

Agenda item II - The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2025 – Strengthening coordination and collaborative actions

Thank you Chair,

The World Health Organization is one of the five UN agencies that contributed to the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) 2025 report. Together, we worked to provide the global community with an updated overview of progress toward ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition, including tracking progress on the global nutrition targets.

I would like to draw the attention of esteemed delegations to Agenda Item IX, Fostering momentum and commitment for nutrition: accelerating action towards 2030 and beyond, which will be discussed on Thursday afternoon. It is an opportunity to reflect on how we can ensure access to healthy diets for all, everywhere, recognizing that healthy diets are essential to addressing all forms of malnutrition. Investing in nutrition is a powerful public health intervention, yielding a return of 26 US dollars for every dollar invested.

In times of declining official development assistance, how can we elevate the fight against malnutrition as a global priority? We welcome your ideas, suggestions, and commitments.

Madam Chair, we are pleased to inform you that the World Health Organization is a member of the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty, including its Board of Champions. The Alliance's policy basket for nutrition makes explicit reference to the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition.

WHO remains fully committed to continuing its collaboration with the CFS and, in line with its mandate, to promoting good nutrition, food safety, and sustainable food systems that support the health of both people and planet.

[253 words]

Agenda item IV: Promoting food security and nutrition across the rural-urban continuum: endorsement and uptake of the CFS policy recommendations on strengthening urban and peri-urban food systems to achieve food security and nutrition in the context of urbanization and rural transformation

Chair,

The World Health Organization welcomes the CFS policy recommendations on strengthening urban and peri-urban food systems and commends the Committee for its inclusive and evidence-informed process.

These recommendations are closely aligned with WHO's policy package to ensure food systems deliver health and promote healthy and safe food environments.

We particularly appreciate the following:

- The emphasis on food safety in local markets;
- the need to increase availability of fresh and nutritious foods through local distribution channels;

- the need to address food deserts; and
- the need to address power imbalances (as highlighted in paragraph 14).

These elements are essential to ensuring equitable access to healthy diets and resonate strongly with WHO's work on creating enabling food environments.

We are pleased that the recommendations are also in alignment with the policy recommendations of the ICN2 Framework for Action, reinforcing the importance of multisectoral approaches. We welcome the recognition of the need to link food systems with health systems and social protection systems, as well as the acknowledgment of trade as a relevant dimension in shaping food environments and nutrition outcomes. This very well reflects the action areas of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition.

Our WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has said: "We must remember that health does not start in clinics and hospitals—it starts in homes, schools, streets and workplaces; in the food people eat, the products they consume, the water they drink, the air they breathe, and the conditions in which they live and work."

We therefore could not agree more with the statement that nutrition policies are fundamental to urban planning. As urbanization accelerates, integrating nutrition into city-level policies will be critical to achieving not only the global nutrition targets but the SDG Agenda.

[288 words]

Agenda V. Building resilient food systems for food security and nutrition

Chair,

The World Health Organization welcomes the HLPE-FSN 2025 report on Building Resilient Food Systems.

The report's emphasis on health and nutrition as central to resilience resonates strongly with WHO's work and priorities.

We fully support the recognition that to achieve equitably transformative resilience (ETR), action must address poor nutrition and health outcomes. Healthy people build resilient communities, and enabling healthy choices strengthens food systems.

WHO endorses the call to diversify consumer environments and facilitate access to diverse, nutritious foods, especially through policies that reduce food deserts and promote equitable access to quality markets, and ensure the consistent availability of healthy diets—particularly fruits, vegetables, protein-rich foods, and healthy fats.

The report rightly highlights that general dietary guidelines alone are insufficient. Policies must regulate the production and marketing of unhealthy foods, incentivize healthy food production and distribution, and use public procurement to make nutrient-dense foods more affordable—especially for those most affected by shocks and stresses.

WHO is pleased that the report highlights the importance of governance in resilience building—defining whose problems are considered, how solutions are built, and what priorities are addressed. Governance can either support or undermine resilience. Reforming governance structures in line with equity and participatory principles, guided by a systemic understanding of food systems, is an essential first step toward achieving equitable transformative resilience.

Finally, Madam Chair, WHO could not agree more with the report's assertion (on page 88) that establishing and enforcing commercial rules and regulations to reduce market concentration, promote fair competition and collaboration, and prevent price gouging and trade distortions is essential—not only for resilient food systems, but also for safeguarding public health and ensuring equitable access to nutritious food.

Thank you.

[279 words]

Agenda item VIII: Global thematic event on conflicts and food security and nutrition: advancing the uptake of the CFS framework for action for food security and nutrition I protracted crises

Chair,

The World Health Organization welcomes the 10-year anniversary of the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises and commends the Committee on World Food Security for its continued leadership in this area.

WHO fully agrees that the 11 principles of the Framework remain extremely relevant today. However, since its endorsement in 2015, the global nutrition landscape has continued to evolve significantly. The nutrition transition has accelerated, and we are witnessing a rapid rise in overweight, obesity, and diet-related noncommunicable diseases (NCDs)—particularly in low- and middle-income countries.

In contexts of protracted crises, people living with obesity and NCDs face unique vulnerabilities. They require access to treatment, healthy diets, and in some cases, specialized foods. WHO emphasizes that individuals in protracted crises may suffer from multiple forms of malnutrition—undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, overweight, obesity, and NCDs. Addressing this full spectrum is essential to ensuring inclusive and effective responses.

These needs were not yet reflected in the original Framework but must now be considered.

We encourage stakeholders to integrate these evolving realities into the implementation of the Framework and to strengthen health system linkages that support nutrition in crisis settings.

WHO remains committed to working with the CFS and partners to promote resilient, equitable, and health-promoting food systems in all contexts—including those affected by long-term crises.

Thank you Chair.

[223 words]