

Statement by New Zealand

II. FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION: BUILDING A GLOBAL NARRATIVE TOWARDS 2030 (for information and discussion)

- New Zealand firstly would like to acknowledge the important contribution of the HLPE to the CFS over the last 10 years. This summary report comes at an important time, both reflecting on HLPE guidance to date, addressing the significant current challenges imposed by COVID-19, and looking forward to actions to 2030, and beyond. The CFS's multi-stakeholder approach will be key to assist to identify and implement the range of actions needed at all levels going forward.
- Taken alongside the 2020 SOFI Report, New Zealand strongly shares the concerns expressed today about the continued growth in the number of people affected by hunger, and the worrying statistics projected to get significantly worse due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- We would agree with many of the observations in the HLPE report. For example, New Zealand strongly supports the emphasis on the need for “a transition from a search for a single global solution to an appreciation of the diversity of situations that require diverse solutions”.
- Given the essential role of International trade to global food security and resilience we are pleased to see the recommendation to support food supply chains and avoid disruptions in food movement and trade, in line with FAO and WTO advice to countries in response to COVID-19. International trade not only enables food to move from surplus to deficit regions but will also be necessary to ensure the efficient and sustainable use of global food and agricultural resources. In terms of increasing resilience, the recommendations to support local communities and citizens to increase local food production and consumption must go hand in hand with supporting international trade. Both responses are complementary and one cannot come at the expense of the other.
- We also believe that the role of distorting agricultural subsidies needs to be considered when reviewing the recommendations in this report. Agricultural policies around the world tend to use highly distorting measures, often creating incentives for overproduction and overuse of inputs. Such policies are inefficient ways to improve livelihoods or food security, and often have negative environmental effects. Reforming these policies would go a long way to addressing many issues raised in this paper– yet distorting subsidies currently only gets passing mention in the current version of the report. While we would agree that addressing trade issues is not the core mandate of the CFS and HLPE, it is an important issue that needs to be considered when reviewing the report recommendations, to provide a complete picture when discussing for example, the promotion of local value chains to build resilience and self-sufficiency.

Finally, noting Martin Cole's earlier comment about needing to be able to better monitor food systems, we would point to the lack of reliable, contemporary data as a major obstacle to countries in assessing the sustainability of their agriculture, and in understanding the effectiveness of a range of policy

measures against the Sustainable Development Goal targets. The data gap is a key barrier in the move towards sustainable food systems and for this reason we are highly supportive of the FAO's increased focus on building country data capacities, and we also strongly support as a matter of priority the CFS move to contribute to this issue through the data workstream in the MYPOW.