

USG STATEMENT:

- Thank you very much, Chair, and thank you to the Honorable Neema Kichiki Lugangira for her insightful and poignant remarks.
- The United States would also like to extend our gratitude and thanks to Swiss Ambassador Pio Wennubst and his team for their tireless efforts and strong leadership throughout the entirety of the policy convergence process. We commend them for their commitment to a strategic and inclusive approach.
- We need to make sure the next generation is engaged and prepared to address the current food crisis, and future issues affecting food security and nutrition. These policy recommendations will help to do that.
- The negotiation process has been able to focus global attention on the needs and capacities of youth in agriculture and food systems. The resulting policy recommendations provide actionable, concrete ways for policy makers and implementors to better meet those needs and strengthen young people's capacities and opportunities to contribute to and benefit from food systems. The United States is therefore pleased to join with other delegations in endorsing these Policy Recommendations.
- The Policy Recommendations provide a menu of options for addressing several important youth needs and strengthening their capacities and opportunities, which include a commitment to equity and inclusion, including of young women, access to social protection systems and programs, access to resources and services, such as land, finance, education and digital and other technologies, and the importance of ensuring that youth find more opportunities for decent work and dignified livelihoods in agriculture and food systems.
- The United States takes a Positive Youth Development approach and recognizes the critical importance of addressing the heterogeneity and intersectionality of youth, including LGBTIQ+ youth, in our programs and policies to strengthen youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems. More youth could have seen themselves reflected in this

document and benefited from it had those realities been recognized, and we regret that this was not achieved.

- Despite this shortcoming, we were pleased to see youth's active engagement and participation throughout the process, beginning at CFS's 49 plenary last year and continuing through the end of the negotiations. CFS's unique strength as a multistakeholder UN body made this possible, and it added to the richness and applicability of the resulting text.
- Finally, it is important to highlight the brevity and focus of the document and a return to in-person negotiations as two aspects that contributed to the workstream's timely conclusion. We would like to see these aspects replicated for future workstreams.
- Once these recommendations are endorsed by the CFS Plenary, we must work diligently to ensure that this product, is disseminated for use by policy makers and implementors. We look forward to seeing this happen in the near future and stand ready to support such efforts, including in partnership with young people. Thank you.