

**Maanantai 10.10. klo 10**

**II. MINISTERIAL SEGMENT: COORDINATING POLICY RESPONSES TO THE GLOBAL FOOD CRISIS - THE STATE OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE WORLD 2022 (for information and discussion)**

*Check against delivery*

**Madam / Mr. Chair,**

**Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

- Finland fully aligns itself with the Statement by the European Union.
- We recognize with a great concern that efforts to end hunger are falling behind. The efforts should be accelerated fast in order to reach the SDG 2 by 2030. However, the challenges are greater than ever. Challenges can only be overcome if all the States respect the charter of the UN.
- The current food crisis has a particularly significant impact on women and children as they continue to be disproportionately affected. We see advancing gender equality as a central element of our response to the ongoing food crisis. We are fully committed to CFS' work on Voluntary guidelines on gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition.
- Regarding children, we would like to highlight the importance of school meals in response to the food crisis. They deliver healthy meals during critical developmental phases of childhood, support food security in families and communities, and bolster resilience to crises. I see nutritious school meals provided for girls and boys among the best investments for the future.
- (The benefits of school meals go far beyond the plate of food. These programs have the potential to transform food, education and social protection systems.) In Finland, school meal programmes have produced high returns in education, gender equality, health and nutrition and social protection. They can also stimulate economic and agricultural development.
- Finally, I would like to emphasize opportunities that innovations and digital solutions offer for responding to the current food-energy-finance crisis and transformation of food systems more sustainable, inclusive and resilient. We must openly look for innovations and digital solutions that strengthen the functioning of food systems, efficient use of resources and coordination between different actors in response to crisis and in long-term development.