

Thank you for giving me the floor -

- Let me start by thanking the High Level Panel of Experts for the very interesting report on the role of young people in agriculture and food systems. The report makes a strong case for putting young people at the centre of our efforts to build sustainable food systems and to realize the 2030-agenda.
- The CFS, as the foremost international arena for addressing sustainable food systems, is a good arena for discussing this topic and Norway supports further work on this within CFS, with a view to adopt policy recommendations at CFS 50 next year.
- The report makes a strong case for a rights-based approach as a starting point for all policies and efforts to engage youth in agriculture and food production. We support this approach and wish to emphasize that basic human rights to food, to education and to work are especially important to ensure that young women and men both get a good start to adult life and responsibilities.

Chair,

- Skills and competency are key elements if we are to realize the green shift globally, regionally, nationally and locally. Sustainable food systems will thus be dependent on a skilled and competent work force throughout the entire value chain for food.
- In Norway, there is a growing lack of skilled workers in the food sector. At the same time, there is a generation change ongoing in parts of the food value chain. Many of the recommendations in the HLPE-report are therefore similar to Government efforts in Norway to meet the challenges in the sector, such as increased focus on vocational training especially for the food sector, economic measures aimed at increased recruitment to the primary sector of the food value chain and innovation measures in agriculture.

Chair,

- We need the engagement of the entire society if we are to build and develop sustainable food systems. However, youth engagement and employment in the food value chain is especially important in this regard. The HLPE-report has captured this and showed us why this is key.
- Young people are the future of our food systems and should be educated and engaged to make sure that they find a meaningful outcome as skilled and competent actors in the food value chain.

Thank you!