

UK Statement

CFS Agenda item VII: BOOSTING RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT IN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS. GLOBAL THEMATIC EVENT ON THE CFS PRINCIPLES FOR RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS (for information and discussion)

Thank-you, Chair, and thank-you to all the panelists today.

The successful negotiation of the RAI in 2014 represented the first time that governments, private sector, civil society organisations, the UN, development banks and the research community came together and collectively agreed on what constitutes responsible investment in food and agriculture.

Since their endorsement the United Kingdom, through the FCDO, has been advancing the embedding of the RAI in global governance of food and agriculture supply chains. This has included an advisory role for the OECD-FAO [due diligence guidelines](#), which operationalise the RAI into business assurance requirements for private sector firms and investors.

Most recently, the FCDO has partnered with Grow Asia to enable the alignment of the regulatory environment for agriculture investment in ASEAN with the regionally tailored [ASEAN RAI](#). With FCDO's support, work is underway in Indonesia and Vietnam to identify the regulatory changes needed to align the investment environment in these countries with the RAI principles.

We applaud the progress on RAI and the updates we have heard here today. The UK would like to reiterate our full support of the RAI and strong endorsement of the Committee's recommendation to encourage additional efforts to promote a broader and systematic dissemination, use and application of the CFS-RAI Principles, where appropriate, at global, regional, national, and sub-national levels. Now more than ever we need the RAI to be rolled out at scale, and to learn from the aftermath of the last global food crisis 2008, the impacts of which actually gave rise to the RAI.

Thank-you very much