

STATEMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES ON THE OCCASION OF THE 49TH SESSION OF THE CFS

Agenda Item 2: State of Food Security and Nutrition

delivered by: Nina Padilla Cainglet, Minister and Consul and Deputy Permanent Representative to UN Agencies based in Rome (FAO, WFP, IFAD)

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Good afternoon Excellencies.

1. The Philippines joins the speakers before me in expressing deep concern over the present complex global situation regarding food insecurity and the impact of the COVID19 pandemic especially in developing countries like ours.

2. The recent UN Food Systems Summit and its 18-month preparatory period has rightly called for bold actions and solutions from a broad range of stakeholders. Responses have to be comprehensive, science-based, inclusive and innovative to allow us to feed our growing population, now and in the future.

3. The Philippines has been looking at a whole-of-nation approach to reach our goal of agri-food systems transformation. The government must be at the helm of the transformation process to provide the enabling environment and to use its vast network to oversee this initiative. Implementation will also depend on a country's ability to access and adequately utilize funding for food systems transformation.

4. Science, technology, innovation and practical research are essential to fast track this transformation on agri-food systems.

5. The youth will also have to be importantly involved, capacitated and supported to contribute to this food systems transformation for the needs of today and the future.

6. With the inter-connectedness of food markets and trade however, no one country alone can fully transform their food system to meet food security and the SDGs. The Philippines looks forward to coalition building for action at the regional and global level. We need coherent coalitions that will lead to meaningful transformation.

7. Mr. Chair, the Philippines takes this opportunity to thank you for your able leadership and chairing of this Committee for the past two years.

8. We support the position that this Committee with its High-level Panel of Experts continue to focus its work to help address the complex global situation regarding food insecurity. It can play an important complementary role to the UN-Rome-based agencies Coordination Hub and the post- UN Food Systems Summit follow-up.

9. The Philippines looks forward to the discussions of the CFS this week including tackling the important issue of climate change and how we can work together to make pledges to climate action that can increase implementation of sustainable agricultural practices to achieve food security.

10. Together, we can drive transformative change to build a food-secure world with healthy, sustainable, technology-based and inclusive food systems that allow both people and planet to thrive.