

# 14 October PM

## III. CFS and the SDGs

### Chairperson

For the afternoon session, agenda item three, CFS and the Sustainable Development Goals, lessons learned. We will continue reflecting on how we can accelerate progress in achieving the 2030 Agenda. While a key principle is leaving no one behind, we must identify and overcome the challenges in translating this principle into concrete actions. What are the lessons learned in converting our intentions into reality? What is happening at the high level political forum? At the recent climate summit, on the ground at country level, how are CFS policy recommendations helping the people most in need?

We have brought Carin Smaller to moderate this item. She is the Director of Agriculture, Trade and Investment at the International Institute for Sustainable Development, an independent think tank with offices in Canada and Switzerland. One of their programmes focuses on gathering knowledge for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Ms Smaller has worked in Sub-Saharan Africa and in South-Asia and has published on contractual approaches for attracting responsible investment for agriculture, a CFS favourite. In one of her papers, I read about innovative solutions to ending hunger while addressing climate change by harvesting solar power and utilizing technology for, I quote, reducing the environmental footprint of agriculture, while at the same time enhancing the business of agriculture for the poor. You must not forget that SDG-2 is about zero hunger and, at the same time, for sustainable agriculture.

We will hear from the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to food, my good friend Hilal Elver. From the United Nations, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination, Maria Francesca Spatolisano. We heard from her earlier, during the high level opening of this session. We will also hear from Deputy Director of Global Partnerships and Multilateral Effectiveness of the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DfID) and former British Ambassador to the Rome-Based Agencies, my old friend and colleague, Neil Briscoe. Also, we have Roy Jay Dacumos of the National Economic and Development Authority of The Philippines, Saul Vicente Vasquez a familiar face in CFS, of the International Indian Treaty Council and Sean de Cleene of the World Economic Forum and Vice-President of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa.

Ms Smaller, you have the floor.

### Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator

Thank you, Ambassador Arvelo and thank you to the CFS Secretariat for inviting me to moderate this very esteemed panel.

We are going to run this session in three parts. We are going to start with the keynote address by the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, followed by a question and answer session with Ms Francesca Spatolisano from UNDESA. I would like to call them to join the panel now and then, in another round, we will invite the other panellists to join us up here. Thank you.

Just a few introductory remarks, before I pass over to our keynote speakers. As we heard this morning, there has been quite tremendous progress in the last three decades in achieving a reduction or an almost halving of world hunger and although that progress has been uneven, it has been impressive.

We have also come a long way in our understanding of sustainable development, what it is, how we can measure it and how we can achieve it with the Sustainable Development Goals. It is a term that has existed for many years and the origins started in the famous Brundtland Report, Our Common Future, in 1987, where this term was, more or less, considered an environmental concept and today we very clearly have a much more integrated and holistic understanding of this concept, of sustainable development, with Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, on that includes the economic, environmental, social, cultural and political dimensions of sustainability. Importantly, and this will be a key theme of today's discussion, the principle of leaving no one behind, to ensure both inclusive and equitable development.

But, the same year that the SDGs were adopted, in 2015, was the year that we have seen a return to rising levels of global hunger after 30 years of progress. A return to rising levels of global hunger driven by conflict, climate change and economic instability and that, compounded with rising levels of overweight and obesity as well as micro-nutrient deficiencies. We are not on track to meet the SDGs and in particular not SDG-2. The cost of our inaction continues to rise as we head ten years towards the 2030 deadline.

What is promising though, is that if you look at the CFS's future multi-year programme of work from 2020 to 2023, we see a very ambitious agenda covering all these themes and many more, from youth employment and youth engagement to women's empowerment and gender equality and putting human rights and the right to food at the centre of our efforts to achieve not only SDG-2 but, all the Sustainable Development Goals.

So, it is with great pleasure that I invite Ms Hilal Elver, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, to give us our keynote speech today. Ms Elver has served as the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food since 2014. She is an international law professor and a global distinguished fellow at the UCLA Law School's Resnick Centre for Food Law and Policy. She is also a research professor at the UC Santa Barbara.

Previously, she was the UNEP Chair on Environmental Diplomacy and she has taught at the University of Ankara's Faculty of Law. Ms Elver served the Turkish Government as the founding legal advisor to the Ministry of Environment and the General Director of Women's Status. Until very recently, she was also a member of the Turkish team at the climate change negotiations.

So, aside from being the Special Rapporteur, she, in a very unique capacity, bridges this divide between the social, the economic, the environmental and the human rights. Ms Elver?

### **Ms Hilal Elver, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food**

Thank you, very much, Karin. It is a very generous introduction. It is my pleasure to address you today in my official capacity as the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food. As endorsed by the Human Rights Council, it is my responsibility to promote the progressive realization of the right to food and the fundamental rights of everyone to be free from hunger.

As my term as Special Rapporteur is coming to an end, I want to take this opportunity to express gratitude for our collaborative work of the entire CFS family, the Chair, the Secretariat and Friends of the Right to Food. I leave my position with high hopes for the future achievements of CFS. However, we have a great challenge in front of us, the alarming SOFI figures we heard this morning confirm that working to the progressive realization of the right to food is urgent and imperative if we are to achieve our goals and implement SDGs to the extent possible. We must use this SOFI data to inform our work, to help countries formulate and implement policies that effectively realise the human rights to food and SDGs. CFS featured plan, the multi-year programme of work for 2020-23 is compatible with all the targets of the 2030 Global Agenda.

As the member of the Advisory Group, I particularly express my support on gender equality and female empowerment and on youth in agriculture and food systems as I believe they are currently being left

behind in the quest to realize the right to food. Women and youth are critical for reducing poverty, hunger and malnutrition throughout the world and they are the most affected by adverse impact of climate change, disasters, wars and economic crisis. Moreover, they also lack adequate legal protections, limited access to assets, resources and opportunities and are excluded from decision making processes. As a result, they are at the greatest risk of human rights violation.

I also affirm my support for the proposed workstream on reducing inequality. More specifically, the inequitable distribution of food and productive resources is a fundamental barrier to the right to food. Addressing this inequality is a necessary step to implement the good policies that is under the domain of the CFS work. It is also central to the SDGs fundamental principles of no one left behind.

Distinguished guests, unfortunately, we heard from several speakers, the SDGs have not yet been able to catalyse the necessary and promised action or political will, nearly four years after their adoption. Reports from the high level political forum held in July 2019 found that progressive progress toward the goals is too slow and the world is facing setbacks, even regressing in some areas such as hunger and malnutrition. Addressing hunger to focus on SDG-2 should rank among the top priorities, yet with 821 million people currently experiencing food insecurity, SDG-2 appears to be an unreachable goal.

This reality indicates that the right to food is still a distant aspirational principle in far too many countries and that urgent action is needed. But, it is important to recognize that we cannot solve hunger and malnutrition by only focusing on SDG-2. We require a comprehensive transformative approach. In my latest report that I will present next week to General Assembly in New York, I explain that, if properly implemented from a holistic human rights based approach, the SDGs in their entirety have the potential to serve as a transformative global agenda and with the support of the CFS, this ambitious goal will contribute greatly to the realization of the right to food as well as other economic, social and cultural rights.

Let me share with you some of the findings relevant to today's discussion in my report. The first one is, states must afford greater attention to populations that experience heightened inequality to ensure that no one is left behind. The right to food requires that the food be economically accessible for all, but since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, global wealth has become increasingly concentrated in the top one percent while over 730 million people are still living in extreme poverty. The President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council noted that a lack of progress under SDG-10, which aims to address inequality between and within countries, remains a major obstacle to achieving the SDGs and threatens to derail progress on the 2030 Agenda.

Still not a single voluntary national review on progress under SDG-10 featured socio-economic data on refugees who, along with asylum seekers, account for 21 million people. Only three countries mentioned indigenous people who account for 450 million people. Actually, the representation and participation of the indigenous people in CFS should be enhanced as fast as possible.

We must also recognize the critical role that human rights should play in the implementation process. For too long, human rights have been side-lined in forums outside of Geneva. Even the 2013 Agenda, for example, does not explicitly recognize the right to adequate food and the term human rights appears only once in all 17 goals. Nevertheless, SDGs and human rights are closely aligned and mutually reinforcing. The principles of leaving no one behind is based on human rights principles of equality and non-discrimination. At the same time, achieving zero hunger, poverty eradication, decent work and climate change, to name a few, requires the realization of economic, social and cultural rights. All these areas of concern are implicitly or explicitly under the mandate of the CFS.

Even though ECOSOC's summary report from the HRPF recognized the crosscutting importance of human rights in the 2030 Agenda and called for the high-level political forum to enhance this perspective, human rights were pushed to the background at the SDG summit. For instance, economic, social and culture rights fell to the side with SDG-2 receiving some of the least support in the acceleration actions

and the political declaration commits to the fulfilment of human rights, but does not express the need for greater integration. Governments must recall that it is their duty, first and foremost, to support the progress of realization of right to food. Commitments made under the SDG framework supplement and enhance, but do not replace these obligations. This is especially important when engaging with private, public partnerships. However, to make sure, the companies should comply with the guiding principles for business and human rights and do not undermine the right to food in pursuit of sustainable development.

