

CFS 49 – Agenda Item IV
Statement by the United Kingdom

Chair,

- *The United Kingdom would like to thank CFS for engagement throughout the preparatory process for the Food Systems Summit; as well as for the background paper on the Summit and its implications for the CFS.*
- *In a sense, the CFS helped provide a model for the Summit in the way that it brings together stakeholders, including from member states, civil society, and the private sector.*
- *The CFS has an important role in contributing towards ensuring continued focus on food security and the inter-related issues linked to the complexity of transforming the global food system: one of the most significant challenges facing the global community in the coming years.*
- *Despite the fact that we have tripled food production in the last 40 years, a billion people are facing hunger and malnutrition today. Our food systems are also taking their toll on the planet. The way we produce and consume food is unsustainable, putting too much pressure on biodiversity, climate, and weather system and increasing the risk of zoonosis and the threat of antimicrobial resistance.*
- *Clearly, we can only change the food system together: through stakeholder engagement; development of strategies for food system transformation; agricultural transition to nature-positive production; promotion of healthy diets and sustainable consumption patterns; agricultural innovation; and improving resilience within the food chain.*
- *The CFS contributes to this. Its products, processes, and the platform that the CFS provides can help to address the challenges and tensions between sustainability, productivity, and growth; climate change; and unsustainable food production and consumption patterns.*
- *The momentum needs to be maintained and strengthened, raising awareness and the political prioritisation of these interconnected issues. As noted by the G20, ‘more than ever, we need decisive, inclusive, sustained and coordinated action to ensure that our food systems can step up to address the shared challenges we face’*
- *Of course, there is a strong link between priorities for the Summit and COP26. And ahead of COP26, we’re building global alliances of countries committed to more sustainable agriculture.*

- *At COP26, we will be sharing the ways that countries, businesses, and farmers are already putting the transition to sustainable agriculture into action – including through nature-based solutions and new technologies.*
- *Ahead of COP26, the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit, together with all three Rio conventions – we need to recognise that we have the tools we need. But we need to use them more effectively.*
- *We look forward to the defining of the UN system-wide follow-up mechanism, with a coordination hub in Rome, leveraging the RBAs and the CFS, while avoiding the creation of new structures and mechanisms. This will need to draw in a holistic way on the whole of the UN system and its partnerships, with a priority focus on technical and policy support for country transformation pathways.*
- *As this evolves, potential CFS engagement will need to be carefully reviewed – also in the context of the CFS programme of work - and, as the background paper suggests, ensure that the CFS does not take on too much, remaining focussed on the unique added value that the CFS can provide as a global inclusive forum, together with its high-level panel of experts.*

Thank-you very much