

Global Forum for Agriculture, 2021

CFS CHAIR'S REMARKS

- Thank you, Chris, and others for joining us here today for this side event.
- Let me thank the Government of Germany for hosting the 13th GFFA, and for inviting me -- Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security -- as an honoured guest. Germany's strong and consistent support for -- and investment in -- CFS, politically and financially, is vital and appreciated.
- Some of you may recall in January 2017, 83 ministers of agriculture met in Berlin and signed a Communique entitled “**Agriculture and Water – Key to Feeding the World.**”
- That document stressed (and I quote) “climate change, land degradation and many trends, in particular urbanisation, economic development, population growth, migration and changing lifestyles, are exacerbating competition over water, resulting in the need for more sustainable stewardship of water.
- It **underlined** the QUOTE “great potential of agriculture, as the largest water user worldwide, for contributing to sustainable water management, water quality and availability. UNQUOTE
- So, it has been four years since that meeting. Where are we on water management, quality, and availability? What have we done to address climate change and its undermining of global food security and nutrition? Has COVID-19 changed our thinking or resolve? Are we closer, or farther away, from reaching the targets of SDG 2, 10, and other 2030 goals?
- Some of you might not even know what - or where - CFS is. Some of you may not be aware that CFS -- with the input of our High-Level Panel of Experts – has negotiated among a multi-stakeholder membership “Policy Recommendations” on both Climate Change and Water as they relate to global food security and nutrition.

- By the end of this one-hour event, we hope you will know more about the CFS and its policy products and you will also have clear ideas on policy steps and actions of the CFS.
- Fortunately, some leaders are taking concrete steps, but we need them to do more.
- Our keynote speaker today is Lord Zac Goldsmith, the UK minister who will be hosting the UNFCCC COP-26 in Glasgow, Scotland in November. He is very aware of what it will take to ensure food security on a global scale, linking food production policies to those of climate, energy production, health, and many others.
- He knows it will require rethinking and re-purposing how we produce and consume our food, to reverse the environmental damage we are doing.
- Let me thank Lord Goldsmith for joining us today, as a friend of CFS, and as a champion of nature-based solutions, and supporting us in promoting the further use and uptake of our policy products.
- I invite Lord Goldsmith to present our keynote address....