In conclusion, we must only look at the massive youth support for the climate change summit a few weeks ago to grasp this potential empowerment on behalf of a better human future for all. Children and youth exercise their fundamental human rights of assembly and freedom of expression, reminding us fundamental principles of sustainable and ecologically sensitive development must be done to respect future generations. The CFS must respond creatively to this activism and recognize the importance of involving the next generation. Youth will be the next leaders of the change. Our job is not listen only, but act with sufficient energy to move toward a world increasingly free from the curse of hunger and malnutrition.

We are challenged to achieve an ecological equilibrium that will be absolutely essential to maintaining the health of land and ocean food systems. We should do everything possible to fulfil the great potential of agro-ecology for its own sake and to help conquer poverty and hunger. Committing to a global agenda for change will require states to prioritize interests of the world over those of a single nation, to trade in market driven policies for human centric solutions and to allocate sufficient resources to support implementation of the goals. Finally, to attain these goals, a democratic, just and peaceful world is vital. Thank you.

## **Applause**

### **Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator**

Thank you, Ms Elver, for those excellent opening remarks. I am now going to open the floor to questions to the Special Rapporteur. I would like to just encourage people to ask questions directly to the Special Rapporteur and avoid making prepared statements. The floor is now open.

Okay, at the advice of the Chair, I have got a few questions for you, so in case there are not any in the next round, I will use my moderator's power to ask you some questions. But, I think we will have the second presentation and then we can open the floor to some more questions.

Our next speaker is Ms Maria Francesca Spatolisano from UNDESA. She is the Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs. Ms Spatolisano has over 30 years of experience in public service. She has served as the European Union's Ambassador to the OECD and to UNESCO. She was also a member of the European Union delegation to the United Nations, serving as head of its economic and trade section. Since 2017, she has been responsible for international Organizations and development dialogue with other donors in the European Commission's Directorate General for development cooperation. Francesca, you have the floor.

### **Ms Maria Francesca Spatolisano, Assistant Secretary-General, Policy Coordination, UNDESA**

Thank you and good afternoon, everyone. I would like to thank, first of all, the Director-General of FAO, Mr Qu and the Chair of the World Food Security Committee Ambassador Arvelo for having me here today. The speaker has proceeded me for a very provocative and interesting statement.

I was set to say that I will present to you today an overview of the high level week which took place during the General Assembly in September in New York. There were five main high level events and I

will try to give you a sense of what happened and in so doing, I liked the many ways in which food systems and nutrition are fundamental to the achievement of Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals and I say goals in the plural, not just SDG-2. As you can imagine, first of all, SDG-2, but not only SDG-2, which is about end hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture, so opens up a lot of other fields.

My first slide would be the list of the five main events I was mentioning earlier and let me say this, all running a week between the 21<sup>st</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of September and they sent a strong message to the international community. But, before we go there, I would like to highlight that there are two, if one has to be really synthetic, two main take away, or two main signals, which came out from all this gathering at the leader's level in New York.

One is that there is consensus and there is unity and there is re-commitment to the Agenda 2030. That is very important because in the current international environment, it cannot be taken as a given. So, we were pleased to note, as United Nations, that this is still the place where people come and talk and find consensus. This is not limited to the Governments and the leaders of the official institutions, this is open up and including all sorts of other stakeholders and I do not have to exemplify it here, you are a very open body, but this is not always the case in the same way. So, it was very important for us to have the commitment of other stakeholders, like local and regional Governments who came and pledged action on Agenda 2030 at their level, to have civil society Organization, to have youth Organizations and individuals and the private sector as well. All these actors will bring the agenda to the concrete level of implementation altogether, we hope.

So, these five events, you have read about it and I am sure you have, through your delegations, heard back, but let me go through them. The climate actions were very significant announcements by Governments and private sectors which kept and boosted the momentum in the lead-up to the COP25 at the end of the year. But, clearly demonstrated a growing recognition that the pace of climate action needs to be rapidly accelerated. If we do things as usual, we will not be able to keep the target of 1.5 percent degrees that we need to stay within and this was very clear, everybody was aware of that. Also, it was preceded by a youth climate summit during the weekend, during which many activists and movements and people gathered, the younger generation, the one that has to take over very soon, certainly from me and from some others of my age, to keep this going and they asked, and I am sure you have seen this on the social media and others, they asked for action and action now. There is no more time to waste and it is not only Greta Thunberg I am referring to. There is a movement. There is much more than the activist, the figurehead. In many cities, including Rome, in many different societies, this is very much in awareness now.

The second high level event, SDG Summit. This is the first SDG Summit held by the General Assembly. We have, for four years, I had high level political forum every year doing the review of the voluntary national reviews as you know. But, every four years is mandated to do this at the level of the General Assembly and this was very significant and the leaders committed to a decade of ambitious action to deliver in the Sustainable Development Goals and this is all there is left, a decade. So, we better do it now. The declaration was adopted unanimously and it commits to mobilize financing, enhance national implementation and strengthen the institutions which are needed to achieve.

There was another feature I would like to mention here, which is the acceleration action. We have opened that there is, at the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, has opened a registry where anyone who has an action ongoing and can show it is a reasonable impact on accelerating implementation, can have it inscribed. So, if you, as I think I have done something to accelerate the implementation of a Goal, please look into this registry and have your action registered. It will be visibility for your action but, it will be also inspiring for others who might find that they can do the same or something similar in their own country, in their own network. This is on the web page of the SDG Summit.

Then, the Financing for Development. This is a dialogue which was held in a very difficult environment. Financing is the challenge, certainly, but not the only challenge and what we found encouraging is that we had the presence of over 20 heads of state and Governments and many Ministers and, also, philanthropy and business leaders including Bill Gates, who has always been very supportive. But, also, some new ones which you would not necessarily have expected, like Black Rock Foundation and others who are coming closer to accepting the idea that, yes, everybody has to contribute and to put sustainability into whatever they do. So, we were very, very encouraged by these announcements made by these leaders and private sector and others.

The universal health coverage meeting at the high-level NDJ was the first ever of this kind at this level in the General Assembly. It also adopted a very comprehensive set of health commitments and the next day, WHO and 11 other multi-lateral Organizations, which collectively channel one third of development assistance for health, launched a global action plan which ensures more streamlined support, and streamlined is the word I emphasise, to countries to help deliver universal health coverage and achieve health related SDG targets.

On the Friday, the last day of that momentous week, we had the small island developing state gathering, which is known as the Samoa Pathway High-level Review. The small island developing states are a very special group of states, as you know, who have very unique challenges to address when it comes to a number of policies and that is due to remoteness, exposure to climate change, difficult small economies and so on. So, this Samoa Pathway is the strategy of these countries to address, in their tailor made way, the challenges and to achieve the goals of sustainability and resilience. The strategy mirrors or is similar to the SDGs but, it started before. It is a process which started before, so it is there for the seeds in that way. Many new partnerships were announced during this high-level review.

Let me close this first part of my presentation by saying that food security, nutrition and health feature prominently in the discussions. The Director-General of FAO was there and made a very compelling presentation at the SDG summit calling for, I quote, better production, better nutrition, better environment and better life for the future and there were many food system special events in the margins of the General Assembly and, also, high level meeting introducing the new hand in hand initiative.

I am very confident that there will be more and more cooperation between the Rome-Based Agencies and the United Nations in New York. Our common commitment was reaffirmed in many, many ways and this was a common thread.

I will go now to the next slide. This slide is about evidence and analysis for a decisive decade ahead. How are we going to base our decision making? These are three reports which I would like to draw your attention to because we are entering a decisive decade where evidence based decision making, decisive actions and innovation, partnerships, knowledge, are of the utmost importance. This was acknowledged at the level of the General Assembly. Bringing the latest science and data together is fundamental to make the right choices and decisions in policy making to accelerate progress on the critical aspects of the economic, environmental and social sustainability.

So, United in Science is a synthesis report on climate science which was prepared for the Climate Action Summit. Then, the special edition of the Secretary-General's SDG Progress Report, not the word progress, we want to know what happened in this few years and there is a table, a sort of scorecard, at the end of this report which in aggregate presents some trends about each individual goal in how it is going in its implementation. Then, the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) which was prepared by an independent group of scientists, and I will come back to this one in a minute, and of course you know that we have also presented the VNR's synthesis report which gives a picture of what happens at the country level.

Together, all these reports pointed to challenges in food security and in nutrition, but, also, in other areas. Let me mention just a few. The greenhouse gas emissions are rising, over a quarter from agriculture,

deforestation, desertification and land degradations are big challenges. Species loss due to human activity is increasing and inequalities unfortunately are on the rise. These are based on facts and findings you find in this report and they also tell us that time window within which to act is small, as I was saying, not to mention the more graphic trends which will also, if you look in the perspective of time, make it more difficult.

