

Statement -Ireland -CSF 53 Agenda item 2

Madame Chair, Excellencies, colleagues,

Ireland aligns with the statement made by Denmark on behalf of the European Union and its twenty-seven member states.

The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2025 presents a stark reality: up to 720 million people faced hunger in 2024.

We are off track, and we are off pace.

Despite the UN Food Systems Summit, the two subsequent stocktakes, and billions of dollars in interventions, the number of people unable to access a healthy diet has fallen by only seven per cent between 2020 and 2024. An unacceptable 2.6 billion people still cannot afford a healthy diet.

The Committee's findings highlight that hunger results from systemic weaknesses, such as conflict, extreme weather, economic pressures, and inequality, rather than simply a lack of resources. According to the CFS, 80% of people facing severe food insecurity live in conflict zones.

Ireland believes that this year's SOFI findings are a call to collective acceleration. The Right to Food must remain our moral and operational compass. This means embedding food security and nutrition objectives across environmental and development frameworks, to ensure that global commitments translate into concrete, accountable action.

Ireland has aligned its domestic and international policies with the transformation of food systems. We are proud of our strategic partnership with the World Food Programme, our collaboration with FAO, IFAD, UNICEF and WHO, and our targeted support for smallholders, women, and children most affected by price volatility and shocks.

On the 10th anniversary of the CFS Framework for Action in Protracted Crises, Ireland calls for its full implementation and urges all Members to embed its goals into their Nationally Determined Contributions, National Adaptation Plans and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.

We also support strengthened collaboration between CFS and Agricultural Market Information System to stabilise markets, and advocate for financing that reaches smallholders and local SMEs, while addressing debt burdens that constrain resilience.

Madame Chair, this morning you noted that food security is a priority of the South African G20 Presidency, referencing the *Ubuntu Approaches on Food Security and Nutrition*. These Ubuntu Principles present a shared vision of fair, resilient, and sustainable food systems founded on cooperation, transparency, and shared responsibility. They highlight the importance of collective action to strengthen food security, manage risk, and promote innovation for long-term stability.

Ireland fully supports these principles and reaffirms its commitment to collaborate with all partners so that the next SOFI report marks not another lost year, but a turning point towards ending hunger for everyone, everywhere.

Thank you, Chair.