

**The 47<sup>th</sup> Session of Committee on World Food Security (CFS)**  
**Opening Remarks**  
**by Thanawat Tiensin, Chairperson of CFS**  
**8 February 2021, 09.30 a.m. (Rome Time)**

**Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Friends and colleagues,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is my pleasure to be the Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security and address you today at the opening of the 47<sup>th</sup> session of the CFS.

Unfortunately, 2020 has been a tough year for food security and nutrition. Even more people have lost or will lose their jobs because of the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and national and global inequalities are set to rise.

Despite the many challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the work of CFS has never been more relevant than before.

In the early of the pandemic last year, CFS brought its members and stakeholders together to exchange experiences and lessons learned on the implications and potential impacts of the pandemic on food security and nutrition at the national and global level.

The Committee also requested CFS High Level Panel of Expert to produce the excellent Issues Paper on the Impact of COVID-19 on Food Security and Nutrition. In October last year, CFS also organised the High Level Event to exchange expertises and knowledge to this unique and inclusive platform of the CFS. The CFS continues to play its role in providing the evidence-based policy guidance to overcome the challenges and uncertainties of this difficult time.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Since its reform in 2009, CFS has continued demonstrating its collective commitment to ensure food security and nutrition for all human being by serving as a platform for exchanging good practices and driving policy convergence process as you actively participated.

Using a multi-stakeholder, inclusive approach, CFS has developed and endorsed the policy recommendations and guidelines on a wide range of food security and nutrition related topics. CFS will continue to ensure that all voices are heard and also to keep the inclusivity of this Committee.

Just last week, the negotiation of Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition was finalized with great support, contribution, compromise and flexibility of members and stakeholders. And also thank you for the Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group, Ambassador Hoogeveen for his leadership. On this Wednesday, we expect that the plenary will conclude by endorsing this Voluntary Guidelines and Food Systems Nutrition.

However, we still have a lot of work to do. After CFS47, we will start the negotiations of the Policy Recommendations on Agro-ecological and Other Innovative Approaches which is very timely and important.

In additionally, this year CFS will be taking up of the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment as its next main topic. We will confirm TORs for this workstream at this plenary. Then we will continue other workstreams on Data Analysis and Inequality as well.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

COVID-19 has changed our life and highlighted how fragile our food systems are.

The Food Systems Summit will be an opportunity to build on this momentum. We need to build a far more resilient system, one that offers access to affordable, nutritious food that nurtures people and sustains the planet.

A clear signal of an already solid and fruitful collaboration between CFS, the CFS-HLPE, and the Food Systems Summit is the presence today of the Special Envoy, Dr Agens Kalibata, with us today and throughout the week.

We expect that CFS policy products including the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition will contribute to the UN Food Systems Summit.

I also take the opportunity to have here FAO and IFAD to tell Director General Qu Dongyu and President Hounbo – and I will also convey this message to Executive Director Beasley – “we need the Rome Base Agencies’ support and commitment to help CFS with the implementation and uptake of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition and the other CFS products at the country level and the local levels.

Developing the policies and guidelines is half the job, but we still have the other half of the job in promoting the uptake and implementation of those policies at the local and national levels in order to create the global impacts.

We need your strong commitments, bold actions, innovative solutions and applicable strategies to transform our food systems and to achieve all SDGs.

Let me conclude by thanking you all for your great contribution and support to CFS and thanking you for your commitment to rebuilding better.

You all are the Champions.

## **Thank you**