Let us take, for a moment, the deforestation. We need to reverse that trend. It is known that agriculture is the main driver of deforestation, accounting for more than 70 percent of tree covered loss. In the perspective of feeding more people, one can see the reasons why but, if this results also in land degradation and desertification, what happens is that there is a reduction in agriculture production, it could be up to 10 percent globally by 2050. This is what we read in the reports. So, in addition, moreover, I would say, without attention to forests, the ability to decarbonize and keep the global warming below 2 percent and, actually, 1.5 percent, will not materialize. So, what we say is, an integrated approach which links agriculture, food security and deforestation is essential and action should be taken. I know FAO is working on that, so I am confident we can work together on that.

My next slide would be about the sulphur, but I am not going to go through this because it was given to you, a very good presentation this morning. Instead, I will draw your attention to the Global Sustainable Development Report. What is this complicated and really not very visible chart? It is in the Report itself and what this group of scientists, 15 independent scientists did, was to find ways to explain what we can do according to the review of, an assessment of existing studies in an effective way and in the short time left. Let me say that this is a first of its kind report. The General Assembly, which usually receives a lot of reports from the Secretariat and we try our best to be consistent and precise, this time said, okay, let us not listen to you Secretariat, let us have an independent report and this is the report I am talking about and this scientific group of 15 people focused on interlinkages and action which can be taken to generate positive synergies between goals and targets. But, also, they focused on trade-offs. They understand and they make us understand that they cannot be done all at the same time. There are, sometimes, difficult choices, policy options, that you have to manage and this is what this table is about.

On the top you have what they call the six entry points for action towards the SDGs, one of which includes human wellbeing, sustainable and just economies, energy, decarbonisation and then it says building sustainable food systems and healthy nutrition patterns. So, talking about us, about you, actually. These entry points, what do they mean, these are the areas which have potential, which are very strong and have the potential to resolve the trade-offs and accelerate actions if they are taken in the right way or create more spill over effects if they are not.

On the left of this table, you have what this group of scientists called the levers. What are these? This is how, these are the tools that can be used to have an impact. So, you have there, governance and then economy and finance, individual and collective actions and science and technology. Let us take governance, governance, if you use a good, efficient administration, informed and accountable, and you work with it as a tool, you can have an important impact on reality and change things on the ground and this is what it means and I think this Committee has an important role to play because you are elaborating voluntary guidelines. This does not have to be compulsory, but it is certainly very important.

I think my time is about to finish. I would like to deep dive into many other entry points and give you more information about the process and what next but, I think you may want to ask questions and I will try to answer. Thank you, very much.

**Applause**

**Chairperson**

I will ask the moderator, Ms Smaller, to sit here so that she can best liaise with the Secretary and continue conducting this agenda item. So, please, Ms Smaller, please?

**Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator**

Thank you, to the Assistant Secretary-General, for that overview of the outcomes of the recent SDG Summit and, also, other events that have happened around the SDGs in the past few months. Before I open the floor, maybe just to summarize some of the key points.

I think we heard, first from the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, some really important points around the problems in inequality and inequities in the food system and that this inequality threatens to derail progress on Agenda 2030 and yet, if we address these inequalities, they could potentially have a transformative effect on helping to achieve that agenda. The importance of the participation of indigenous people and enhancing the participation of indigenous people in the Agenda. The disappointment that human rights was not as strongly integrated into the SDGs and into Agenda 2030, as it could have been, but that still the Human Rights Agenda and the SDG Agenda are very closely aligned and mutually reinforcing and, perhaps, a call to the CFS that they could play a stronger role in integrating that right spaced agenda for achieving the SDGs, given the mandate of the CFS.

We heard from both speakers about the importance of youth activism and youth mobilization around the climate summit and the importance of that movement and to build on that movement and to give it the space and for that to be a vehicle for engaging youth.

From the Assistant Secretary-General for UNDESA, positive response from the global community in support of the SDGs and Agenda 2030 and a strong commitment to achieving those goals. Important progress in the Financing for Development Agenda with more than 20 heads of state and Ministers and important, encouraging participation from philanthropists and the private sector in financing for development.

She also presented some of the new reports that have come out around the SDGs and around the current status of science in deforestation, environmental issues, global emissions and then, finally, an interesting slide on the different entry points and levers for achieving the SDGs and the different sets of tools available and places where progress can be made.

With that summary, I would now like to open the floor and Chris is going to help me in this respect.

**CFS Secretary**

For those wishing to comment, this is a chance for a quick round of questions. The idea is to keep them very short. These are not statements but, rather, questions to the speakers, no more than a minute. Please identify to whom your question or comment is directed and also, please, if you are at a seat and you have a question, please push the button now so I can see who is interesting in asking, thank you.

**Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator**

I am going to start with New Zealand. No, New Zealand does not want to take the floor. Mexico and then the CSM and the PSM and Cuba. So, we will start with Mexico and then Cuba and then the CSM and PSM.

**Mexico**

Yes, thank you. I have a question for Ms Elver and Mrs Spatolisano. Unfortunately they converge upon the fact that progress has not been satisfactory over the past few years in order to eradicate hunger and malnutrition internationally. During this time, three strategies have prevailed, the strategy of food aid programmes, that of free trade treaties and this so-called market solutions. Nevertheless, there has not been significant progress on any of these fronts and what we are going to be faced with over the next few years is an even more sensitive and thornier situation because of climate change impact, because of possible economic slow-down all over the world and because of the prevalence of certain protectionistic trends.

So, my question to you both is, with all due respect, do you think that we should, maybe, rethink things and think about placing at the centre of the strategies to combat hunger and malnutrition cooperation, development cooperation arrangements or programmes and this, in order to get to the root causes of these phenomena and not the expression of food insecurity and hunger. That is the question that I would like to put to both of you, with all due respect. Thank you.

**Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator**

Cuba

**Cuba**

Thank you. Thank you, very much, for your presentations and I thank both distinguished representatives of the United Nations System. In our case, we see that the right to food is definitely a human right, a basic human right, and the 2030 Agenda also calls upon us not to leave anyone behind. So, along the lines of what Mexico just said, we would like to know what we can do, and I am actually turning or addressing you, the Special Rapporteur, on the right to food. I wonder if you could look into how economic sanctions and unilateral measures are preventing many member states from the United Nations to achieve and to make any progress towards the attainment of SDG-2 because of these economic sanctions and unilateral coercive measures are affecting a large number of people in several countries. On many occasions, a Government has made great commitments in order to fulfil the right to food but, nevertheless, they are encountering many obstacles along the way. For example, because money transfers cannot be effected or because of lack of access to international food markets and other impediments to trade which actually have a lot to do with SDG-2, SDG-17 and many more. Could you kindly, please, refer to this, I would be very grateful to you both. Thank you.

**Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator**

Thank you. The CSM?

**CSM**

Thank you. My name is Elizabeth Mpfu, from Zimbabwe, representing the Civil Society Mechanism. I was just listening to all the presentations and we are, very much, in agreement that no one is going to be left behind. But, what is now missing is about the declaration of peasant rights and people working in the rural areas which was adopted by the United Nations Human Rights Council in New York. Since it is silence now and we are now running to other issues forgetting this declaration as a major tool, also, to achieve the SDG goals.

So, my question is, where are we placing this declaration in the guiding of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals? Thank you.

**Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator**

Thank you. PSM?

**PSM**

Good afternoon. My name is Caroline Emond, I am the Director-General of the International Dairy Federation and speaking for the Private Sector Mechanism. We have a gender balance, very diversified group with us this week, from farmers to different association and happy to be here. I have two question to each speaker. The first one to the Special Rapporteur. I would like your bit about the right to food but, also, the right to nutritious food. So, what kind of discussion did you have about the nutrients food contribution to eradicate hunger and malnutrition? The second question is to Mrs Spatolisano. We were wondering if you could tell us, how strong was the commitment in New York from the different Governments to invest in agriculture sector and make sure that they provide the adequate environment to favour partnership to deliver the SDGs. Thank you.

**Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator**

Thank you. I am going to take a few more questions and then I will come back to you. So, I have Hungary, Switzerland and Afghanistan on the list. So, Hungary?

**Hungary**

Thank you, very much, and congratulations on this very nice event and the two presentations. I would like to just remind that the right to food guidelines were adopted exactly 15 years ago in the FAO Council and, as many of the colleagues in the Plenary Hall remember, we had a very good and interesting event, a thematic event last year. Since there were no official outcome paper of this event, I very much would like to appreciate that the special rapporteur has prepared her own summary. We could read this and I recommend it to all the colleagues to read and my question is to Hilal Elver, if she could consider these outcomes still valid and if she could just mention one or two key messages from that thematic event that would have an importance and relevance, also, today. Thank you.

**Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator**

Switzerland?

