

Swiss Statement on CFS 50 Agenda Item VI

Mr. Chair,

- The CFS Policy Recommendations on *Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems* are the result of a unifying vision pursued by a heterogeneous group of young people. This vision entails the Dialogues that were held during the preparatory process leading to the Food Systems Summit, as well as gives voice to already existing realities in different countries, and youth initiatives and projects, such as the *Snack the System* project initiated by Switzerland. Hence, this joint vision is the driving force towards the transformation for more equitable, sustainable, and diverse food systems in the future, whereby renewed traditions, rural and urban areas, and young men and women, contribute.
- Switzerland would like to thank all the Member States and CFS stakeholders that actively engaged in this process for their commitment to bringing this negotiation process to a positive conclusion under the guidance of CFS Chair Ambassador Gabriel Ferrero and Rapporteur Ambassador Pio Wennubst. A special mention goes to the CFS Secretariat, especially Chiara Cirulli and Emilio Colonnelli, and to Daria Mondia from the Swiss Mission.
- During the process of negotiation, we witnessed the CFS stakeholders' enormous effort provided in striving for a consensus within the previously defined time limits leading to strong, concrete, impactful and practical policy recommendations. Member States and CFS stakeholders got together and exchanged on the involvement of youth in agriculture on various occasions. The result of informal interactions perceived in the negotiation room, where the atmosphere was constructive and the willingness to come to a consensus was tangible.
- In these policy recommendations, Member States and CFS stakeholders emphasize the importance to promote youth engagement and employment in food systems, whether through ensuring a rewarding income, equitable access for

men and women to finance, land, markets, and the right to education and training, as well as in the area of innovation and digital literacy.

- Switzerland is gratified by this positive result, as these policy recommendations entail a better framework to provide guidance for implementation at national, regional and global level. The challenges Switzerland is facing in agriculture and food systems are leading to the development of new policies, which reflect the recommendations provided in this document.
- In consequence, Switzerland endorses these policy recommendations.
- Thank you Chair.