

Madam Chair, distinguished delegates,

I am honored to take the floor for the first time today on behalf of the State of Israel—a nation deeply attuned to the urgent challenges shaping the global food landscape.

As a country navigating complex geopolitical realities, Israel approaches food security with a sense of urgency rooted in both necessity and innovation. Despite our arid climate and limited natural resources, we have emerged as a global leader in agricultural technology. From precision irrigation and vertical farming to autonomous harvesting systems, Israeli AgTech and FoodTech innovations optimize yields, conserve water, and offer scalable solutions for regions facing similar environmental constraints.

These technologies are not confined within our borders. Israeli expertise has been shared with farmers across Africa, Asia, and Latin America—enhancing productivity, sustainability, and resilience in diverse agricultural systems.

Beyond technology, Israel's academic institutions and government initiatives play a vital role in shaping robust food systems. Our international development agency, Mashav, fosters bilateral and multilateral cooperation, emphasizing long-term capacity building and knowledge exchange. Research centers like the Hebrew University's Faculty of Agriculture contribute to global understanding of sustainable farming, while national strategies address climate change and supply chain vulnerabilities. This integrated approach—combining innovation, education, and policy—offers a blueprint for nations seeking to strengthen their food security in an increasingly unpredictable world.

Madam Chair,

Having listened to some of the statements made by CFS members (and the UN special rapporteur on the right of food) I must also deliver my right of reply.

I wish now to share the words written just two weeks ago, by my friend and dear colleague, Israel's Ambassador to Honduras, Nadav Goren,

“My cousin, Shachar Kadman (34), was murdered by Hamas terrorists while trying to escape a peaceful music festival on October 7, 2023. Shachar was passionate about the environment—brilliant, hardworking, creative, and witty. He earned his master's in biochemistry, food science & nutrition at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where he developed biodegradable, plastic-free capsules to replace polystyrene. His professor described the invention as ‘a product of great ingenuity, knowledge, and patience.’ He was a gentle soul—loyal to his family and friends—and wanted to make the world a bit better.”

Shachar's story is not just a personal tragedy—it is a reminder of the human potential lost to violence. Nearly 1,200 lives were taken that day. May their memory be a blessing.

This committee exists to promote international cooperation for a world without hunger. Israel holds these values deeply. But if we are to speak honestly about the causes of food insecurity, we must also acknowledge how this war began.

Over the past two years, Israel has worked—often under difficult circumstances—to facilitate the entry of food and humanitarian aid into Gaza. Aid that, as many UN agencies here know, has often been diverted from civilians by Hamas. More recently, data from the Palestinian Authority's Consumer Price Index shows a decline in food prices in August and September. Reports from OCHA and Tom Fletcher, confirm real improvements on the ground. Since the ceasefire began, 600 trucks have entered Gaza daily—demonstrating that there is no famine. Unfortunately, I didn't hear any of my esteemed colleagues speak about Hamas – a terror organization that murdered so many civilians on the 7th of October, while at the same time depriving food from its own people, looting aid trucks and reselling the food, as known very well by the UN organization sitting here. Just recently, since the ceasefire have come into effect, we have seen what Hamas is doing to Palestinian citizens in Gaza to keep its control. I haven't heard any concerns over this today. I haven't heard you, UN special rapporteur. Unlike what was stated here, and even though Hamas has breached the ceasefire agreement on Sunday, Israel will still keep to provide humanitarian aid.

Speaking about food deprivation, we must also speak of those actually deliberately starved: the Israeli hostages that were held by Hamas.

In the face of adversity, Israel remains committed to peace, security, and international cooperation. We are determined that terrorism will not prevail. We look forward to continued collaboration within this committee to address the global challenges of food security and agriculture. Like my EU colleague have mention, I call for FAO to stay impartial, neutral and focus on its mandate.

Israel is ready to learn from others and to share its journey. Our innovations are harnessed inclusively—to build a healthier, more secure food future for all nations.

Thank you.