



**SOUTH AFRICA STATEMENT DURING THE 53<sup>RD</sup> PLENARY SESSION OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY (CFS 53):**

**20 – 24 OCTOBER 2025, ROME, ITALY**

**"MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION"**

**[STATEMENT FOR THE CFS 53 MINISTERIAL SEGMENT]**

CFS Chairperson;

Distinguished Excellences and Esteemed Delegates.

South Africa is honoured to be part of this 53<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

South Africa is proud to have had Ambassador Jezile appointed the Chair of CFS in 2023. Allow me to congratulate you Ambassador on the work done during your tenure as the Chairperson of the CFS. Further accolades go to the CFS Secretariat for their endless commitment towards this work.

Let me also congratulate FAO on its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary and wish the organization well into the future.

South Africa welcomes the presentation on the 2025 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report. This report and previous ones have always provided a guide towards country interventions in tackling food insecurity and malnutrition, thank you to the teams that work on these reports.

Addressing high food prices is one of the areas that we should all deal with because excessive food price volatility and persistent food inflation affect low-income households, which allocate a significant share of their income to food.

Whilst the report indicates a cost of 3.89 US Dollars for a healthy diet for South Africa and this still being the lowest in Southern Africa, even lower than the average of 4.44 US Dollars, the intention is to decrease this cost further. Madam Chair, South Africa concurs with the report's assertion on the role of the Contractionary monetary policy which has consistently reduced food price inflation in major emerging economies, South Africa included.

Noting the escalating food insecurity challenges, in particular, on women's access to food and the problem being more prevalent in urban areas, South Africa has taken bold steps to tackle the challenge. These include:

- The conclusion of the baseline data through a National Food and Nutrition Security Survey in 2024. This was the first of its kind in the country and it dived deeper into getting food insecurity data at the Sub-National level.

The survey has brought to the fore alarming figures of wasting and stunting in children, low Dietary Diversity Score and unacceptable obesity in some of our Provinces. This information is currently used to prioritise support to the Districts that are most affected.

- Secondly, the theme for South Africa's G20 Presidency is **Solidarity, Equality and Sustainability**. The theme seeks to harness global political will and capabilities to confront the enormous challenges the world is facing, aligning to previous Presidencies, and in order to elevate the food security and nutrition agenda, South Africa established the Task Force on Food Security.

The Task Force seeks to tackle structural and macro-economic factors that impact the affordability and accessibility of food at regional and global levels. Through a rigorous process of consultations, collaboration and support from our partners, the Task Force has managed to produce the Ministerial Declaration and Ubuntu Approaches on Food Security and Nutrition, and Excessive Food Price Volatility. These Approaches are set out to safeguard access to affordable, safe, and nutritious food and deliver resilient and sustainable food systems by tackling food inflation.

The support received from the G20 and its partners has been enormous including support from FAO, IFAD and UNCTAD towards the conclusion of the studies that were put forward for the Task Force.

- In South Africa, the right to food is provided for under Section 27 of our Constitution. Government has therefore taken a conscious decision to place food security at the pinnacle of its agenda in ensuring that everyone has access to adequate food and water in the country. The CFS Policy documents are welcome as they re-emphasise this call to action in ensuring the right to food for all.

Our government is concluding work on the iteration of an inclusive and consultative multi-sectoral 2025 to 2029 National Food Security and Nutrition Plan which has been drafted based on the evaluation

results of the previous Plan. The Plan will embody multi-sectoral targets towards achieving optimal food security and enhancing the nutritional status for all South Africans. The timely sharing of information, policy decisions; coordinated response measures and financing are critical for strengthening food systems.

South Africa welcomes the achievements of the **Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) in Seville, Spain in July 2025**, particularly noting the two initiatives that were launched by the Global Alliance in the Sevilla Platform for Action, these being: i) **"Building Better Integrated Finance for SDG 1 and 2,"** and ii) **Climate-Resilient Social Protection and Smallholder Agriculture Finance Partnership**". We commend the co-chairs of the Global Alliance Board of Champions, Brazil and Spain, for driving alignment and de-fragmentation of finance.

As I conclude Madam Chair,

There is an urgent need to build food systems that are locally adapted, inclusive, sustainable and resilient to external shocks. This includes recognising the important role of increasing domestic production and leveraging the benefits of trade.

South Africa calls for collaboration and cooperation in tackling hunger and malnutrition as this is a common enemy for all. We further call on partners to support investments that will ensure that reports of a similar nature to the 2025 SOFI are replicated at the Country level for targeted support.

I thank you!