accessing the markets, it was actually having access to a feasible market which would provide them with an income. Eight criteria were defined on the territorial markets and the first of those was the link which exists between production systems and marketing systems. It is part and parcel of this idea of enhancing income for those people who produce to create the conditions for them to work on these markets and also for those who do not produce to have access to food.

This then produced to reports which are still being worked on now, but they came out of this participation based approach. Certain major lessons can be learnt from this. I myself was involved in leading the group which established the methodology and the implementation of this. So, I think it is true to say that this multi-stakeholder approach and working together with smallholder Organizations in the field, training them, etcetera, is a very useful approach if you have an appropriate support for them through research because it gives you the necessary scientific basis but, it also means that action can then be taken at state level.

The second lesson we can learn is that we need longer, we need more time for this type of exercise. If you are going to start this type of exercise, you need more time but, you need energy and you need resources as well in line with your objectives because we run into certain problems in terms of the period of time for the research in Burkina Faso and Senegal. Argentina has worked on this, this is a second stage and then next year it will be for Asia. We have to learn the lessons in order to push this further and make headway as we move through this into the future.

The third lesson is that the potential is out there to actually document these markets. There are structural issues facing these markets and we can only solve those by involving the states. But, with the setup we have now, the Government was not there and so the lesson is that the methodology, the teaching lines that are introduced should involve the Government as well because that can open doors to certain information but, it can also help move forward on the conclusions which emerge from all of this.

I wanted to share some of these ideas with you at the end of this exercise to say that this participation based mapping of territorial markets was particularly useful and appropriate. It corresponds to decision number one from that box of decisions on the territorial markets but, it can also have a major impact on smallholder access to markets and also addressing the question of their income because it creates optimal condition for accumulation of wealth on these markets and a distribution of that wealth throughout the territory in which these markets are based, working up from regional to national and even to global level as well. I will leave it there and I hope that others can add to what I have already said. Thank you.

Applause

Ms Hlamalana Ngwenya, Moderator

Thank you, very much. We are going to go to our next speaker, Ms Andrea Martinez. She is a Secretariat of Family Agriculture in the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock in Ecuador. Their mission is to develop public policies to support peasant agriculture, sustainable production and peasant knowledge systems.

In particular, we are going to hear how they have efforts to generate and strengthen the local peasant markets. Over to you, Madam, your seven minutes start now.

Ms Andrea Martinez Galarza, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Ecuador

Thank you. Good afternoon everyone. I am here representing the Ministry of Agriculture from Ecuador and I would like to share with you some of the experience we have built up on the question of creating public policy in line with the recommendation two, connecting smallholders to markets.

For the past seven years, we have been working out certain strategies in order to develop and strengthen the creation of direct local markets. We call these [inaudible: 01:05:17] in my country and these are the alternative marketing circuits. We have supported, thus far, 230 areas of direct marketing for producers, the smallholders. In Ecuador, we call this sector peasant family farming, 6,500 plus producers have been affected by this. Most of them are women and we have worked out strategies in order to enhance family income and also to create economic autonomy and social autonomy in these families.

One of the main strategies we have worked out as a result of this work has been to create geographical and organizational links in our territories through the markets. We also had a discussion about the role of family farmers in local development and we wanted to bring in environmental and socially responsible consumerism issues. That is linked with how and when we consume foods and why and one of the main weaknesses, one of the main problems we had is that, in Ecuador, the constitution of our country talks about food sovereignty and it also talks about the creation of local solidarity based markets and so the problem was to provide an operative process within the technical framework and the institutions that were going to be responsible for working through these processes.

The weakness was in finding budgets and also in our negotiations to actually establish the priorities for these policies. Amongst the challenges we have had as a country, the main thing has been to continue strengthening these direct local markets for family farmers on the basis of fair trade policies and solidarity based marketing. That is a main challenge. We also had to plan productive supply on the basis of the new requirements we have as countries in providing sustainable produce on the basis of agroecology.

