



**Remarks by CFS Chairperson at the FAO Regional Conference for
Latin America and the Caribbean (LARC)**

***The Committee on World Food Security (CFS): Driving Food System
Transformation Toward Sustainable, Healthy Diets***

Special Event - 20 October 2020

Thank you very much, Director General, for your introduction and for inviting CFS to this regional conference. This offers us an opportunity to speak with policy makers, senior officers, practitioners, and diverse groups in this region and to share some of CFS work to promote global policy convergence.

CFS is the foremost inclusive international, intergovernmental, and multi-stakeholders platform working to help achieve food security and nutrition for all. We do this through the policy products we produce. CFS will continue playing its role in ensuring that the voices of all stakeholders are heard.

Mr. Qu Dongyu has already mentioned some of the most prominent CFS policy products such as CFS RAI and VGGT. Let me highlight how their strength lies in the rights-based, multilateral, inclusive and multi-stakeholder approach that CFS has been pioneering within the UN system. An approach that recognizes how different stakeholders have different roles and responsibilities when it comes to addressing food insecurity and malnutrition.

Our goal today is that you understand more about CFS work, particularly the ongoing development of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition.

Why is CFS working on Food Systems and Nutrition?

We know clearly that global food production is exceeding our planetary boundaries, driving climate change, biodiversity loss, and the pollution of our soils, our waters, and our bodies. Additionally, malnutrition in all its forms has become a critical concern. Currently, we need to be mindful of the growing rate of overweight and obesity in our regions. Economic development and poor knowledge on nutrition have led to an increase in unhealthy diets. The situation has caused serious illnesses of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, high blood pressure, kidney disease and so on. Its impact on economic, social and environmental sustainability is greater than hunger itself.

It is timely that we call for food systems transformation which is the interest of all. We need long-term strategy and commitment. With your collective commitment, together we can improve our world and to leave a sustainable future for our children.

May I take this opportunity to inform you that a first draft of the Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition is currently under negotiation by all CFS stakeholders. Then we expect for the Guidelines to be endorsed at CFS 47 in February 2021. The Guidelines will represent a new global consensus as well as an important contribution to the UN Food Systems Summit 2021 and the Nutrition for Growth Summit in Japan next year.

Developing the guidelines is half the job. We are looking for countries to commit to adopting and utilizing these Guidelines. This is the other half of the job. Our colleagues and partners at FAO, WFP, IFAD and other development actors will support this implementation. We are counting on you all to be champions of the guidelines to transformation of our food systems for sustainable and healthy diets.

If your country is not yet a member of the CFS, I urge you to join now. It is very simple, while it opens opportunities to discuss and debate the issues that concern us most with many different stakeholders and together find solutions.

And, as the DG said in his opening remarks at the CFS Special Event, last week, when he urged all FAO field offices to support the work of CFS, let's see how to operationalize CFS products, and make more concrete results with them.

Once again, I thank you all for joining us today and look forward to working with you.

Ladies and gentlemen, each of us has a duty to transform global food systems and to ensure food security and nutrition for all. Together we can achieve!