**Switzerland**

Thank you and thank you for this opportunity to ask questions on this event. I would like just to reiterate what previous speakers said. We are not on track in reaching the SDGs by 2030 and time is pressing. We have only ten years to go to achieve the 2030 Agenda and we think that this requires a transformative change of food and agriculture as we know it today and Switzerland would like to highlight two elements that we believe are central in this regard.

Firstly, a sustainable food systems approach. We need a more integrated and holistic approach to address today's and tomorrow's challenges and we really need think and act in a sustainable food system approach that stretches over the whole food chain to the consumer and beyond. The currently developed voluntary guidelines on food systems and nutrition will be a reference document in this regard.

Secondly, multi-stakeholder partnership. These are powerful action oriented mechanism to achieve a dynamic yet systemic interaction between all stakeholders addressing policy makers and field actors alike. However, and I would like to make the link to tomorrow's session, we need more evidence and data on multi-stakeholder partnerships that are still limited and, in this regard, we are looking forward to agenda item seven that we will discuss tomorrow.

This being said, Switzerland has two questions to the UNDESA representative, Francesco Spatolisano, regarding the outcomes of the SDG Summit. One, data and statistics, these are crucial to assess the effective implementation of the SDGs, how can UNDESA increase its support in this field. Two, how do you perceive the link between the SDG implementation and United Nations Development System reform and are you satisfied with the current state of the implementation? Thank you, so much.

**Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator**

Thank you. The last speaker on the list is Afghanistan and then I will close the list and there will be another round when we have the panel.

**Afghanistan**

Thank you and good afternoon and thank you to both panellists for their presentations. I have got a very brief question and that is, is pro-poor policy adequately reflected in the design of the SDGs? Either of the panellists may answer to my question. Thank you.

**Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator**

The question was, is pro-poor policies adequately reflected in the SDGs? So, maybe, this time round, we can start with Ms Spatolisano and then we will end with the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food.

**Ms Maria Francesca Spatolisano, Assistant Secretary-General, Policy Coordination, UNDESA**

Thank you, very much, for your attention and your questions which are all very pertinent. Let us start with the first one, which was asked by Mexico in a very broad way indeed, should we rethink what we do? The answer is yes. Of course, we cannot do business as usual, as we all said, I think, and how should we rethink? He suggested putting development cooperation at the centre of our action. Certainly, I would agree with that and you have heard this morning, also, David Beasley, who spoke of the nexus between humanitarian development and peace. Humanitarian actions feed people, of course, and it is very important. But, what we need to do, he said, is to transition and he had good examples he brought, towards the ability of people to not need that kind of help anymore. It is very important that we bring the knowledge and the ability for people to sustain themselves and, of course, peace has a lot to do with that because there are conditions which do not allow people to leave their own business in peace. But, also, there is the climate impact of many phenomena which are stronger and accelerated. So, there are many elements in the root cause which we always refer to and which would allow to transition from the urgent immediate needs towards the long term development, the sustainable development and we certainly agree on that and now how to do that, of course, this is what this meeting and the many others we attend are about. The best policy making base, as I was saying, on knowledge, on science, on data and a good balance of the various interests and priorities in place. This is very difficult to do but, that is what we are set to do. We need to do that, to use the science, we need to use a nature based solution, we need all the components and this is different in each country because, as I was talking you take the seeds, you will have to address some priorities first which are not the same as if you are in the Horn of Africa or you are in another region of the world and you need all the actors. The private sector, I was referring to, just to

take that example, and I do not mean the private sector, only as a source of funds. Of course, we definitely need those existing funds which are not employed in a sustainable way to shift towards sustainability but, it is not only that. It is also the knowledge and the presence of many companies who could really make a difference and if they adopted sustainability as their own goal, not as a way to help us, the international Organizations, to do good. This should become their own goal, in their everyday action, and this is an ambition we have, which is difficult, is a challenge but, I think we can pursue and should pursue that that approach as well.

Shall we shift a little bit?

**Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator**

Do you want to answer some of the other questions addressed to you?

**Ms Maris Francesca Spatolisano, Assistant Secretary-General, Policy Coordination, UNDESA**

As you wish. Switzerland asked about the United Nations Development System reform and data and statistics. The United Nations Development System reform is gaining speed and has been implementing now for a year or two and is a very big priority. It means, let us lead the dragon aside, it means working more effectively, more cooperatively together on the ground and the tools, the main actors of this are the new resident coordinator system which you probably know about and the country teams which have to pull together their resources and their knowledge in each country so to provide a more integrated advice and support to the Governments and the other components of the society where they operate. There is a lot of traction, we believe, everybody is very supportive of this priority of the Secretary-General and we are committed to make it work and I do not mean it just in an ideal way, but in a concrete way. In DESA, for one, we are working very closely with the Department of Coordination Office and with the one overseeing the resident coordinator system and we provide all the knowledge and support we can to the colleagues who are on the ground. I think there is, obviously it is a process in its beginning, but there is a good traction and we think it is going to work very well.

The next stage which members have worked with us very committedly, is the voluntary national reviews. As you know, the next stage, next cycle of 40 years, is going to start now and we would like to encourage everyone, this is something I had no time to say before, to keep reporting through this voluntary national review, including on your action on SDG-2. It is important that this is in there and we think that, through the integrated national financial frameworks which are going to be developed, this will bring implementation even more to fruition and the resident coordinator is there to help countries to navigate this new system of financial frameworks. Thank you.

**Ms Hilal Elver, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food**

Thank you, very much. I will answer as much as possible in a short period of time. I have a few minutes but, I will do my best. Starting from Mexico, you are absolutely right, we had several failed policies to eradicate hunger and malnutrition. The old policy was the food aid and now the international community understood food aid is not eliminating hunger and malnutrition. Actually, it is extenuating it. So, this is an old policy, it is only the disaster or emergency period it helps to us and World Food Programme actually really made a very progressive revitalization of the programmes that aid should come with development and development should come with connection with the local participation and the social activities and, also, I can go from there. The root causes, as you know, we all know that conflicts and disasters and the economic failure.

Economic failure is basically the national Government's responsibility but, as much as a free market economic system, how are they going to adjust, especially less developed countries in a very difficult situation. International communities should help less developed countries to make the system for them much friendlier. Of course, climate change is a totally global project and we all have to participate in, without thinking about national interests. That is very important, as I said in my talk. If we really start from the national interests, we are never going to make the global problems to be solved. It is very clear in the climate change.

If we go to Cuba's question, it is a very serious issue. Cuba is one of them that suffered from the economic sanction and also other countries are suffering from economic sanction. It is mostly political issues and some of them are bilateral sanctions, some of them are much more global. I am not dealing with the global sanctions, but bilateral sanction, as you said the problem is the sanction. It seems to be a dating that it will solve the issue, whatever it is, but, unfortunately, it hurts significantly ordinary people. We see them in Cuba, we see them in Iran and we see them in Iraq and Syria or many places. The people are already in a very difficult situation and the Governments are not able to respond because of the sanction. It should be really dealt with the United Nations, maybe Security Council; that would be the way to respond. How they make the sanction is really against economic and social rights and human, basically vulnerable peoples protect. That is a very important issue and we can discuss quite a long time here. But, maybe, we should deal with this in some other meetings.

Of course, this SDG-2 and SDG-17 is very much connected. Responsibility is not only countries but, also, international community has role to eradicate malnutrition and hunger. That is why we are here, that is why are talking, that is why we are trying to find the solution. Zimbabwe's question, peasant's rights declaration is very new. As you know, international law goes very slow. We have to time to make it over and over again. Every platform to remind the countries that they can get the ownership of the declaration and the civil society get the ownership of the declaration to push it further, to give them, actually, many parts of the world. They do not even know, when I mention sometimes, when I go to mission, do you know the declaration of the peasant's? They do not know. So, it will be a time to make this declaration much more powerful and known, which will definitely help SDG-2.

Private sector mechanism, of course the right to food is right to adequate food. Right to adequate food, if you look at the Article 11 of the International Covenant, this little word of adequate gives us an important access to put all the nutrition inside of the right to food. As we know, we all talk about it, hunger is increasing while malnutrition is a universal problem. It is a very important issue and, in malnutrition, everyone should work together, not only Governments, but civil society and the private sector should work.

Hungary, it will be a long speech to say but, basically, last year when I talk, I repeated some of the issues on why we are talking about a right to food, why we are celebrating voluntary guidelines. They seem to be the voluntary but, these voluntary guidelines are accepted by all the countries with consensus. So, being voluntary, also have a very strong commitment. This commitment should be implemented at the national level. Many countries, they make these changes but, still a long way to go and more importantly, accountability mechanism is very important when we talk about the right to food or human rights as such or participation in the decision making. That is why the important things that I try to talk in last year and I always talk everywhere.

Afghanistan, finally, pro-poor policy. If you look at SDG-1, has to be eliminating poverty. As you know, millennium development goal was rather successful in only one area, to get rid of the extreme poverty. But, still, we have the extreme poverty. This morning, Mr Beasley talk about it. But, having said that, SDG-1 should be cooperated by all the other SDGs. It is the most problematic are of the SDG. We still talk about it, we have to do it together. But, when we work, either international level or a national level, we do not look at all the 17 SDGs together.