Thirdly, as I was telling you, it is important to continue thinking about this and creating greater consumer awareness. Awareness in producer families as well in terms of the link between these two levels in the agrofood systems, very often distances created by the main chains in the markets and we are talking about producing healthy, nutritious food and that is a big challenge we are facing as a country.

We also want to encourage access for family farms to public and private financial services. We have developed two major strategies as a country, I would like to tell you about this. Creating information through the peasant family farming register that has been collecting information from 2017. We have now got 1,700 producers and we have created the basic information about the form of production, how they are involved in the marks for all of those peasant farmers who are in the system. We are also creating a stamp for peasant family farming. This strategy bring together seven experiences we have seen in South America, particular in the [inaudible: 01:09:41] countries, which have create tools to render family farming visible on the markets through this type of public policy.

I would like to turn now to the possible contributions which exist on the basis of what I have been telling you about, creating local markets, creating this stamp for family farming and also creating information. We believe that, through these strategies, we can, as Ecuador, help to encourage and provide information for indicators and which will help to focus public policy on SDGs one and two, zero hunger and

responsible production and consumption. We can raise awareness of family farming as a crucial role in nation policy. That is a challenge, but it is one we are moving towards as a country.

Finally, we want to create economic, social and environmental resilience programmes which will fit in with our various different communities. I think we can do this through the information systems we have and through capacity building for family farming. We want to develop strategies in order to strengthen innovation in this sector, thinking in particular of the role of rural women in these new forms of development.

We have been talking an awful lot today about agroecology as a further tool which will help us achieve the SDGs. I think I can provide that to you as a summary and as an explanation of what we have been doing in Ecuador. Thank you.

Applause

Ms Hlamalana Ngwenya, Moderator

Thank you, very much, for sharing those experiences. Last but not least, let me introduce you to Ms Edithrudith Lukanga. She is a Co-President of World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers and a member of the Civil Society Mechanism. She is going to give an overview of the use of the CFS policy recommendations on smallholder based on independent report that was actually produced by the Civil Society Mechanism. The report title is Towards Smallholder Oriented Public Policies. Over to you, Madam.

Ms Edithrudith Lukanga, Co-President, WFF

Thank you, Moderator. Good afternoon everyone. As you have just introduced, my intervention is going to focus on this independent report by the Civil Society and Indigenous People's Mechanism, monitoring the use and application of the CFS recommendations on smallholders. I am part of the Coordination Committee of the Civil Society Mechanism, facilitating the fisher folks.

Following the human rights based approach on monitoring and based on consultations with other actors, this report takes reality on the ground as the basis for its analysis. To begin, the CSM acknowledges the special nature and composition of the CFS. It has been possible in this forum to reveal the reality of the role of smallholders in promoting food security and nutrition as reflected in these three states of recommendations that are under review. The smallholders, the farmers, fisher folks, indigenous peoples, pastoralists, men, women, I name them all, apart from producing most of the food that is consumed in the world, they promote sustainable and nature based models of production embedded in social structures and territorial food systems.

However, this acknowledgement and the normative guidance provided by the CFS contrasts with what is existing on the ground today. The dominant paradigm and powerful economic interests promote industrial modes of food production and agri-business led value chains which are detrimental to the smallholder's livelihoods and their rights. However, some progress have been made in the use and application of the CFS policy recommendations and these recommendations have helped so much in shaping the content of other United Nations policy initiatives and legal instruments including the United Nations declaration on family farming and the United Nations declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas.

With the CFS itself, these policy recommendations have contributed to a common understanding and language on the importance of respecting, protecting and fulfilling women's rights in the context of food security and nutrition. We also acknowledge that the civil society groups across the world have used these

recommendations in their advocacy work in their efforts to influence policies that support smallholder production for the total markets, appropriate food safety standards and women's rights. These three examples demonstrate how these recommendations can make a difference in improving smallholder's capacity to make fundamental contribution to food security and nutrition as well as towards the progressive realization on the rights to adequate food.

