



Statement by Dr. Claudia Sadoff, Executive Managing Director, CGIAR
CFS 50 Ministerial Segment, 10 October 2022

Excellencies

Distinguished colleagues

The **food systems crisis** which has been discussed at length here today is **just one element** of a complex set of challenges with connections to **every other system underpinning human life**.

Our best hope in meeting the **immediate demands** of the current crises and building resilience to **future shocks** lies in **confronting that complexity** with **evidence-based innovation** and **collaboration**.

CGIAR, as many of you know, is the **world's largest public international food systems research and innovation network**.

We are proud of our **global footprint and track record**, but we are **being tested** to rise to this complexity.

It's why we have embarked on a **transition towards a more efficient and integrated structure**.

The mission of 'One' CGIAR is to **transform food, land, and water systems** to deliver sustainable food and nutrition security for all.

Our **Research and Innovation Strategy** outlines three **Action Areas** to enable this global transition.

In the Action Area of '**Genetic Innovation**' we focus on **conserving and delivering genetic resources, producing better, more demand-responsive seed varieties** while also **slowing the loss of genetic variation**.

The transition to One CGIAR will enable genebanks to **expand their research and innovation efforts** and support a **strengthening of the capacity of national programs**, while at the same time **continuing to distribute germplasm to recipients around the world**.

In the Action Area of '**Resilient Agrifood Systems**' we address the need to increase **sustainable agricultural productivity** and the availability of safe, **nutrient-dense foods**; reduce threats to **human health**; and strengthen the **resilience of smallholder agriculture**.

Lastly in the Action Area of '**Systems Transformation**' we look at **broad scale challenges** like **natural resources** and **environmental impacts**; **livelihoods, markets** and farmers' **vulnerability to shocks; diets; and inequality**.

To achieve **scale and impact** across these three domains, we work with more than **3,000 partners**.

These **partnerships**, particularly in the global South, are **increasingly a driving force** behind our reform efforts as we try **to better position CGIAR to respond to today's challenges** by **bringing down silos** within CGIAR and taking a more **systems focused approach**.

In the context of the current food crisis, this enables us to take **swifter action** to **identify, understand, and counter** the immediate impacts on food and nutrition security in key affected regions.

All while progressing our longer-term goals toward **the equitable and sustainable food systems** that humankind, and the planet, need.

In closing let me underscore this message – for 50 years CGIAR has been a **key science partner** and we **remain committed to working with all of you** to meet the challenges of this crisis, and the challenges the future may bring.

Thank you for your attention.