



COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

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"Making a Difference in Food Security and Nutrition"

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STATEMENT BY THE CHAIR OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE HIGH-LEVEL PANEL OF EXPERTS (HLPE)

Mr Director-General, Special Envoy, Distinguished Delegates,

It is a pleasure, on behalf of the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE), to formally present the HLPE Report No. 15 on "Food security and nutrition: building a global narrative towards 2030".

We are going to hear a presentation from the lead author and project team leader Prof Jennifer Clapp, but I would like to make a few remarks to set out the scene of the report.

Clearly, this report is a little different. It was an attempt to take stock of almost 10 years since the last reform of the CFS and the last major food crisis. It is really an attempt to take stock and look at recent developments, and to see how we are progressing towards achieving the 2030 Agenda, especially on SDG 2.

As we have heard from other opening remarks today, the HLPE report spells out that we are not on track to reach the Agenda 2030 goals, and already were not, even before the current issue of COVID-19. "Business as usual" will not be enough: we need a transformative change to our food system. I should point out that the overarching conceptual framing of the report is to prioritize the Right to Food. In its four main sections the HLPE report suggests an update to conceptual and policy frameworks of food security and nutrition, and in particular to add the dimensions of agency and sustainability – Prof Clapp will take you through that, the reason why we, as HLPE, feel this is very important.

The report includes an excellent and sobering section on current trends and challenges, but also potential opportunities in food systems. The report presents policy directions and then conclusions and recommendations. There are four main policy areas for change, describing the need for a transformative change. The first area is a move from a focus just on production, towards a radical

transformation of the food system as a whole. We need to move away from viewing food security just in terms of hunger. We need to look at food and nutrition both in terms of hunger and of malnutrition in all its forms.

We need to move away from viewing food security and nutrition as a sectoral issue. Certainly, the issues we have seen with COVID-19 have taught us that, when formulating health policy to stem the spread of COVID--19, it's also crucial to consider agricultural and food policy, there is really a need to look at cross-sectoral aspects. Finally, there is a need to have in mind that policies need to be context-specific, to take into account the great diversity of contexts and challenges, including in crises settings.

The theory of change that we are presenting in the report focuses on shifts and catalytic changes in policy to better achieve Sustainable Development Goals.

The last area of recommendation concerns the enabling conditions, and I think some of the other opening remarks have already hinted to their importance. We need to move towards the ability to monitor better changes to the food system. We need modelling systems to be able to foresight and predict likely changes, and also monitoring the situation, which is key to policy formulation.

With respect to COVID-19 and its impact on food security and nutrition, in March, the HLPE developed an issues paper. The issues paper was updated in September to reflect the evolution of the pandemic, and its policy recommendations apply the framework of the four policy shifts elaborated in the HLPE Report No. 15.

Finally I just would like to acknowledge that the HLPE is committed to working very closely with the UN Food Systems Summit, we will obviously use the unique set-up of the CFS and its inclusive system to address policy changes for food systems' transformation.

As it has already been said, this has been a critically difficult time for the HLPE and for all of us meeting in virtual settings. I therefore want to specifically acknowledge both the HLPE Steering Committee's current members and its previous members for their contribution, and also the work of the HLPE Secretariat during this time.

Thank you.