

Statement Delivered by Zimbabwe: Food security and nutrition: building a global narrative towards 2030

Zimbabwe associates itself with the statement delivered by Kenya on behalf of ARG.

Chairperson,

We are at the stage where so many factors negatively impact on achieving SDGs, in which two are at play for Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe faces inadequate food and malnutrition for several reasons, including climate change and its wide-ranging impacts, including droughts and cyclones. This was exacerbated by COVID-19 which is ongoing, disrupting food systems and with an unknown final impact.

The work of CFS is critical. We all need to work together so that we do not leave anyone behind. Building back better for all is key, not only at global, continental and regional levels but nationally.

Chairperson,

Inclusive policies are key, mainstreaming women, who constitute more than half of the population and do most of the agricultural work in rural areas, as well as youths, who constitute an even larger percentage. They are the future and including them is critical as it will not only create employment but empower them if our vision to transform agriculture into sustainable livelihoods is to be realized. Let us make a difference and empower the farmer on the ground with urgent support to produce more nutritious food. Time is not on our side.

Zimbabwe appreciates the report prepared by the HLPE, emphasizing multi stakeholder participation and inclusivity. As part of Zimbabwe's Vision 2030, which has agriculture as a key component, we have adopted an Agriculture and Food Systems Transformation Strategy. In conjunction with FAO, Zimbabwe embraced climate proof agriculture, through a flagship programme called Pfumvudza/Intwasa, through which two million farmers receive input support.

With the rains we are receiving this season, which are above average, we remain optimistic that the country will harvest enough staple food for the first time in a few years. Hunger is a scourge that should be eradicated.

Chairperson,

There is hope as a new generation of young farmers are beginning to embrace agriculture. These youths have coined a saying, "Just plant something, anything and do not waste the rains!". Zimbabwe supports the convening of the UN World Food Systems Summit in this regard and hopes that it will be a watershed in our combined efforts towards ending hunger, malnutrition and poverty.

Thank you