Thank you, for the question and you can reach me any time to discuss further.

## **Applause**

### **Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator**

Thank you, to our two speakers and thank you for all the very stimulating and interesting interventions from the floor. We are now going to move into our second part of this Plenary Discussion and this is a panel presentation with four panellists, who I would now like to call to the floor.

While they are coming up, I am going to explain how this is going to run because we have not only got a panel presentation but, we are going to introduce to you what I believe is a new technology to the CFS called Slido, which is an online question/answer software that allows people in the room to instantly provide their feedback or their answers to certain questions. We are going to test that. Also, for anybody who is watching this by livestreaming or by the webcam, I also encourage you to participate in our online survey. But, that is going to be a bit later when we move to the question and answer part of this panel.

For now, we are going to start with a panel discussion and our panellists are all here. Welcome, thank you for coming. For the panel discussion this afternoon, we are going to be focusing on two questions and our panellists have kindly agreed to only focus on one question each. We have two questions that shape this panel discussion. The first is very appropriately around the 2030 Agenda principle of leaving no one behind, which we heard quite a bit about in our earlier presentations and the question to the panellists who will answer this question is going to be around four years down the line, what are the challenges that you face in translating this principle into concrete action for your country or for the constituency that you are presenting and how do you think they should be addressed?

That is our first question and we have two of our panellists who are going to answer this question. The first panellist is from the Civil Society Mechanism, his name is Saul Vicente Vasquez. He is from Mexico and represents the International Indian Treaty Council and is part of the CFS's Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples Mechanism (CSM). His areas of expertise are on the rights of indigenous people, the right to food and food sovereignty, intellectual property and biological diversity. Saul, I am going to pass over to you to answer this question about leaving no one behind. Thank you.

### **Mr Saul Vicente Vasquez, International Treaty Council, CSM**

A very good afternoon to you all, ladies and gentlemen. I am very grateful for this invitation from the Chair of the CFS to take part in this event and I am also very grateful to the FAO D-G. Thank you, very much.

The Civil Society Mechanism and indigenous people, we have been taking part in the discussions of the CFS in the high-level political forum and we have been providing our views on the progress in relation to the SDGs. In relation to the question on the challenges and how we should address them, firstly, I think we need to recognize that the contributions of this CFS to the high-level political forum are very clear and are based on a consensus based discussion mechanism and they go to achieving the SDGs. We have been hearing from family farmers, fisher folk, rural women, indigenous people and our common vision is to have a world without hunger in which everyone has a right to food and a work in which we have organic and ecologically friendly farming and we also have voluntary guidelines of the CFS and that these voluntary guidelines be implemented at the national level. The CFS has not received the relevance that it deserves at the international level. There is very little level of visibility.

We are concerned that we are actually lagging behind when it comes to achieving SDG-2 and the data from various fora show us that we have shortcomings in governance and we have heard about this this morning in the SOFI Report which showed that hunger is continuing to increase. The OPCC shows us

that desertification and salinity and increasing and climate change affects food security. According to the IPBES report from this year, there is a loss of biodiversity which is unprecedented in history and a report also shows that food crisis continue to go on and we also have a threat to human rights in areas where climate change is being affected. We also have an increase of violence around the world.

This is a very inclusive international forum, inter-governmental forum as well, and if we want to have a summit on food in 2021 then we will want the CFS to play a very important role. They will also have a report that will come out soon on value chains and we are also looking at seeing the development of a new system for food systems as well, a transition. Faced with this situation, we need to promote a radical change in the provision of food and the supply of food. We do not need to have celebrations, we need to have a change of direction and next year we will have the review of SDG-2. We cannot continue to fight against hunger with the same system, we know what the results are. They are the results we have seen in the most recent reports on food security. We need to change the system with a circular economy based on solidarity. For example, the current climatic crisis is leading to food crises and so we need to change the system to promote a different model using, for example, agro-ecology. This is a proposal to face climate change here.

Amongst the ten elements of agro-ecology, which FAO is putting forward, we can see this concept of circular economy and I would like to say the following as well. We should propose to this CFS that it play a more important role in the 2030 Agenda. It could be one of the groups, for example, we could have these political commitments should be put in place and we should have monitoring processes as well based on human rights and that is why we recommend that the CFS request its members to tell them what the immediate actions are that they are putting in place to ensure food security and how they are proposing to act in relation to the summit on food. The CFS needs to be a very important player working together with civil society and we need to achieve a change in food systems and all of this work needs to be done here at the headquarters of the CFS as the main inter-governmental platform which is very inclusive in relation to areas on food security and nutrition. Thank you, very much.

**Applause.**

**Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator**

Thank you. Our next speaker represents one of the countries who is going to be presenting some of the main messages from the voluntary national reviews that they have undertaken and it is a representative from the United Kingdom, Neil Briscoe, who is Deputy Director and Head of Global Partnerships and Multilateral Effectiveness at DfID. I think it is really important that the UK has actually done one of these voluntary national reviews and that you are able to bring some of the key messages from that review to the CFS to increase the synergies between the process happening under the SDGs and what is happening at the CFS. Thank you.

**Mr Neil Briscoe, Deputy Director and Head, Global Partnerships and Multilateral Effectiveness Department, UK**

Thank you, very much, Chair. I am very happy to be here and to see some old friends. We have had a number of comments already about the importance of leave no one behind. The department I head in the UK had the team that delivered and coordinated our voluntary national review. I am going to talk a bit about what that meant for the UK domestically, as well as internationally, and draw out one or two of the priorities that became very clear as we worked on this.

Leave no one behind is arguably the most important component of the sustainable development goals and it also presents the greatest challenges. We heard references earlier to the Millennium Development Goals

but, unlike those, we cannot declare victory if half the population still remain with severe hunger, not least because the remaining 50 percent are often the most vulnerable and often the most left behind.

Another distinguishing features of the SDGs is their universality and that helps shine a light and helped us shine a light on the most vulnerable in every country. So, that was one of the important principles that underpinned our own voluntary national review. Just to set the context, our voluntary nation review decided to cover all 17 goals, although each year there is about four or five that are particularly prioritised at the United Nations and in the high-level political forum. It included Government, something like 16 Government departments, business, civil society, Parliamentarians, faith groups, unions and others. We held over 35 engagement events around the country. We worked with 350 Organizations and we received over 200 case studies through an online consultation. Further to that, because a lot of domestic policy making in the UK is devolved to the Governments of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, we also worked with what are known as the Devolved Administrations and, as a result, on some indicators, we were dealing with three to four sets of data responding to different local priorities and sometimes using different methodologies.

Just to underscore, while I am here representing the UK Government, the voluntary national review was fundamentally a UK product. If you look at it, you will see case studies provided by civil society, by individuals, by local authorities and so on. In case you are interested, the review at [www.gov.uk/sustainabledevelopmentgoals](http://www.gov.uk/sustainabledevelopmentgoals). The result was a report of 235 pages, 110 data boxes and a whole online statistical annexe that measured and recorded what we have on the indicators. As I said, in line with VNR guidelines, it was fundamentally domestically focused. Although, in each chapter, we had some of our international work, including on food security under SDG-2. Leave no one behind was a thread throughout and it included attention to the most disadvantaged members of society including those suffering significant food insecurity.

We have various ways of approaching this in the UK. In domestic legislation, we have an equality act dating back to 2010 that tackles various groups within society at risk of being left behind and internationally, we have signed up to the inclusive data charter and our policies and programmes in the area of development are informed by country diagnostics that consider the issue of inclusion. As we have heard already, it is absolutely critical to get the data right, data and disaggregation. Unless we can do that, we are unable, accurately, to measure and report progress or the lack of it and we cannot tell where to target our efforts and resources.

Even though the UK is reporting against more of the SDG indicators than almost any other country, we are still only able to cover 74 percent of the roughly 242 SDG indicators. Domestically, the way we approach this was, we sought non-official data sources to strengthen our reporting. For example, we do not routinely record the prevalence of stunting within the UK and, in cases like this, our Office for National Statistics worked with topic experts to identify the best data source available within the UK. We are also working with NGOs to get a more detailed understanding of the links between food bank use in the UK, unemployment and poverty.

In order to improve the understanding of household food insecurity, we worked with food security experts, including from FAO, to introduce a new set of food security questions into our domestic family resources survey. These replicate the internationally recognized adult food security survey module. It has also been a challenge to assess progress since 2015 as we do not yet have sufficient data points for some of the indicators. As a result, in some areas, our voluntary national review is essentially a snapshot and it will only become easier to assess progress when we undertake another one and can gauge how we have done in the intervening period.

Added to that, on disaggregation, currently we are reporting against 180 indicators, 70 percent of those have disaggregation by at least one level but, most do not have more than that and if you are looking at the various ways in which you can disaggregate data, whether it is by gender, by ethnicity, by disability,

you have to be able to dig deeper beneath the data to understand what the impact is on individual groups. Disaggregated data is absolutely critical for addressing the needs of those left behind.

