

**CFS CHAIR'S TALKING POINTS FOR THE HIGH-LEVEL PANEL @ 2022 GLOBAL FORUM FOR
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (GFFA)**

**TITLE: RESPONSIBLE LAND GOVERNANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS: THE CFS
VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE OF TENURE OF LAND,
FISHERIES AND FORESTS (CFS VGGTs)**

WEDNESDAY, 26 JANUARY, 11:00 – 12:30 (CET), BERLIN, GERMANY (VIRTUAL)

INTRODUCTION

- Thank you, Jennifer.
- Excellencies, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,
- As the Chairperson of the UN Committee on World Food Security —the CFS- I have the honour and pleasure of welcoming you all to this High-Level Panel organized by CFS.
- This High Level panel will look at responsible land governance for sustainable food systems, with a focus on the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests –commonly known as the CFS VGGTs-.
- I would like to express first my deepest gratitude to our host **H.E. Cem Ozdemir**, Federal Minister of Food and Agriculture of Germany, for inviting CFS to organize this High-Level Panel at the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture.
- Honourable minister, congratulations on your appointment to this critical role. We thank Germany for its steadfast commitment to the CFS, and look forward to working closely with you to achieve our shared vision of a zero hunger and zero malnutrition world by 2030, achieved through sustainable and inclusive food systems. We are eager to hear from you later in the programme.
- I would like to start by thanking the honorable ministers who have joined us today. My deep gratitude and appreciation to **Her.Exc. Frida Krifca**, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Albania; and **His.E. Ibrahim Turay**, Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Sierra Leone;
- Honourable ministers, we commend the leadership that you and your countries are providing on this critical issue and are looking forward to hearing how your countries are applying the CFS VGGTs, and your advice to other countries who wish to follow a similar path and adopt the CFS VGGTs. I take this opportunity to assure you of our partnership and support.
- We are also grateful to have Mr Maximo Torero, Chief Economist of FAO, with us today. Maximo, many thanks to you and FAO for your unwavering support to and partnership with CFS. The support to countries from FAO and the UN System has been, is, and will

continue being essential to translate the VGGT and all other normative frameworks agreed at the CFS into country-led policies, strategies and institutions.

RESPONSIBLE LAND GOVERNANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Ladies and gentlemen,

- Land and its governance is the bedrock upon which all other food security and nutrition efforts are built. Land is the support of soils; of biodiversity; of water; of crops, trees and livestock; of farmers' livelihoods and cultures; not least, of the harvesting of renewable energies.
- At the CFS, established in 1974, and reformed in 2009 to serve as the foremost inclusive UN platform for global governance of food security and nutrition issues, governance of tenure was among the first major topics we addressed, in partnership with member states, the Rome agencies, the UN system, and many others.
- This saw governments, joined by other stakeholders, endorse the CFS VGGTs, in 2012 as an internationally negotiated framework to improve land governance, with a human-rights at its centre. This year – 2022 – marks the 10-year anniversary of the adoption of these guidelines.
- However, despite encouraging examples of the implementation of the VGGTs, the world's attention on land tenure has slid down the global priority list over the years.
- Now is the time to refocus our energies on responsible land governance for sustainable food systems and double down to achieve SDG 2, recognizing land and soils as the crucial foundational issues they are.

FAST-TRACKING RESULTS

I would like to share with you **FOUR recommendations** for achieving this:

- **FIRST, recommit.** our governments and all stakeholders should recommit to uptake existing global frameworks such as the CFS VGGTs in our policies, strategies, legislation, regulatory frameworks and business models. I also urge you to utilize other relevant globally agreed CFS policy instruments closely related to sustainable land use and healthy soils, like the CFS Principles of Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems, the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition; the Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches.
- **SECOND, integrate.** we should refrain from looking in isolation at issues of land, soil and biodiversity; at the protection and restoration of natural resources and rural prosperity; at healthy diets and the way we produce food. We need to adopt a food systems perspective taking advantage of the momentum generated by the UN Food Systems Summit held last year.

Taking a food systems approach will also build strong linkages with other multilateral processes and issues including biodiversity; climate; desertification; and broader economic pathways - including the integration of national SDGs strategies with NDCs and National Adaptation Programs of Action.

- **THIRD, think and act local.** We should consider territorial governance dimensions of sustainable food and agriculture systems. This calls for a commitment to balanced territorial development using a food system-wide approach that takes into account constraints determined by the interplay between geographic, social, economic and institutional factors.
- **FOURTH** and last, **think and act global.** I call on governments and other stakeholders to make use of CFS as your global platform and arena to foster dialogue and share experiences on critical food security issues such as land tenure.

CFS is a unique UN global platform for connecting country-led national pathways and strategies for sustainable food systems, food security and nutrition.

It is the space in which all countries can share their efforts, showcase and review their progress and connect with the financing-for-development community, civil society, businesses, and the research and science communities.

CONCLUSION

- As I conclude, allow me to once again express my gratitude to the German Government for inviting CFS to organize this high-level panel. I am also grateful to the honourable ministers who have joined us today and will be sharing their experiences shortly. And to all our partners, friends and colleagues who have joined us from around the world.
- As we mark the ten-year anniversary of the adoption of the CFS VGGTs, let's take a moment to celebrate the accomplishments we have achieved, but more importantly, to reflect upon lessons learned, and accelerate action into the future.

TRANSITION

- Thank you all very much for your attention.
- I will now hand the floor back to Jennifer Clapp for the next part of the programme. Jennifer, back to you!