



**Portugal – Statement on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States**

**CFS 47 - Committee on World Food Security**

**(8 - 11 February 2021)**

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

**Item 5: Endorsement and Uptake of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition**

Madam/Mr Chair,

1. I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.
2. With global challenges on the rise, in particular hunger and all forms of malnutrition, climate change, poverty and inequality as well as environmental degradation and biodiversity loss, the role of sustainable and resilient food systems is paramount. They play a key role in achieving progress across all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular the upmost important zero hunger objective.
3. To keep on track and address the additional challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, an urgent and collective response, context-based solutions and a holistic and inclusive approach to our food systems are all essential, if we are to fulfil the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs on time.
4. In this regard, we underline and reaffirm our full commitment to the work of the CFS and its key role in fostering the transformation towards sustainable food systems. With the VGFSyN, the CFS has again justified the trust we place in it and shown the added value of an inclusive, multi-stakeholder process. We thank all parties involved in this process for their constructive approach, flexibility and engagement. We extend our special thanks to the chair of the Open Ended Working Group, Ambassador Hoogeveen from the Netherlands. His skilful leadership and his tireless efforts have been critical for reaching an agreement on the Voluntary Guidelines.
5. We would particularly highlight the progress achieved by the VGFSyN on matters considered crucial by the EU and its Member States for supporting public policies and concrete initiatives at all levels, and for achieving sustainable and resilient food systems, as illustrated in the Farm to Fork Strategy of the European Green Deal. Considering this, we also highlight the importance of ensuring that VGFSyN is duly considered in the process of preparing for the UN Food Systems Summit and Pre-Summit.

6. We pledge our commitment to promoting the uptake and implementation of the VGFSyN and all previous CFS products and we call upon the RBAs and all other stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society, to do the same.
7. With these remarks, the EU and its 27 Member States hereby endorse the VGFSyN.

Thank you, Madam/Mr Chair.

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