

Thank you Chair.

- This meeting comes at a crucial time --- we are facing a global food security crisis with multiple causes, among them: climate change, COVID-19, and protracted conflicts, including Russia's unprovoked and ongoing war against Ukraine.
- As the SOFI Report makes clear, hunger and malnutrition are heading in the wrong direction, quickly: nearly a third of the global population lacked adequate access to food at least once within the last year.
- Roughly 150 million more people are now affected by hunger, relative to pre pandemic times.
- The gender gap is growing too --- 32% of women in the world are moderately or severely food insecure, compared to 28% of men, according to the 2021 figures.
- The report underscores that Russia's illegal war in Ukraine is exacerbating food insecurity around the world. So let us be very clear: Russia must end this war immediately. This Committee on World Food Security must condemn -- in the clearest terms possible -- Russia's actions and the effects it is having on food security around the world.
- The United States has responded swiftly to the new crises generated, across the globe, by Putin's war:
 - This year alone, the United States has provided more than \$6 billion in humanitarian assistance to scale up emergency food security operations in food insecure countries.
 - On the resilience front, United States invests more than \$1 billion each year through Feed the Future, which aims to sustainably reduce poverty and malnutrition in countries through inclusive, agriculture-led growth.
 - To help combat the effects of high food, fuel, and fertilizer prices, President Biden and Congress in May approved \$760 million in additional development funding for agricultural programs.
 - In Africa alone, U.S. support to more than 20 countries is helping to:

- Increase the accessibility and affordability of fertilizer ,
 - Increase investments in agricultural capacity and resilience and
 - Cushion the macro-economic shocks and impacts on vulnerable communities
- This response goes beyond the approximately \$4 billion the United States provides WFP, FAO, and IFAD in 2021, the largest annual contribution for each UN food security agency.
 - We commend other countries that are stepping up and ask all CFS members to do more now to confront global food insecurity.
 - In addition, we need to make real and lasting improvements to our agriculture and food systems, to increase their sustainability, and to put them at the center of solutions to climate change.
 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture launched the Partnership for Climate-Smart Commodities with an initial \$2.8 billion investment in climate-smart, market-driven projects. This impacts 50,000 farms, covering 26 million acres, and is projected to sequester an estimated 50 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent.
 - We must also acknowledge and respect the contributions trade makes to food security and sustainable, resilient food systems.
 - By leveraging regional and global trade; evidence-based innovation and science, including biotechnology; and public-private partnerships --- we can expand the toolbox for farmers, fishers, foresters, and other producers. This is how we improve sustainability and resilience throughout food systems.
 - I encourage CFS members to join the Coalition for Sustainable Productivity Growth for Food Security and Resource Conservation, as discussed the Food Systems Summit
 - With COP27 just around the corner, now is the time to join the Agricultural Innovation Mission for Climate, or AIM4C, and the Global Methane Pledge.
 - These are landmark initiatives – urgently needed – to identify innovative, science-based solutions to help agriculture mitigate and adapt to climate change.

- On all these issues --- saving lives with emergency assistance, building resiliency to overcome tomorrow's crises, producing with more with less, to create livelihoods and position agriculture as part of the solution to climate change --- coordinated international action is absolutely fundamental.

(Live from the Plenary floor):

- Additionally, I would also like to briefly address one misperception: sanctions imposed on Russia because of its aggressive war are not blocking Russia from bringing its grain to world markets. Current sanctions allow for the export of food and agricultural commodities, including fertilizer, from Russia. It is Russia that continues to destabilize global food and agricultural markets – not just through its war against Ukraine but also the Kremlin's own self-imposed restrictions on agricultural and fertilizer exports. These actions have contributed to rising food costs for everyone, potentially pushing another 40 million people into poverty and hunger by the end of this year.
- Additionally, Russia's continued strikes in Ukraine pose a direct threat to civilians and civilian infrastructure. We condemn the latest attack on Ukraine and its citizens by Russia. Thank you.