

USG STATEMENT:

- Thank you, Chair, and thanks again to the HLPE and its Steering Committee for helping us decide on the important topic of strengthening urban and peri-urban food systems for food security and nutrition for the 2024 report.
- The United States strongly supports this proposed theme and views it as an important and useful follow-on to the Youth in Agriculture workstream. Youth across the world are migrating to urban areas and it is important that the food systems they find, are engaged in, and benefit from are sustainable.
- As was noted by the HLPE when they presented this theme for consideration, almost sixty percent of the global population currently lives in urban centers.
- However, by their nature and for good reason, many of CFS's recent policy products on topics such as agroecological and other innovative approaches, sustainable forestry, and land tenure, have sought to provide guidance on issues predominantly facing rural areas.
- A decision to focus on urban food security and its links to rural transformation provides balance to the next work plan, fills a gap in existing guidance, and supports global efforts to achieve the SDGs, particularly SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities).
- In developing its report, we encourage the HLPE to consider the diversity of urban and peri-urban contexts, as urban areas that are growing rapidly may face vastly different challenges and require different solutions than more static cities.
- While not explicitly mentioned in the HLPE's rationale or key questions, we believe it is critically important that issues of food loss and waste – a major problem affecting many urban areas – are analyzed and addressed in the report.
- Finally, the report should utilize a climate lens for understanding the challenges urban centers face, and present, in ensuring global food security. We are glad to see climate issues raised in several of the “key questions.”

- We look forward to seeing the HLPE's zero draft in 2023 and call for a transparent and inclusive consultation process ahead of the development of the 2024 report. Thank you.