Despite this progress that has been noted, there are problems at different levels, including a continuous lack of recognition of the central and crucial role played by the smallholders in feeding the world. We have been hearing, throughout this week, that very few Governments have adopted the CFS policy recommendations but, also, very little about these recommendations is known down at the national level and outside Rome. Even where these policies have been adopted, challenges still remain due to failures in its full implementation. There are problems of policy incoherence and lack of Government's commitment to monitor through participatory process that include smallholders into the processes. This is another challenge.

We are seeing smallholder's priorities remaining underfunded, under supported and instead funding and support is channelled through large scale production and global value chains. As a result of all this, smallholders remain invisible and their rights unrecognized and unrealized.

With this, we want to bring some recommendations and this call for action to member states and to Rome-Based Agencies but, also, to CFS itself. In the interest of time, I will just focus to the member states because, at the country level, that is where real implementation happens.

I would like to encourage the member states to make efforts to apply the CFS policy recommendations to national level policy programmes and strategies, as well as national reviews, under the sustainable development goals and within the human rights treaty body systems within the countries.

I would also like to encourage the member states to apply these recommendations inclusively to develop nationally owned visions for future of the smallholder production in connection to the United Nations declaration on family farming and other international instruments such as the United Nations declaration on peasants and other people working in rural areas. We also call for the national Governments, the member states, to strengthen policy coherence at the national level by ensuring that the analysis and monitoring of these policies impact the smallholders.

To finish, I would like, on behalf of the Civil Society, to call for the Rome-Based Agencies to apply the necessary resources and technical expertise to ensure that the CFS policy recommendations and products are translated in their policy guidance and programmes of work at regional and global level.

Finally, to conclude, the Civil Society is fully committed to these processes, it is fully committed to work together with the member states and the United Nations agencies, to further implement the CFS policy recommendations. This report that we have produced and our participation, not just in this podium but in all the policy convergence processes, is a symbol of this commitment and our willingness to continue working together with different actors in ensuring that policies that support a realization of the right to food are realized, are implemented. Thank you, very much.

Applause

Ms Hlamalana Ngwenya, Moderator

Okay, thank you, very much, to our panellists. According to our time schedule, we started late, we have about half an hour, or maybe we can steal another ten minutes, to engage. Before we take questions for the panellists, I would like to invite some interventions from the floor.

Initially, you will be given three minutes but, in the interest of time, I will appeal that we limit our interventions to two minutes maximum. If we can do it in less, the better. We have Iran and Private Sector Mechanism and Finland. We will start with those. Iran

Iran

Thank you, Madam Chair. I actually have some questions mainly, not a statement, particularly from the Professor from Wagenigen University. When we talk about a small, medium and large farmers, the most important issue which actually bring the discussion and negotiation is, what is the characteristic and indicator when we are going to categorize the farmers? If it is the land size, of course, the fertility of land is much more important than size. If it is about the property, it also needs to be considered. This is one question.

My second question is about when we are talking about, and I fully agree with you that most of the farms all over the world, particularly in Europe, North America, Australia and Canada are, more or less, the small farmers, then why are the majorities of these countries following and supporting the large scale farmers in the policy formulation in the international venues? Thank you.

Ms Hlamalana Ngwenya, Moderator

Private Sector Mechanism?

PSM

Thank you, Madam Moderator. My name is Maya Stewart [inaudible: 01:24:12] and I am the owner of Lenziemill Milling, a family owned poultry business in Malawi that provides day old chicks, feed and training to smallholder farmers. We are living proof of the work of CFS and am honoured to speak today on behalf of the Private Sector Mechanism.

The CFS policy recommendations on smallholders, in particular the recommendations on connecting smallholders to markets, are a vital tool in promoting the livelihood and nutrition of smallholder farmers and all who depend upon them for healthy and sustainable food systems. Smallholders remain the backbone of global agricultural production and the private sector has played an active role in disseminating these recommendations, furthering their uptake and integrating them into their own activities.

