

On behalf of the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE), science-policy interface of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), I would like to thank you for inviting me to present our position in this important policy forum.

I shall focus my short presentation **on three points**, derived from the findings of the fifteen HLPE reports to date, which synthesize and analyse the state-of-the-art of food security and nutrition (FSN):

- I. **The assessment of the current situation;**
- II. **The conceptual framework** of food security and nutrition;
- III. **The HLPE's recommendations** to the actors of the food system – especially to policy makers – so that we can achieve "Zero Hunger" within 10 years or before.

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### I. What have we learned?

FSN outcomes in recent years show the extent to which the global community is falling short on Agenda 2030 targets, especially SDG 2.

With an estimated 821 million people experiencing chronic undernourishment and with poor nutrition contributing to nearly 45% of the deaths in children under the age of five, the state and trends of food security and nutrition in the world were already alarming.

Other concerns related to SDG 2 include:

- Food safety concerns;
- Precarious food system livelihoods;
- External costs of food systems.

The COVID-19 economic effects, in particular its impact on food systems, have degraded these perspectives, with the most affected being the **poorest and most vulnerable** segments of the population.

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### II. We need a better understanding of food security and nutrition (FSN) and its drivers

Food systems face significant challenges, but also some opportunities.

More effective FSN policy requires a deeper understanding of the underlying forces that drive food system change and have wide-ranging impacts on food security.

These drivers are **varied in nature**. They interact in complex ways and are constantly evolving. While there is wide agreement on the implications of some of these trends for FSN, there are also some disagreement on others.

There is an urgent need to develop consensus on these issues and, therefore, to strengthen and consolidate conceptual and policy thinking around FSN.

**In its latest report**, launched two weeks ago, **the HLPE recommends to prioritize the right to food** and to **acknowledge two additional dimensions** in the concept of food security and nutrition, alongside availability, access, utilization and stability:

- **Agency**, as the capacity (of individuals or groups) to make their own decisions about food production, processing, distribution and consumption, and their ability to participate in processes which shape food system policies and governance.
- **Sustainability**, as the **long-term ability** of food systems to provide food security and nutrition in such a way that does not compromise the economic, social and environmental bases of food security and nutrition.

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### **III. HLPE recommendations to achieve Zero Hunger within 10 years**

All actors —governments, civil society, citizens, the private sector, etc. — need to join in a **new consolidated approach to FSN, guided by the principles and legal framework of the right to food** and supported by improved enabling environments.

Implementation should be adapted to local contexts and take into account the complexity of the challenges.

In this regard, support to FSN research will be crucial.

**Four critical policy shifts** are required to achieve the six dimensions of food security:

1. Policies that promote **a radical transformation of food systems** must boldly reshape the underlying principles from production to consumption, including:
  - a. Empowerment of the most vulnerable and marginalized food system actors, to more strongly support the right to food for all;
  - b. More regenerative production practices, such as agroecology;
  - c. More diverse distribution networks, such as territorial markets.
2. Policies that appreciate the **interconnectedness of food systems with other sectors**, such as health and environment, agriculture and food – and take into account interaction of food systems with other systems, in particular:
  - a. Explicitly address climate change across all aspects of food systems;
  - b. Learn from crises, such as COVID-19, to build more resilient food systems.
3. Policies that address **hunger and all forms of malnutrition**.
4. Policies that develop **context-specific solutions**, taking local conditions and knowledge into account, including:

- a. The distinct challenges that arise in diverse types of rural and urban contexts;
- b. Conflict and post-conflict situations.

Effective governance will be necessary, including a renewed commitment to multilateral cooperation and coordination, upholding established international obligations and, as we suggested in our latest report, making existing voluntary commitments legally binding within the framework of the CFS.

Thank you for your attention.

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