GLOBAL POLICY COORDINATION FOR SDG-2; CFS AMID COVID-19

Wednesday, 14 July 2021 from 7:30-9:00 (New York, GMT-04:00)

<u>CFS Chair remarks</u>

<u>Brief remarks on the CFS multi-stakeholder model and its contribution to international policy convergence work to drive progress on SDG 2</u>

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

- Good morning, afternoon or evening – depending on where you are - my name is Thanawat Tiensin, I am from Thailand, and I am the Chairperson of the Rome-based Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

- I am delighted to welcome you to this event on Global Policy Coordination for SDG-2; CFS amid COVID-19.

- As most of you must have heard on Monday this week the SOFI 2021 report was released. We are far off from achieving our global food security and nutrition targets.

- The numbers are staggering:

  o A tenth of the global population - up to 811 million people - were undernourished last year.
  o more than 2.3 billion people (or 30 percent of the global population) lacked year-round access to adequate food.

  o Gender inequality deepened: for every 10 food-insecure men, there were 11 food-insecure women.

- 3 billion adults and children cannot afford a healthy diet.
- Unfortunately, our children are paying a steep price for our actions:
  - in 2020, over 149 million under-fives are estimated to suffer from stunting;
  - more than 45 million – from wasting;
  - and, nearly 39 million - overweight.

- The task and challenge ahead is daunting. We have to act with urgency to transform our food systems.

- The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) is doing its part to promote policy changes to address these problems. Set up in 1974 and reformed in 2009, CFS is the UN's foremost inclusive inter-governmental platform to address governance of food security and nutrition.

- We are the United Nations' global multi-stakeholder platform for policy coordination on SDG 2. CFS includes 130 member states, various UN agencies and bodies, civil-society and non-governmental organizations, international agricultural research institutions, international and regional financial institutions, private sector associations and foundations.

- The three Rome-based Agencies, Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP) jointly support CFS, both technically and financially.

- Over the past decade, CFS members have negotiated and endorsed critical policy products such as:
  i. The Voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests (The CFS VGGTs);
  ii. The Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (The CFS RAI);
  iii. A Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises; and most recently
  iv. Voluntary Guidelines on Food systems and Nutrition; and
  v. Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative approaches.

- These products start with scientific and evidence-based reports and recommendations the CFS High Level Panel of Experts (CFS HLPE).

- The CFS HLPE also, at my request, prepared an Issues Paper on COVID-19 and food security and nutrition that our colleague Jennifer Clapp will describe shortly.

- The CFS and its HLPE was among the very first to address COVID-19 and the threat it poses to global food security. The CFS also organized several public events last year to propel action by governments and others to deal with the threat from pandemics. No other platform can do what CFS does, but we can do even more with support from member states and the Rome agencies.

- The CFS model can and should be replicated at regional and national levels, and countries should deploy CFS's negotiated policy products as the starting point on the right to food, land tenure, responsible investment, innovation and food system transformation.

- The CFS, with its outstanding science policy body (the CFS HLPE), its negotiated policy products, and its genuinely inclusive platform, should be a model for all countries and regions to achieve SDG2 and other related goals.

- Thank you!