

Statement of the Republic of the Philippines  
**AGENDA 2-MINISTERIAL SEGMENT: COORDINATING POLICY  
RESPONSES TO THE GLOBAL FOOD CRISIS - THE STATE OF  
FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE WORLD 2022**  
50th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS50)  
October 10-13, 2022  
FAO HQ, Rome, Italy  
(delivered by H.E Ferdinand Marcos Jr. via video recording)

My greetings to the participants and organizers of the fiftieth plenary session of the Committee on World Food Security. It is an honor to take part in this event and in this crucial dialogues that prioritize the welfare of our people amidst immense challenges.

The circumstances of recent years have brought vast social and economic impacts that may have cast a shadow on our collective outlook and aspirations.

With the restrictions that came along with COVID-19, as well as the heavily-charged political climate across borders, with the resulting conflict, the already serious issues of hunger and food insecurity have been aggravated. And while these are global concerns, we cannot avoid the fact that their effects and the urgency of addressing them are more felt and pressing in developing countries.

The Philippine government recognizes the gravity of our situation and the necessity for swift decisions and actions. But to be paralyzed by these obstacles will only result in worsening of poverty and malnutrition in the coming years, especially if we fail to provide our consumers with access to safe, affordable, and nutritious food and services.

Amidst export bans and the ensuing surge in prices, the Philippines, through the Department of Agriculture, renews its vow to find ways that will minimize the bunt of these events on our people, especially our farmers, fisherfolks, and other stakeholders of the food production industry, who work diligently no matter the season.

We join you, our fellow leaders, in relentlessly striving for more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable agriculture and food systems, so no Filipino will be left behind as we move forward.

While we do so, we call on the Food and Agriculture Organization to continue its efforts in spearheading global appeals to keep the movement of food and agriculture inputs unhampered across borders. We are united with you in your convictions that you must make every effort to ensure that trade, especially in food, flows freely and easily.

It is my fervent hope that the discourse that transpires in this event will be transformed into concrete steps that will alleviate the hardships of our people.

Thank you very much, and again, my warmest greetings to you all.

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Philippine Statement Augmented by in-person delivery of  
Agriculture Undersecretary Domingo F. Panganiban

Honorable Chair, Distinguished Delegates, I am Domingo Panganiban, Senior Agriculture Undersecretary of the Philippines. It is a privilege to elaborate further on the video message of the

Agriculture Secretary, who is concurrently the President of the Philippines.

The Philippines aligns itself with the G77 and China Statement delivered by the esteemed Ambassador of Kuwait, which strongly calls for this Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and its stakeholders to award utmost priority in tackling hunger, food security, and malnutrition within respective mandates and capacities.

More than ever, we need to coordinate policy responses to avert this looming food crisis. The intensification of the major food insecurity drivers, such as conflict, climate extremes, pandemics, and economic shocks, combined with the high cost of nutritious food and growing inequalities, will continue to challenge national, regional, and global food security and nutrition.

The Philippines calls on the CFS, the whole UN System, and its private sector and civil society partners to focus on the following priorities:

**1. Work towards immediate fulfillment of obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and**

**the Paris Agreement to cut greenhouse gas emissions, provide climate financing, and support capacity-building programs and technology transfer for the adaptation of the most vulnerable and developing countries.**

Climate change is among the greatest threats affecting our nations and peoples, especially our food security. We should all accept our shared and differentiated responsibilities and continue to do our part to address this common challenge. This threat knows no borders, social class, or geopolitical considerations. How we address it will be the true test of our time.

Addressing climate change must be central to CFS policy products and advocacies.

## **2. Keep trade transparent, predictable, and fair.**

The Philippines joins the call for an unhampered movement of food and agricultural inputs as part of the global effort to avoid a food crisis and to help build more efficient, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable agriculture food systems.

### **3. Invest in boosting the productivity and resiliency of agri-food systems.**

We look forward to forging fruitful collaborations that capitalize on the synergies between food, nutrition, health, environment, and livelihoods to transform agri-food systems towards resiliency. We welcome support as we provide innovative solutions to farmers and fishers for the effective adoption of technologies while recognizing that farmers and fisherfolk are subject to different climate and economic risks. Creating an enabling environment can help them become successful participants in local, national, and global food value chains. We recognize the value of sustaining and complementing the follow-up process to the UN Food Systems Summit.

### **4. Empower people to be food secure and contribute effectively to a food-secure world.**

In addressing the challenges en route to global food security, inclusivity is imperative for multiplying forces and enabling the empowerment of all peoples, regardless of their conditions, through enhancing their sense of belongingness and ownership of the collective goal for the food system. Accordingly, we recognize the

significant roles of persons with disabilities, women, children, indigenous people, and the poor when they shift to become active producers of food and skilled participants in the food value chain.

We look forward to the endorsement and successful uptake of the CFS Policy Recommendations promoting youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems. Implementation of the recommendations could help empower the youth to become successful agents of agri-food systems transformation for poverty reduction and food security.

We also hope that common ground can be reached in developing the CFS Voluntary Guidelines for Gender Equality and Women and Girls' Empowerment, considering stakeholders' sensitivities. We should not lose sight of the main goal of producing an acceptable guide that would encourage implementable measures that will advance gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment not only as fundamental to the realization of human rights but also as a means to attain food security.

## **5. Promote Data and Evidence-Based Policy Making and Program Development**

We strongly support efforts to help Nations make appropriate food security and nutrition policy and program decisions by having ready access to global climate information, high-quality data, analysis tools, science, and narratives on lessons learned, good practices, innovations, success stories, and impacts.

Distinguished CFS Delegates, the Philippines acknowledges that, at this historical juncture, in the aftermath of an unparalleled global food and energy crisis, greater international engagement, cooperation, exchange, and action are vital for our shared success.

We stand ready to do our part and work with you all. The Philippines recognizes that achieving sustainable food and nutrition security requires a whole-of-society approach with government utilizing multi-sectoral and multi-level platforms.

With respect to achieving nutritional adequacy for all Filipinos and addressing all forms of malnutrition, the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition, formulated by a multi-sectoral and multi-level National Nutrition Council, serves as the country's blueprint.

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