However, there is significant scope to making progress in reducing hunger and malnutrition and safeguarding smallholder interests. One of the most important of these is the urgent need for greater investment in rural areas where smallholders predominate. This investment is needed on two fronts, enhancing rural infrastructure on the one hand and providing access to new skills and training on the other. For many stakeholders, mutually beneficial engagement with markets will depend upon reliable access to improved physical and informational infrastructure in the form of transport amenities, storage facilities, marketing information and communication systems. In order to fully take advantage of these, they will also need access to training and support services to deal with a rapidly changing and digitizing sector. These can include extension services, commodity exchanges and provision of credit and insurance. Greater investment in all of these areas is in line with the CFS policy recommendations and would contribute to healthy and sustainable food systems and smallholder interests. Thank you, very much.

Ms Hlamalana Ngwenya, Moderator

Thank you. We can take Finland.

Finland

Thank you, Madam Moderator. I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 member states. We mainly have remarks on the monitoring process. We would like to thank the Secretariat for this comprehensive report.

Despite the relatively low response rate, especially from Governments, we believe that this has been a useful exercise. It will help the CFS membership to better understand the impact that CFS policy recommendations can have at various levels.

We welcome the fact that the policy recommendations are so comprehensive in nature. They can be powerful tools for the whole CFS membership. However, we need to do much better when it comes to raising awareness of the recommendations and sharing best practices and lessons learned.

An important finding is that the policy recommendations contribute to reaching those SDGs that are particularly relevant for smallholders. This is a strong encouragement for all CFS stakeholders to take full account of the recommendations.

To conclude, we acknowledge the importance of strengthening our efforts to monitor at all levels how the recommendations are used. This is essential for getting broader and more comprehensive picture and brings clear added value to the Committee's work. Thank you, Madam.

Ms Hlamalana Ngwenya, Moderator

Thank you. I will give time to Mexico.

Mexico

Thank you, Moderator. We thank the panellists for their presentations. In Mexico, we have President Obrador who has come in now. He has got policies promoting small scale farmers. In previous years, 100 percent of the subsidies went to the 10 percent. But, now we have got a turnaround and we have got a lot going to smallholder farmers and we have commercial farmers who say that this will lead to a decrease in the production of food. They do not recognize the role of smallholder farmers in the production of food.

I think that, despite the international year of family farming and the decade of family farming and despite the crisis in 2008 with prices, we are seeing a decrease in the promotion of family farming all around the world. I would like to suggest and I propose that CFS strengthen their policies of awareness raising in relation to the importance of smallholder farming and small scale farming as the Doctor mentioned in his studies that were done in China and other countries.

I would also like to propose the following. In each Government, we can have policies to promote smallholder farming to strengthen policies at a national level. But, when we have international markets, when it comes to coffee, cotton or other things, other products that are very valuable in international markets, there is not much that national Governments can do here. We need to have a look at the international markets so that smallholder farmers can have access to them so that they can have stable incomes over time. Thank you, very much, and congratulations to Dr Van Der Ploeg on his studies in relation to smallholder farming. Thank you.

Ms Hlamalana Ngwenya, Moderator

Thank you, very much. I now will give a chance to France.

France

Thank you, very much. France aligns itself with the declaration made by the European Union. We welcome this session on the monitoring of CFS policy recommendations and especially their impact on smallholder farmers. We already said, in our dialogue on the decade on family farming, smallholder farmers play a very important role in global food security. We need to have policies which are adapted to their needs and the three policy recommendation documents developed by the CFS cited in the document are very valuable in this context.

We would like to highlight the recommendation on livestock. It is very important, livestock, to guarantee food security, nutrition and the fight against rural poverty all over the world. Livestock products provide essential nutritional elements and they are very important when it comes to resilience for smallholders. It is very important when it comes to promoting defavoured and the least well-off areas around the world. In countries where we have economic and environmental issues, this is the subject of lots of debates and the CFS has shown that it has been able to put forward useful proposals and recommendations. We recognize the need to spread awareness about these CFS documents and other important CFS documents, for example the VGGT guidelines because land tenure is very important for smallholder farmers as they play a role in decision making. Thank you, very much, Chair.

Ms Hlamalana Ngwenya, Moderator

Now, I will give the chance to World Bank Group.

