



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

**CFS 49 - Committee on World Food Security**

**(Virtual meeting, 11 – 14 October 2021)**

**Item II b): Presentation of the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021, its policy implications and the role of the CFS**

Madam/Mr Chair,

1. I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.
2. We are greatly concerned about the extremely gloomy picture emerging from the 2021 SOFI report, with estimated figures ranging from 720 to 811 million people facing hunger in the world in 2020. In addition, an estimated 3 billion people in the world cannot afford a healthy diet. The main drivers for hunger and malnutrition continue to be conflicts, climate change, economic slowdowns and downturns, with poverty and inequality as structural underlying factors. The COVID-19 pandemic and its socio-economic effects has further increased food insecurity and malnutrition, both in frequency and intensity. High and still rising food prices add to the dire situation.
3. Under the overarching principles of human rights, with special reference to the right to food, the EU and its Member States are committed to working together with all its partners and relevant stakeholders to address these extremely worrying trends and challenges, and to accelerate the transition to sustainable and resilient food systems in which nobody is left behind and potential inequalities and divides are prevented.
4. We fully support the call for continued political commitment to transforming our food systems. We welcome the focus on a systemic, holistic and cross-sectoral approach, which builds on the synergies between food, health, environment and livelihoods, while taking into account the different national and local contexts. We recognise in this regard the relevance of the six recommended pathways for the transition to resilient and sustainable food systems, which will reinforce and complement the follow-up process to the UN Food Systems Summit.

5. With less than a decade left to achieve the SDGs, the role of the CFS as the global multi-stakeholder platform for food security and nutrition will be key to shaping the food systems of the future. To that effect, the CFS needs strong support from all members and stakeholders and from the RBAs. The momentum built by the Food Systems Summit and the urgent call for action emerging from the 2021 SOFI report provide a renewed and strong impetus to step up our efforts towards achieving the SDGs. The EU and its Member States stand ready to join forces with all CFS members and stakeholders in making decisive progress.

Thank you, Madam/Mr Chair.

---