

United States comments on Zero Draft of CFS Contribution to HLPF 2022
February 15, 2022

The United States thanks Anthony Muriithi for his willingness to act as Rapporteur for this workstream, and the Task Force for their efforts in developing the Zero Draft of the CFS's contribution to the 2022 HLPF in a short timeframe. The Zero Draft has many merits and provides important contributions, including several of section IV's recommendations derived from endorsed CFS policy products. CFS has recently sought to improve the dissemination and uptake of its policy products, making this contribution to the HLPF timely and actionable.

We are supportive of the Zero Draft's extensive use of Member-agreed language, and appreciate the sourcing that accompanies each paragraph, which is why we are not supportive of the final paragraph found on page 2 and the first paragraph (placeholder) on page three. The Committee's assessment of the SOFI 2021 report, and the conclusions that follow (i.-vi.), are a strong and accurate reflection of, "CFS(s) assessment of the situation regarding the principle of "leave no one behind" against the background of the COVID-19 pandemic". However, the final paragraph of that section is the HLPF's snapshot assessment of the pandemic and, as noted, does not reflect the views of CFS members. We have previously stated our concerns with the HLPF's COVID-19 Issue Paper (these include recommendations that far exceed the scope of CFS such as debt forgiveness, recommendations that far exceed the capabilities of CFS, recommendations that minimize the role trade plays in enhancing food security, and recommendations that treat agroecology as automatically sustainable and overlook contributions of other agricultural approaches) and believe that reference to it in the CFS's contribution to the HLPF is inappropriate. As there are diverging opinions amongst CFS members regarding the Issue Paper, we request that this paragraph be removed.

Following numerals i.-vi. in Section II, the contribution the HLPF could instead highlight the following Member-agreed text from CFS 49:

- requested continued deliberation on, and due attention to, the impacts of COVID-19 on food systems, agriculture and nutrition at all stages of the implementation of the approved MYPoW's workstreams; *(Source: CFS 49/Report, para 19 d)*

The first paragraph appearing on page 3 that provides space for CFS stakeholders to provide input is also problematic, as this could lead to the inclusion of activities and actions that have not received CFS Member consensus. Rather than submit our own bullets for inclusion, which would then need to be reviewed and agreed to by other Bureau Members, we ask that this paragraph be removed so as to move forward in a manner of consensus and to ensure efficiency of this process.

Finally, Zero Draft's length makes it somewhat repetitive and dilutes its message. For example, *with reference to SDG 5*, paragraphs 10-13 have overlapping recommendations that could be pared down. The document would benefit from streamlined input that focuses on CFS's key messages and includes several choice concrete recommendations.