

**Swedish statement to be delivered by State Secretary Mr. Per Callenberg at CFS47 under agenda item II, 8 February.**

[Check against delivery]

- Excellences, ladies and gentlemen,
- I would like to begin by reading a quote by the late Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme from his speech at FAO in 1983. He said:
- “Words and slogans, however well formulated, will not aid the world from hunger. They cannot feed a starving child. What we can do, and do now, is to start the practical work for food reforms. On this, all nations should be able to cooperate. And behind this endeavour lies a feeling of responsibility and involvement”. End quote.
- Palme’s words are no less true today than in 1983 as we undoubtedly continue to face grave challenges.
- In addition to wars and conflict, a process of ever faster climate change, and the Covid 19 pandemic, presents us with a test of huge proportion.
- This is the time for us to step up. We have the knowledge and means, but we need political will to shift crises to opportunity.
- I therefore welcome the report on Building a global narrative towards 2030 because it provides us with several important stepping stones for such a joint endeavour – and as Palme said- on this, all nations should be able to cooperate.

- I call on all of us, to focus on what we can do together.
- The upcoming Food Systems Summit is such an event. It is not an endpoint, but a stepping point for transformation. In particular, I welcome the contribution of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines for Food Systems and Nutrition to the summit.
- I would also like to take this opportunity to highlight the importance of the Voluntary guidelines for gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of food security.
- I welcome the terms of reference and look forward to the development of the guidelines in the coming year. My warmest thank you to our fellow Nordic country, Finland, for shouldering the responsibility of chairing this work. Sweden has contributed financially to the realisation of this workstream and stand ready to contribute with our expertise as well.
- Thank you!