Internationally, we have funded the development of the new SDG-2 outcome indicator, the food insecurity experience scale, which is led by FAO. We are encouraging uptake in our bilateral programming and the scale is now being rolled out in both public and private sector programmes. We are also sharing our experience and expertise to a number of development partners. Bilaterally, both Rwanda and Ghana were two of the first countries to replicate our national reporting platform through training, through data cleansing and we are very much hoping that they and we can continue to assist other African countries develop similar platforms.

More widely, accurate data, as we know, is vital for some of our priorities in international development, whether it is tackling the scourge of malnutrition, supporting the strengthening of land tenure in line with the voluntary guidelines and preventing a global crisis in human and animal health as antimicrobial resistance spreads. In this, multilateral Organizations play a pivotal role and we are very keen to see successful replenishments in the coming year, including at IFAD12.

Finally, one conclusion is clear from our international work on SDG-2, namely that we all, including our multilateral Organizations, need to strive for more and better impact and value for money in tackling the challenges of SDG-2. As we have heard, it is off track, it is alarming that food insecurity is continuing to rise. We need to all focus on our areas of comparative advantage given the scale of the challenges ahead of us. There is more than enough work to do and we need to build on the progress that we have all achieved so far. Thank you.

## **Applause**

### **Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator**

Thank you, Neil. Two very powerful presentations from our first two panellists on the issue of leaving no one behind. From Mr Vasquez, a very clear message of the importance of the CFS and the way the CFS operates as a very inclusive and representative body to be at the heart of the discussions around how to achieve SDG-2, particularly now with the announcement of the food systems summit for 2021, a call for the CFS and the CFS's way of operating to be central to that food system, as well as a very strong call for a change of direction and not to continue to fight hunger in the same way that it is being fought in the past, but to have new ways to change the system. With a circular economy, based on solidarity and a different model, including through using methods like agro-ecology but, a very strong call for the CFS to play a much more important role in ensuring that this principle of leaving no one left behind, actually becomes a reality in Agenda 2030.

From Mr Briscoe's side, a very interesting case of how the UK is trying to implement this principle of leaving no one behind, very much nationally but, also, now increasingly internationally. With the equality act, with the inclusive data charter, a very strong message on the importance of getting data right and particularly data disaggregation because without good data, we cannot tell where to target and how much to target and that even a country as developed as the UK is still only able to track, I think your figure was only 74 percent of the SDG indicators. So, even for a country like the UK, there is quite a long way to go to have the right data available to address the problems identified in Agenda 2030.

I will now move on to our next two panellists and they have agreed to focus on our second question for this panel which is, what shifts has the 2030 Agenda brought to your respective food security and nutrition strategies and how are the CFS policy guidelines and recommendations used to support your projects or your collaborations. I am going to start with another country representative, Mr Roy Jay Dacumos, who is the Chief Economic Development Specialist at the National Economic and

Development Authority of The Philippines. The Philippines is a country that has actually submitted two voluntary national review processes now, one in 2016 and another one in 2019. He is going to share with us the experience of The Philippines and their voluntary national reviews.

**Mr Roy Jay S. Dacumos, Chief, Rural Institutions and Support Services Division of the Agriculture, NEDA, Philippines**

Thank you, very much. It is an honour for me to be here sharing with you our experience when it comes to our experience in implementing the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. As mentioned, we participated in two VNRs, Voluntary National Review, and the last one was presented in the 2019 high-level political forum and let me share with you some of our experiences, particularly the main topic is on what shifts in our planning, our policy, has the 2030 Agenda brought.

There are two things, one is on policy and the other one is on planning or development planning. First let me share about policy shifts that we have experienced. Let me give you an example, in 2018, there is a law that we passed called the Green Jobs Act. How is it related to food and nutrition and our goals on SDG-2? As you know, green jobs, in the law that we passed, we defined green jobs as decent work. So, that decent work is related to SDG-8 but, at the same time, when people get decent work we know that we are protecting and improving their incomes and with better incomes, they have better access to food and nutrition. So, that is the key message there in our 2019 VNR, particularly highlighting the key principle of integrated and multifaceted approach in advancing the 2030 Agenda. There are challenges in the implementation of the Green Jobs Act, particularly in engaging the private sector. In that case, I wish to emphasise here the importance of another key principle which is the whole of society approach. So, by engaging the private sector, we are trying to upscale the effect, we are trying to involve everyone in delivering for our targets, to meet the targets for the 2030 SDGs.

Also related to that, recently, just this year, the Securities and Exchange Commission of The Philippines required all publically listed companies to submit a sustainability report. In this rule or guideline, it gives an incentive for the private companies to adopt green and sustainable business practices. How is it related to our food and nutrition systems? So, when companies are incentivised or encouraged to adopt green and sustainable business practices, we are basically promoting productivity within the ecological limit of the resource, particularly, for this example, land and water resources. That is how it is related.

Another policy shift related to the 2030 Agenda is on SDG-13, climate action. Before the year ends, we will submit the Philippines Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), so I do not have the exact number, how many percent reduction in GHG emissions we are committing but, for sure, we will submit by the end of this year and we are also looking at agriculture as one of the possible contributors for the GHG emission reduction. This will be done through the technology on alternate wetting and drying. The CFS and other Rome-Based Agencies have been very useful for us and instrumental in adapting this kind of technology and we will continue to engage with CFS and other multilateral Agencies in as far as technologies are concerned. We need technology and, at the same time, we need to know more about a new way of doing things regarding this SDG implementation.

Another area that there are shifts brought about by the 2030 Agenda is on the area of international development planning. Right now, we are still under the 2017 to 2022 medium term Philippines development plan. When it was originally conceptualised in 2016, we did not really focus much on the synergies between food and agriculture, particularly nutrition sensitive agriculture. Now, we are updating the national development plan and hopefully by the end of this year, we will publish the updated PDP mid-term development plan and it will include nutrition sensitive agriculture.

Just to give you an example, we have many programmes, projects, activities for the agriculture, for example, in the coconut rehabilitation programme. Rather than just simply improving coconut productivity, we are actually advocating diversification or the coconut farmers diversifying their products.

That includes diversification to nutritious crops such as vegetables. The same is true with the Rice Stratification Law which was passed this year. The Rice Stratification Law abandoned the quantitative restrictions but, they replace with import tariffs. The tariffs collected, we are going to use it for the rice competitiveness enhancement fund and that programme includes component on diversification also. The concept of diversification, we were really guided by the various activities and programmes of the activities of the CFS and other multilateral Organizations. Basically, that is all in terms of the shifts, in terms of policy and development planning. Thank you.

## **Applause**

### **Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator**

Thank you, Mr Dacumos. Our last panellist is representing the Private Sector Mechanism. It is Mr Sean de Cleene from the World Economic Forum. He is the head of the Food Systems Initiative at the World Economic Forum and the Vice-President for Business Development and Strategic Partnerships at the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). He has had former positions in the agri-business, YARA, the Chair of the World Economic Forum's new vision for agriculture. He was co-Chair of the Grow Africa and previously Special Advisor to the United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Food Security and Nutrition. Mr de Cleene?

### **Mr Sean de Cleene, World Economic Forum, PSM**

Thank you. It is good to be here. We should maybe have checked notes before. I am not actually here, formally representing the Private Sector Mechanism. So, as the World Economic Forum, as the international Organization for the public/private cooperation, it takes a much more multi-stakeholder view in that sense and I did step down as the Vice-President of AGRA two years ago. But, otherwise, all correct, so thank you.

I just want to build on some comments made earlier, I think Maria Spatolisano indicated that at the United Nations General Assembly this year was very interesting to be at because there was this sense of outrage on one hand and also optimism on the other hand, where you had a climate summit, you had four million people around the world at 2,500 different events in 163 countries, really campaigning on this Agenda and impressing on us, in many ways shaming us on the action that we are going to take on the Paris goals but, also, on the 2030 global goals and this is the challenge that we have. In the way the global goals call out systems thinking, we cannot take a siloed approach when we look at this and food, yes we could look at this very strongly in the context of SDG-2 but, that would be a mistake if we just looked at it in the context of SDG-2. Food, actually, acts as a major delivery vehicle for achieving a number of the SDGs and it has to be taken in that comprehensive approach. So, in a way, the 2030 global goals are asking a food systems, and there is not one food system but, really a number of different food systems around the world to move quicker and better on all fronts around stretch targets for hunger. As we have heard, the rates of hunger are worryingly increasing in recent years, which is a trend we had hoped to reverse on nutrition, on incomes of smallholder farmers, on climate change, reduction of greenhouse gases but, also, adaptation and climate resilience and across a number of other areas that are related to this and so, there is a degree of urgency that we really have to look at if we are going to take this complex systems view and achieve the targets as set out in the 2030 global goals. It is going to require an unprecedented degree of cooperation that will require both immediate but, also, collective action to end leadership to achieve this.

