

Statement of Japan for the 52nd CFS

1. Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, Excellencies, distinguished guests.
2. In recent years, we have witnessed that the global food security is threatened by multiple factors such as climate change, Covid-19, and in particular, Russia's aggression against Ukraine. This year's SOFI also points out that, unfortunately, from 2022 to 2023, there was not much progress made for the reduction in global hunger population.
3. For the achievement of SDG2 "zero hunger", we need to respond to these urgent food insecurities we face right now, and at the same time, we have to continue our efforts for the longer term objective, that is, making agriculture and food systems more sustainable and resilient. This point is justly highlighted at the G7 Agriculture Ministers' meeting and the G7 Leaders' Summit last year.
4. Another important point raised by the SOFI is shortage of financial resource. The report underscores the utilization of the private sector funding as a means to fill this gap.
5. In this regard, let me share Japan's experience. Last year, Japan and IFAD jointly announced an initiative called "ELPS", that is, "Enhanced Linkages between Private sector and Small-scale producers". By this initiative, we facilitate matching between private suppliers looking for sustainable sourcing and small scale farmers in need of assistance for sustainable transformation. The first pilot project is just launched September this year.
6. We are ready and willing to contribute to the improvement of agriculture and food systems, through approaches like this, by soliciting private funds, boosting local productivity, and integrating small scale farmers into local and global value chains.
7. Our challenges require cooperation between all stakeholders, that is, not only governments and international organizations, but also the private sector, civil society, and academics. In this regard, CFS is an invaluable forum, inviting participants from all sectors and providing opportunities for frank exchange of views and hearing direct report from every corner of the world. We expect to see an enhancement of wider cooperation towards the achievement of SDGs goals as an outcome of this week beginning today. Thank you.