

**10 October 2022**

**CFS 50**

**Statement for the session State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022 by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights**

Thank you Chair.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights would like to express its deepest appreciation for the work of the CFS. As we have discussed today, the world is at a moment where hunger and malnutrition have been exacerbated by conflict and long-term crisis, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change.

The pandemic increased the vulnerabilities and inadequacies of global food systems by disrupting the livelihoods of small-scale farmers and fishers and by deepening inequalities within and among countries.

The people who are most affected are the poorest and most marginalized segments of society, including women, people from racial and ethnic minorities, children and youth, migrants, indigenous peoples, internally displaced, people with disabilities, LGBTQ+ persons, older people and those living in conflict-affected areas.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights has stressed how addressing inequality within and between countries, is not only an economic issue, but fundamentally a question of justice and human rights.

Unless we take urgent action, these populations will continue to face higher risk of food insecurity and malnutrition.

It is therefore crucial to address the structural causes that make food systems vulnerable to shocks and unable to deliver on the right to adequate food for all, including by:

- Dismantling deeply rooted and intersecting forms of discrimination, including gender and racial discrimination, that hinder people's ability to produce or access food.
- Empowering people to secure their own access to natural resources and food, as well as to ensure their participation in decision making, access to information, accountable processes and remedies.
- Investing in sustainable small-scale agriculture such as agroecology

- Devising targeted measures to support small-scale farmers and fishers, especially women, with financial support, access to credit, land, seeds, natural resources and technology to support their livelihood and ensure local and sustainable food production.
- Enhancing access to social protection, a fundamental human right and an essential tool to fight food insecurity and malnutrition

Excellencies,

the current crisis offers opportunities for strengthened international cooperation, solidarity and multilateralism. The CFS has the legitimacy and expertise to lead a globally coordinated policy response to tackle food insecurity and malnutrition that should be grounded in human rights norms and principles and shaped by meaningful and authentic participation of rights holders.

OHCHR stands ready to continue supporting the work of the CFS.

I thank you for your attention.