This is going to require a lot of dialogue in terms of how do we bring that alignment, how do we move to scale? The kinds of transformative partnerships and so, for us as an Organization, in answering the question that has really made us think about what types of transformative partnerships are we going to

need that move across all sectors that break down these silos. There is no point if we have people talking on food security in one corner and people talking on climate change in another and people talking on oceans in another and people talking in health and nutrition aspects in another and there is no dialogue happening between these. So, between sectors, between different silos, it is going to require some very engaged and active dialogue. It is going to require partnerships that really look at food systems to build inclusivity, sustainability, healthy and nutritious and efficient food systems and to manage some of the trade-offs within that. This will be challenging. In every country, the transitional pathways, the way that we get there, the tool that we use in terms of the future scenario thinking that we do, the foresight that is needed to have that happen need to be looked at a much more urgent pace and larger scale that we are talking about today. We need to create space for that dialogue, the role of the CFS is important for that. But, also, in establishing the frameworks.

Grow Asia, which is part out network, worked very closely with ASIAN over the last couple of years to take out the principles of responsible investment and take these down to an ASIAN level. This has been very positively received and now the call is, how can you actually take those principles of responsible investment down to the country level and really adapt those to the role that multi-stakeholder partnerships are playing at the country level. We need to agree on what is that multi-stakeholder approach to achieve these transition pathways. How do we work together, how do we complement together, where do we disagree across different sectors or across different thematic areas and to then develop the kinds of joint collection action platforms that will be needed, not to transform the lives of 10,000 farmers in a pilot here but, actually, 10 million farmers or 100 million farmers in a way that really moves towards taking a food systems approach from farm to fork and from consumer back to the farmer. We need to rethink the frame that we are operating in, we need to look at incentives and at the moment it will take USD 140 billion annually just for rural development and agricultural support to meet SDG-2. This is already ten times less than the current ODA spend in that area. We need to re-think the way that we look at financing and be quite proactive in looking at the way we address incentives to change the system. We need to build a vibrant ecosystem for innovation. Innovation in policy, innovation in partnerships, innovation in the way that we use data, in the way that we use digital transformation and so it requires us to rethink that.

Finally, I think, and this point has been made a number of times, there is an incredible window at the moment to really look at how change food systems for future generations and we have to use it in a way that brings human dignity to us all. Everyone eats and engages in food systems every day of their life, one way or another, and we cannot leave anyone behind in that sense and we have to look at how we work together in a very different way than we probably have to date, to really achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of 2030. Thank you.

**Applause.**

**Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator**

Thank you, Sean, and apologies, both to the PSM and to you for some of the incorrect introductions that I made. We are now going to open the floor and I am glad that Chris is back to help me with that. We are now going to open the floor but, as we do collect the list of what wants to make a comment or ask a question, we are also going to put on the screen the Slido instructions. As I mentioned at the start of this Plenary, we are going to test a new technology here which is called Slido which is an online survey of feedback software and what you will see is, you will have to, either on your laptops or on your phones, you are going to have to join at Slido.com and it is up there on the screen, S-L-I-D-O.com and the password is #CFS46. Sorry, no hashtag, the password is CFS46.

For those people who are with us by streaming or by webcam, you can also participate in this online survey, so all you have to do is go to Slido.com on your phones or on your computers and the password is CFS46.

We are not going to actually open the poll just yet, I would like to start first with a round of questions to our panellists. I guess it is open now so, people are already. I guess you are all smarter than me at this. Feel free, those questions are open. I may just then read out the question for the translators because they are only up there in English and then we will open the floor.

The first question for Slido is, what year were the CFS voluntary guidelines on the governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests, most commonly known as the VGGTs approved? There, you have got the four options for you to vote on.

I have on my list now, Spain, PSM, Finland and then FAO. So, Spain, you have the floor.

### **Spain**

I would like to actually postpone my comment. Thank you.

### **Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator**

Okay, no problem. PSM?

### **PSM**

Thank you, very much. First, I would like to thank our panellists and partly a colleague from The Philippines for engaging the private sector and see that as part of the solution and we saw earlier this afternoon as well, the representative from the USDCA that mentioned that private sector mechanism is not only about money but, also, about knowledge expertise and that is actually a pleasure to hear because we are there and you can could on us. Both the science, best practices, innovation, we have got tons of examples and good actions that we can share with you. I would like, also, to support our colleagues from the Civil Society Mechanism in recognizing the work of CFS and the multi-stakeholder expertise and that is definitely something that we would strongly encourage CFS and the national Government to take some leadership in recognizing the contribution of a multi-stakeholder work as we do in CFS.

Finally, we have been talking a lot about concrete example and action that we are doing towards the SDGs and one thing we have not talked too much is about the contribution and concrete action of Organization like in ours, in PSM, in codex for food safety. There is no food security and nutrition without food safety and there is a lot of concrete action that is done on a daily basis with the codex to ensure that our food is safe. So, I think that is something worth mentioning as well. Thank you.

### **Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator**

Finland?

## **Finland**

I am taking the floor first to say some experiences and lessons learned on behalf of the European Union and its 28 member states and secondly I would like to ask a question. Let me also thank the panellists for their very through provoking and excellent interventions.

Let me highlight that the EU and its member states have really kept nutrition security at the heart of development cooperation efforts globally and human rights, gender equality, the support for women in food and nutrition security has been very important parts of this approach. There are numerous examples of EU and member states actions on food and nutrition security and I want to mention that, for the high-level political forum, the EU and the member states produced a joint synthesis report on the support for the SDGs across the world and including lessons learned and we very much invite everyone to take a look at this report which is available online and the report shows that EU and the member states have addressed systematic issues in the global food and agriculture system and work to build strategic approach to food crisis and resilience and also focusing on the humanitarian development peace nexus.

We have promoted agricultural development that serves multiple purposes, working to secure access to land, also creating additional income and employment opportunities and fostering socially, economically and environmentally sustainable value chains. Of course, more needs to be done, we all have to increase our efforts and scale up our action so that we can collectively achieve the 2030 Agenda.

In terms of the question, I think it was Mr Vasquez who said something like, there is a need to promote radical transformation and we need to change the system and, now, in 2021, we will have the food system summit and this is an opportunity to make a change and I wanted to put a question to the panellists. How can we, in a way, make sure that this summit will deliver a concrete change and ensure that we are leading towards this transformation and how can we rejuvenate the movements to end hunger because today reference was made to Greta Thunberg and youth and all these activists and I have a feeling that they are not happy with us. So, what can we do more, how can we change? Thank you.

## **Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator**

Okay, I have the FAO and the CSM.

## **FAO**

Thank you, and thank you to all the speakers and panellists. We just have one question, directed to Mr Dacumos from The Philippines if you will. Thank you, for your examples where you illustrated looking at all the different integration of SDGs across different sectors and how you had some very successful policy shifts over the last few years in The Philippines. We know that costs money, so I guess our question is, how you paid for that in terms of national budgets, external sources, decisions between Ministries, to actually fund these successful policy shifts. Thank you.

## **Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator**

CSM?

## **CSM**

Good afternoon. I am the Secretary-General of the Organization of the United Regions. This is a network which brings together 600 regional Organizations from all over the world. Since 2008, we have a food security group and we actually organized three regional summits to speak about zero hunger and to talk

about food security. We had a lot of experience in this area and we collaborate with FAO in this. This morning, it was said and it was repeated this afternoon, that we have actually gone backwards over the past three years and over the past three years, not only have we not made progress, we have more people who are suffering from hunger and there are very specific causes. We have conflicts and wars, we have climate change, international trade, etc.

Based on our humble experience in the years that we have worked on this, we have cooperated with regional authorities from all over the world. We have a different perspective. There is another reason why we have not been making enough progress on this SDG and others. We have the feeling that it has got something to do with what Mr Vasquez said, it is about governance. In a world in which regional and local Governments participate more in this fight and to do this we need capacities and skills, we know that in this case, we would make much more progress.

I do have a question for the panellists, I have just given my opinion. I would like to know, do you believe that with less decentralized systems, we would make more progress in achieving the SDGs? In particular, the SDG relating to zero hunger.

### **Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator**

Thank you. Apologies to the other CSM speaker because you were actually the person on my list. I am going to give the floor to Spain now and then I will give the floor to you. Apologies for that. So, Spain, you have the floor.

### **Spain**

Thank you, very much. I would like to align ourselves with what was said by the European Union. I would like to start by thanking the UK, The Philippines, the Civil Society Mechanism and the other panellists for their presentations. Speaking about the experience in relation to the 2030 Agenda, particularly in the area of food security and nutrition, for Spain, this session in particular, which addresses progress in relation to the SDGs, is essential. This right to food and progress towards this is very important when it comes to accountability as well.