WBG

Thank you, Madam Moderator. As confirmed by the distinguished panel, current levels of investment in agricultural value chains, especially involving smallholder farmers, are insufficient to achieve key development goals by 2030. Therefore, the World Bank Group strongly supports Governments to invest in all areas suggested by the recommendations.

We are convinced private sector solutions tailored to smallholder needs and combined with public sector reforms can lift the sector and create a thriving food economy that reduces poverty and creates jobs. The World Bank Group's maximizing finance for development approach draws in private resources and solutions in fiscally, environmentally and socially sustainable ways, including in agricultural research, finance and supply chains, to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers.

Please allow me to highlight three examples of inclusive agribusiness models. Some 20 years of World Bank experience with productive alliances model, across 15 countries in Latin America show that it is possible to increase productivity, climate resilience, market integration and incomes to smallholder farmers through inclusive sustainable approaches.

In a number of African countries, World Bank Group supports Government legal and regulatory reforms to introduce, for example, warehouse receipt systems to help improve the integration of producers, traders and processors into value chains by improving their access to provisional storage and credit. For example, in Vietnam, the World Bank and the IFC provide technical assistance for capacity building and institutional reform to promote, facilitate and retain private investments in the coffee and rice sectors.

Currently, the World Bank assists about 54 operations in countries representing about USD 1.4 billion in active investments in livestock. Over the last three years, we observed a substantial increase in these requests. Most of the growth has been in Africa and South-Asia. Thank you.

Ms Hlamalana Ngwenya, Moderator

Thank you, so much. You have to listen to the bell. Now, we give the chance to Switzerland.

Switzerland

Thank you, Madam Chair. Switzerland is a strong supporter of regular monitoring events and welcomes this report on monitoring the use of three CFS policy recommendations. Switzerland suggests complementing monitoring events with side events or other events that reflect on how concretely CFS products are used. This would significantly enhance learning about the relevance of policy recommendations to different stakeholders.

It is critical that policy recommendations predominantly on smallholders and their respective challenges. The fact that connecting smallholders to markets received most feedback shows a certain relevance. While some informative aspects are reflected in the report, others will need to be included in the future to enhance the formulation, relevance and use of CFS policy recommendations, such as information on distribution channels used and targeted stakeholders. In countries where enabling political environments are absent, the CFS recommendations need to be known and understood. They need to be shared in the right fora, through the right channels and messengers who help to focus and to communicate most important things first and in clear language.

To enhance use and uptake, a crisp and clear formulation of recommendations, as well as a reduction of the number of recommendations should be considered. This would ease the operationalization and dissemination process. Let us not forget, policy recommendations can only be monitored if policy recommendations are actually taken up and operationalized. Thank you, very much.

Ms Hlamalana Ngwenya, Moderator

Thank you. Our last intervention, we give a chance to Cameroon.

Cameroon

Moderator, thank you. We are making this statement on behalf of Africa. We welcome the contributions from all the panellists. I would like to particularly say that we appreciate the participation of Minister Gilberto Silva for his contribution to SIDs. I think this has been a very important contribution that he brings to this areas. Thank you, Minister.

The holding of an event at CFS46 to monitor the use of the three sets of policy recommendations that provides CFS policy guidance to support smallholders. Recognizing that Africa's agriculture is essentially in the hands of smallholders, our Regional Group welcomes the present event. We note that you accept an acceptable number of contributions from all regions and all stakeholders. It appears that, except the North-America region, the policy recommendations have been used in all other regions, which is a good record.

We endorse the fact that all the good practices documented deserve global attention. This first exercise towards monitoring CFS policy recommendations, has identified interesting good practices concerning decision making processes, allocation of resources, institutional partners, involvement, and empowerment of stakeholders and so on and their impact in shaping policies and global processes concerning food and agriculture. We look forward to the next monitoring exercise. I thank you.

Ms Hlamalana Ngwenya, Moderator

I will take an intervention from Civil Society Mechanism.

