



STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR N JEZILE
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TO THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

50TH SESSION COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

AGENDA ITEM VI: EMPOWERING YOUTH IN INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS.

10-13 OCTOBER 2022

I thank you Chairperson,

South Africa wishes to congratulate Ambassador Pio Wennubst for steering the Youth Workstream of the Committee to a successful conclusion in adopting a consensus text on Policy Recommendations on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture.

These recommendations will be a valuable tool for governments to follow in developing and operationalising policies in strengthening the contribution of youth in promoting sustainable food systems thereby contributing to food security.

Chairperson,

The African Continent is blessed to have more than 400 million young people between 15 and 35 years and this positive demographic dividend is key to Africa's lasting development. The African Union has, therefore, developed various youth focussed policies and programmes such as the African Youth Charter, Youth Decade Plan of Action, and the Malabo Decision on Youth Empowerment.

Of note is that one of the priority areas of the AU's Youth Decade Plan of Action is on agriculture, climate change and the environment.

Although South Africa also derive benefits from the youth demographic dividend, with 37% of the population classified as youth, marginalisation challenges remain with youth unemployment at uncappable high levels.

South Africa has, therefore, prioritised addressing the challenges faced by youth through its National Youth Policy 2030.

This 2030 Policy is consistent with the CFS Youth Policy Recommendations, as South African Youth policy priority areas identified include quality education and skills; economic transformation, entrepreneurship, and job creation; physical and mental health promotion; social cohesion and national building as well as effective and responsive youth development machinery.

In the implementation of this 2030 Policy, South Africa will take into account all the relevant CFS Policy Recommendations on Youth to facilitate an action-oriented approach to enlarge the contribution of youth in agriculture and food systems.

Chairperson,

With these comments, South Africa endorses the Policy Recommendations on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture as contained in document CFS 2022/50/9.

I thank you.