

Statement of the Republic of the Philippines

**Agenda Item 4: CFS Strategic Direction Toward 2030**

50th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS50)

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*(delivered by Agriculture Senior Undersecretary Domingo F. Panganiban on October 11, 2022,  
Day 2, 3 pm - 6 pm, Tuesday)*

Honorable CFS Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates,

The Philippines appreciates the work of the High-Level Panel of Experts for Food Security and Nutrition which identifies seven themes at the forefront of the major challenges facing food systems today.

The second theme identified, that is, Strengthening urban and peri-urban food systems in the context of urbanization and rural transformation, is the proposed theme of the HLPE report for 2024.

The Philippines looks forward to the information this Report can provide as input to our continued implementation and enhancement of our National Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture Program.

The Philippines is one of the top countries with the highest urban area population, with an estimated 47% or 52 million citizens, according to the World Bank in 2020. Urban agriculture, or the practice of agriculture in limited space in the metropolis, is seen as an intervention to achieve food security, provide an alternative livelihood source, and aid in solid waste management. By producing food in these areas, the logistics cost are minimized, food safety is ensured, and pressure on rural agricultural systems are eased. Although it does not seek to displace production in the countryside, it has the potential to temper the seasonality of food supply.

In line with the Philippine Development Plan, which contains the Strategic Framework to Expand Economic Opportunities in Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries, the government, particularly the Department of Agriculture, in partnership with local government units, is committed to promoting resilient measures such as urban agriculture and multi-stakeholder partnerships. This is by supporting community gardens and farms while increasing awareness on human health and nutrition and inspiring citizens to contribute to innovative, economic and environmentally sustainable food systems towards the uplifting of Filipino communities.

The Philippines is most interested in having the following questions answered by the HLPE report:

- What are the most appropriate national and municipal government policies needed in urban planning to better support all dimensions of food security from the rural-urban continuum to address issues such as urban expansion into previous farmlands, utilization of idle lands, migration to urban areas, and the growing competition for natural resources?
- How can incorporating climate-smart agriculture and circular economy practices in urban and peri-urban agriculture provide climate co-benefits for all and enhance climate resilience?
- How can citizens be engaged and empowered to drive inclusive, transparent, participatory processes for urban transformations, and how can complementarity between top-down and bottom-up approaches be ensured?

Thank you for your kind attention.

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