CSM

Thank you. First of all, we want to really thank this fantastic panel. This shows how the work was well done and how important are the smallholders, how the CFS has contributed, in an essential way, to change the narrative of the fundamental role of smallholder to feed the world and the three policy recommendations are there to show the good job that we have done in these years. This is extremely important that we can see the next steps that we essentially need because when we go and see the plan of action of the United Nations decade on family farming, we see that the three recommendations are there. This means that the three recommendations are not up in the air, but are translated in something very concrete and practical. The United Nations declaration on peasant rights, the process was influenced by all that.

This is extremely important but, this is what we want to see in the next step. We have a very important policy recommendation in front of us, we have very important discussions on food systems and nutrition, agroecology and other innovations. All these, will be done working and building on all that. Smallholder is the heart of the work of the CFS. Those people, fisher folks, pastoralists, the fact that, for example, in the livestock recommendation, we finally recognize the fundamental role of pastoralists. Those are the things that make the CFS something that is extremely important.

In that sense, we need absolutely that there is a major commitment of the Governments for sure we are really happy of all the Government. The panellists show they are starting to use these policy recommendations. But, indeed, we need much more. We absolutely need much more and we really invite you to read this document. This document that is our independent report shows how important can be impractical, how can its fundamental in terms of new policy at national level. We need to see that now and we need to see that not only in the Government but, in the next step of the CFS. This is what we need now. Thank you.

Applause

Ms Hlamalana Ngwenya, Moderator

Okay, thank you. I think we have all the interventions. I think there was one question. I would like to give the floor to Professor Van Der Ploeg. Let us keep it short, to respond to the question that came from Iran.

Mr Jan Van Der Ploeg, Professor Emeritus, Wageningen University

These have been two important questions articulated by Iran. The first, how are these categories between small, medium and large, how have they been defined given all the impacts of soil fertility, you mentioned, and many other factors affecting these concepts. Now, what is normally done, and it is now standard procedure in Europe, that you take the gross value added produced by specific factors of production. So, when it comes to land, you take into account soil fertility and can combine land and cattle on it and the crops next to it and you can put them all together into one indication of the economic size of a particular farm. This allows, also, to compare arable farms with fruit producing farms, with dairy farms. This is a powerful tool which is useful.

Then, you ask how it is possible that, given the centrality of smallholder throughout Europe, how policy is still focusing mainly on large farms? Well, it is an answer on two levels. I will be fairly brief. Firstly,

this still reflects the previous epoch of modernization and then the routine if previous policies is fairly strong, that makes past dependency. There is still this bias towards large reflected in the fact that 80 percent of subsidies go to 20 percent of the biggest farms which is ludicrous, of course.

Then, the other level of the answer is that there are strong interests involved here and it is a public struggle, especially in the European Parliament. One notices that there is a strong movement for changing this unhappy situation. Thank you.

Ms Hlamalana Ngwenya, Moderator

Okay, before we close, I have seen a hand from the CGIAR.

CGIAR

Thank you, Moderator. I am from the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), one of the 15 CGIAR research centres working for a food secure future.

Smallholder farmers in the developing countries are the world's food heroes. They feed most of the world's people today. They produce 55 percent of our cereals, 50 percent of our beef, 72 percent of our lamb and 41 percent of our milk. With a growing demand for meat, milk and eggs across the developing world, there are huge opportunities to help those smallholders who raise livestock to significantly and sustainably increase their production to meet this demand. With access to the right technologies, support from well-designed policies and infrastructure, these small scale producers will gain wider access to critical inputs and services such as better animal feeds, breeds, veterinary services and access to markets. In Ethiopia, to give just one example, a market led approach targeting more 110,000 dairy households led to the number of households selling milk doubling and the volume of milk traded tripling.

The developing world's livestock keepers, two thirds of whom are women, raise the camels, buffalo, cows, sheep, goats and poultry that are the mainstay of 1 billion livelihoods across the world. The meat, milk and eggs that their animals produce, provide hundreds of millions of families, not only with livelihoods but, also, with regular incomes, nutritious foods, jobs for youth and business start-ups for women. In short, these animals are major and enduring instruments for achieving better lives.

