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Country/Organization/Constituency: Belgium

Statement:

Mr Chairman,

Ministers and Secretaries of State,

Dear Colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen,

The general observation after four years of SDG implementation is that - despite the many efforts - we are not on track to reach the SDGs by the 2030 deadline. This observation is supported by various reports, including the Global Sustainable Development Report, that was presented last September in New York at the SDG Summit.

The 2019 SOFI report, discussed at the CFS this week, also makes this case, with particular focus on SDG2: eradicating hunger and malnutrition in all of its forms is further away now than it has been over the past decade. World hunger has been on the rise since 2015 and is now back to levels seen in 2010-2011. More than 820 million people in the world are still hungry. This number underscores the immense challenge of achieving the Zero Hunger objective by 2030.

Four years down the line in the Agenda 2030, and 10 years after the reform of the CFS, Belgium is convinced that **3 observations remain particularly relevant if we truly want to accelerate progress on SDG2, in order to achieve all the SDGs:**

First : As we have a little over 10 years left to reach the Agenda 2030, that means that our actions to tackle these troubling trends will have to be bolder. Not only in scale but also in terms of **multisectoral collaboration, in order to provide the adequate frameworks and policy guidance by involving all relevant sectors**, and aiming at achieving a pro-poor and inclusive transformation. The active engagement of the civil society and engaged citizens at large is crucial. Also the inclusion of the private sector and new ways of financing are key. All actors need to be involved, such as academia and youth. We acknowledge the crucial role of CFS in this regard, as the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform to work together towards the elimination of hunger and ensuring food security and nutrition for all human beings.

Second : We need to continue to **focus on those furthest behind**. Development will never be sustainable if it is not fair and inclusive. Therefore we need to further intensify our efforts to the realization of Human Rights, in particular the Right to Food. The FIES show us another disturbing number, namely that about 2 billion people in the world experience moderate or severe food

insecurity. In every continent, the prevalence rate is slightly higher among women than men. Gender equality, women's and girls' rights and women's empowerment need to be systematically mainstreamed. Also, Least developed countries and conflict affected countries continue to merit our full attention. Peaceful, just and inclusive societies are important levers in fighting poverty. Belgium stands ready to support efforts in these areas, including through the application of the CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises.

Third: We need to recognize better the many **interlinkages between the different SDGs, the Climate Agenda and the Financing Agenda**. Implementing Agenda 2030 is about synergies as much as it is about trade-offs. Tough policy choices will need to be made. Belgium will continue to further strengthen our approaches for policy coherence.

Before concluding, we would like to highlight our contribution to improved **data collection and analysis tools**. This year's SOFI report introduces a second indicator for monitoring SDG Target 2.1: the Prevalence of Moderate or Severe Food Insecurity based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES). The FIES was elaborated through the "Voices of the Hungry initiative", launched with financial support from Belgium through the Multi-Partner Programme Support Mechanism (FMM). This indicator looks beyond hunger towards the goal of ensuring access to nutritious and sufficient food for all, and is fully aligned with the universality principles of the 2030 Agenda.

TO CONCLUDE:

Belgium congratulates the UN Secretary-General's ongoing efforts to reposition the United Nations development system to better support countries in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda and fully supports the call made by Secretary-General Guterres for a Decade of Action on SDG Implementation. Belgium stands ready to play its role, and is convinced that the above mentioned observations remain particularly relevant, if we stand firm in our ambition to accelerate progress on SDG2, in order to achieve all the SDGs in the years to come. Belgium continues its firm commitment to CFS in order to achieve these objectives.

Thank you Mr Chairman.