Livestock are a major driver of economic growth in virtually all low and middle income countries. Globally, livestock accounts for 40 percent of agricultural GDP and the developing countries that figure is growing. The livestock sector continues to receive a pittance, less the three percent of official development assistance. That is a shocking deficit that will have to be closed if we are to meet the Sustainable Development Goals and have any hope of achieving a more just and sustainable world. Thank you, Moderator.

Ms Hlamalana Ngwenya, Moderator

Thank you. Okay, looking at our time, we know that we started late and we are targeting to still finish on time. Allow me conclude the session, if there is no other pending input. There is another intervention here from Private Sector Mechanism. That will be our last speaker and please limit it to two minutes.

PSM

Thank you, Madam Moderator. I am Helen [inaudible: 01:48:47], a farmer and a crop aggregator from Kenya and I am standing in for Private Sector Mechanism. As my colleague has noted, the private sector has welcomed the CFS policy recommendation on smallholders and has been proactive in sharing and

implementing them. She has also correctly noted that they contain certain principles which are worth welcoming if they are to achieve their full potential, particularly with regards to connecting smallholders to markets.

One of the most important of these is the creation of stable, predictable fair policy and legal environments by Governments. Government policies are crucial in the creation and maintenance of inclusive, efficient and well-functioning markets, which are essential to livelihoods and wellbeing of smallholders.

A key part of this policy and current event and their support for smallholders to organize themselves to pursue their common interests. For example, through farmer Organizations or agricultural cooperatives. These arrangements can allow smallholders to leverage economies of scale, secure better prices for their goods and better manage risk and volatility. A great example is the multi-stakeholder partnership of the Farm to Market Alliance made up of six agri-focused Organizations including the private sector, Segenta, AGRA and World Food Programme. They help to build resilient value chains for smallholders.

We need more such partnerships that empower farmers for the strong markets and improve global food security. Thank you.

Ms Hlamalana Ngwenya, Moderator

Okay, thank you, very much, for the contributions. Listening to their presentations, our keynote speaker and the interventions that we got from the floor, we can tell a story. And the title of the story will be, small is big and strong. The keynote speaker indicated that small is normally associated with weakness. However, in the context of smallholder farmers, it is not the case.

Smallholder farmers are not necessarily weak, they can be big, they can be productive and they need to be appreciated and they need to be supported. We heard from the presentation from our Minister that strong cooperation and collaboration and harmonization of policies and partnerships is very crucial to address the challenges that are faced by our smallholder farmers and also to tackle the big challenge of food security.

Linking smallholder farmers, not only to markets but, to feasible markets need creation of optimal conditions. This is a message that we heard from one of our panellists and the role of research is very important to provide evidence to inform decision making.

Our panellists there also brought the aspect of consumer awareness which is very crucial and important. Talking about awareness as well, there was an intervention that, while the adoption of these policy recommendations is there, the adoption at national level is not satisfactory, therefore, there is need for strong awareness creation, and there is need for advocacy for adoption by member states.

The issue of investment came out very strongly as well. We need to invest in smallholder farmers but, also, invest in rural areas. The issues of infrastructure and training. Capacity building also came out very strongly. We cannot talk about smallholder farmers and not talk about the issue of land tenure. That, also, was highlighted as a critical issue that needs to be taken into consideration for us to realize the implementation of these recommendations.

We need to monitor, I think the issue of monitoring and evaluation, monitoring the use but, also, monitoring the impact is very crucial.

Lastly, there was a call for action by member states. Commitments from Governments, it is very important, it is not sufficient to have this recommendation on a piece of paper without implementation. Implementation happens at national level, therefore, the commitment by member states and Governments is very crucial to realize the implementation of these recommendations. Thank you, very much. I will hand it back to the Chair.

Applause

Chairperson

Thank you, very much, Ms Ngwenya. Thank you to all the members of the podium, Mr Van Der Ploeg, the keynote speaker, Minister Silva, Ms Martinez, Mr Goita and Ms Lukanga who participated as panellists. Thank you, so very much. I will tell the Plenary that the Chair's summary for this session will be as we have already agreed.

The summary, not the Chair's summary. The summary will be sent to the Drafting Committee in the manner we have agreed. Thank you, so very much. I would like to go further into thanking each and every one of you and highlighting what you said but, the crux of the matter is that we have to make a decision in the next agenda item. In any event, everything that you said here will be transcribed and linked to from the final report into the CFS website for everybody to access. So, thank you, very much, again, and this concludes this item 11, the Monitoring of CFS Policy Recommendations on Smallholders.

We now go to item 12A because, on Monday morning, we agreed to bring item 12A forward, so we can deal with it before the Drafting Committee which meets this evening. The Drafting Committee meets as soon as we are adjourned for the afternoon session. This is a proposal by the bureau to amend paragraph one, rule four of the CFS rules of procedure.

The draft decision on the table, please refer to document CFS2019\46\8, document ending in the number eight, titled Amendment to the CFS Rules of Procedure. A proposal by the bureau to amend paragraph one of rule four of the CFS Rules of Procedure. The draft decision on the table, the document that I just referred to, which ends in eight, is the outcome of two years of dialogues within the bureau with the Advisory Group and in open meetings with all CFS stakeholders.

In line with the mandate from CFS44, the bureau began discussing the functions and composition of the Advisory Group starting in October 2017. Indeed, this subject has been, by far, the single most debated item in the bureau during the past 24 months, both in the number of occasions it came up and in the amount of time invested in it. The bureau agreed to submit to Plenary, for us here today, a decision to recognize the special role of the three Rome-Based Agencies within CFS. The bureau, therefore, proposed to elevate the status of the Food and Agricultural Organization, FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, IFAD, and the World Food Programme, WFP.

This elevation of status of FAO, IFAD and WFP in the Advisory Group would consist in them becoming *ex officio* members. Being *ex officio* members that means that FAO, IFAD and WFP will, in practice, be permanent advisors. That is to say, they will not need to justify *a priori* every two years that the advice they stand to provide is, in fact, useful.

Plenary agreement would send powerful political messages, that CFS is inextricably conjoined with FAO, IFAD and WFP, that the Advisory Group is reaffirmed as a significant resource in the global fight against hunger and malnutrition and that the revolutionary CFS reform process is being consolidated as we celebrate its first decade and as enter the last ten years towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

The text of the draft decision is self-explanatory and I move for the Plenary to approve it by acclamation.

Applause

Thank you. The Secretary, please?

Secretary

Thank you, Mr Chair. I will keep it short, since I do not have a voice. Side events will commence at 6.00 p.m. Tomorrow our session, which is a special session on youth, will commence at 10.00 a.m. in the red room. Again, we ask you, beg you, please give us feedback on the CFS websites. The youth are looking for your input as well in two survey boxes out in the hallway and I think that concludes our business until tomorrow. The Drafting Committee will be meeting at 6.30 p.m in the Lebanon room. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you, Chris. The side events we have tonight are agri-preneurs, how can agri-businesses support agriculture. That is happening in the red room. Anti-microbial resistance in the Iran room. Using schools to transform food systems and promote nutrition in the Iraq room. Multi-stakeholder partnerships and CFS in the Mexico room and tackling obesity, policies for healthy and sustainable food in the Philippines room. The meeting is adjourned, see you tomorrow.

The hammer had come down just as the United States was asking for the floor. So, let us listen to the US. Please?

United States of America

Thank you, Chair. I was trying to request the floor, I just wanted to ask a question and a clarification as we are on item twelve. When will the bureau nominations be released to all membership, since we have not seen the nominations for the bureau elections that are anticipated, I believe, at the next session of the Plenary? Thank you, Chair.

Chairperson

This is a technical a question and the Secretary is supposed to respond but, as you could all listen, he is having problems with his vocal chords. I will give the answer for him. The Secretariat will inform the Plenary of the candidates for the bureau tomorrow morning, in the course of the morning. Thank you.

The meeting is adjourned.