On this first day of this forum, this first day of the CFS, we have just heard about the SOFI Report. This session ties in as well with the HLPEF and we have the SDGs as well. This is all part of global governance, not only in relation to food security and nutrition, this is the most participative and inclusive space for this type of work. It is also very important for the 2030 Agenda in general. We have started the first cycle of four years for the implementation, we have over 211 reviews of voluntary national reviews and we are going to see if states are doing everything they need to do and everything they should do in order to make progress on SDG-2 and also in relation to SDG-17 and the other 17 SDGs.

The RBAs should consider doing an analysis of these voluntary reviews and to make some conclusions as to what states are doing in collaboration with other actors over the next four years. We are not only going through a climate challenge and crisis, we are going through a soil crisis, a food crisis. We have inequality and exclusion, family farming is going through a difficult situation. These are all key to the achievement of all the SDGs. The food systems summit on 2021 should also be inclusive and include all stakeholders, so that we can make progress and so that we can look at food security and nutrition and as the panellist from civil society mentioned, we have to look at the commitments made by national Governments and discussions that go to the transformation of food systems. Thank you.

### **Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator**

Thank you. The last intervention will be from the CSM and then we will close this round.

## CSM

Thank you. Good afternoon, everybody. My name is [inaudible: 02:05:23] I come from Bangladesh and I am speaking here on behalf of the Civil Society Mechanism. Let me thank the panellist for your valuable contribution here and I would like to especially thank the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food as she correctly mentioned about the situation on the ground in terms of inequality, in terms of the recognition of the indigenous people and also the human rights.

We, the Civil Society Mechanism, are deeply concerned with the status of SDG implementation. Regarding SDG-2, we are nowhere near attaining zero hunger because we have taken the wrong approach. We have landed the CFS that food security cannot be separated from broader food systems analysis which involves a holistic and crosscutting approach that takes into account all of the SDGs. Thus, work to achieve SDG-2 must be integrated within the broader 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. To do this, we should draw on the CFS's existing body of work including policy recommendations and voluntary guidelines such as the guidelines on responsible governance, on tenure of land, fisheries and forest and guidelines on right to food. The policy instruments support the effective development of strategies and frameworks for action to achieve the SDGs including SDG-2.

We also would like to raise concern about the corporate influence. Unfortunately, systemic barriers still exist, such as new level economic and trade policies that lead to homogenization of agriculture and influence of trans-national corporations over public policy, research and markets. This benefits private sector interest rather than public interest. It stands in the way of solutions, such as agro-ecology, social solidarity, economy and small-scale community led cooperatives. One key concern we must collectively address here is the climate crisis and the bio-diversity collapse, which are being driven by corporate interest. Small-scale present's agro-ecological farming can contribute significantly to mitigating the climate crisis. We are concerned about recent trends in the United Nations to shift towards privatized forms of food governance in which multi-stakeholder partnerships replace multilateral governance. These types of partnerships lack accountability and open up potential for conflict of interest, prioritizing private interest over public good.

We also express our concern with the United Nations partnership with the World Economic Forum, which ignores the broad analysis of food system and excludes meaningful participation from civil society and indigenous peoples. About the effectiveness, the CFS brings policy coherence on food security and nutrition policy within a broad food system approach and within the explicit mandate to advance the right to food. The legitimacy of the CFS is derived from its participatory and inclusive nature which allows for sharing of tremendous knowledge of experience from social movements, civil society and indigenous peoples who are most directly affected by the current conversing food climate crisis.

For those reasons, in the upcoming food system summit 2021, the CFS must remain as the primary United Nations decision making body as it is the best situated to take the lead at this work. The CFS can significantly strengthen the national voluntary reviews that take place within the HLPF by providing mechanisms for monitoring process towards the SDGs, drawing on the evidence and experience from the local up to the national and regional levels.

Now, more than ever, the CFS should take broader steps and more serious actions ensuring holistic, systemic and rights based approach to transformation of food security and nutrition. There is an urgent need to strengthen adoption and implement the CFS guiding frameworks. The CFS should exact political will among the FAO member states in the adoption of implementation of this guide. We need to support the localization of the CFS policies and SDG implementation at the nation level in an inclusive partnership process. We welcome discussion at global level and continuing the work towards achieving the SDGs and food system transformation through the CFS. Thank you, for your kind attention.

## **Applause**

### **Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator**

Thank you. Thank you, once again, for all of your very rich and interesting comments and questions. Before I hand it back over to the panellists, just a bit of information. We have had our first survey question and we have got two more if we have time. Thank you, there were 111 people who participated in this poll. The first question was, what year was the VGGTs approved and, unfortunately, the majority of people got it wrong and the right answer is 2012.

The majority of people thought they were adopted in 2014, but the right answer was 2012 and here comes the increase. We are going to close that one and I am going to open the next question so that people can answer it as they take their time and then I am going to ask the panellists to answer from the last speaker to the first speaker. So, get ready.

Question two on Slido, and again I encourage people who are watching this via the internet or via the web to also participate in the survey. You have to join at Slido.com and the password is CFS46. Question two is, at the country level, what do you see as the most critical area for intervention to accelerate progress toward the 2030 agenda in the next five years and the four options, and I going to read them out for the translators. A. addressing the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable. B. mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda into national action or budget planning. C. mobilizing new, innovative financing tools. D. generating market based solutions for food security via new technology.

While everyone is having time to think about their answer for that question, I am going to first give the floor to Sean to address some of the comments and questions that were made to you.

### **Mr Sean de Cleene, World Economic Forum, PSM**

I do not think there were any specifically made to me, unless I am wrong.

### **Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator**

I think there was just one comment about the wealth and the inclusiveness from the last presentation. But, I agree, there were not any specific comments to you about your presentation.

### **Mr Sean de Cleene, World Economic Forum, PSM**

I can talk to that agenda. I think what is going to be important in this next ten years is, as we look to achieve the sustainable development goals, is really looking at this issue of how do we come together. There will be some challenging discussions, at a national, a regional level and a global level as to what do we mean by food system transition. I think the CFS has an important role to play in that it is a strong multi-stakeholder platform to really engage on trying to find some of these common pathways. We need a clear direction and a clear North Star moment and it will be challenging, there is no doubt.

If we spend that entire time in conflict, between different groups and are not able to find those common transition agendas, then we will fail. That is certain and so how do we bring about that process? It will require the kind of dialogue agenda that the CFS has been very good at. It will require the CFS working with other partners like the food systems dialogues that has been developed and held in a number of countries with more than 1,000 people involved in those. It will require looking at those broader mechanisms and how they engage with these different agendas.

At the moment, food is not. It was great to hear The Philippines saying that they are looking at the NDCs. I am not sure of the figure but, it is quite low in terms of climate change, the number of NDCs that actually include food or agriculture as a part of the NDCs and so we need to build that in a strong way or actively look to have food or agriculture as a part of the NDCs. So, we need to look at those cross-frameworks and how we bring these different communities together. This is not just about civil society and business and Government and the interests of people coming together, this is also about people who are working in these different siloed groups.

I was recently at a major global nutrition conference and someone from DfID asked the question to 500 people there, who is actively involved in the COP process for this nutrition conference and I think five people put up their hand and it shows that there are these different blocs. How do we break the silos and come up with these transition pathways and the frameworks and the scenarios that will help us get there and we require both the CFS but, also, the Rome-Based Agencies to play a very strong role in helping us at a country level to establish those frameworks that countries can then make their own choices on and determine their own pathways towards transition.

**Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator**

Thank you, Sean. Mr Dacumos, yes. If you can respond to all the questions that were asked to you and, also, if you want to comment on what Sean just said.

**Mr Roy Jay S. Dacumos, Chief, Rural Institutions and Support Services Division of the Agriculture, NEDA, The Philippines**

Regarding what Sean said, in terms of the agriculture contributing to NDC, actually it is very low in the case of The Philippines. What we are very particular interested is just on the technology on alternate wetting and drying. We think that there is a potential for that technology to contribute to our NDC.

For the other question raised by FAO regarding the funding for the integrated comprehensive SDG implementation, we utilized our national budget. In fact, we practice SDG tagging of the national budget. But, more than just tagging the relationship with SDG, we also fund directly SDG programmes and projects. But, aside from that, the national budget, we also continue to access ODA official development assistance and we are interested in technical cooperation programmes and projects involving capacity building, sharing of technology. The funding we get through a combination of the national budget and ODA financing. Thank you.

**Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator**

Thank you. Neil?

**Mr Neil Briscoe, Deputy Director and Head, DfID, Global Partnerships and Multilateral Effectiveness Department, UK**

Thank you, very much. It has been a really interesting exchange. In terms of some of the questions addressed to the panel, it is very difficult to disagree with any of the challenges. For example, just on biodiversity, we have had a report in the UK recently that has highlighted the collapse of a large number of indigenous species that has taken our country by surprise.

In terms of the interlinkages, our Finnish colleague and various others talked about that. We have to break out of these silos and doing our voluntary national review, it became clear just how many sectors are required to be involved to respond to any individual goal. In some cases, we had seven or eight different

Government departments contributing to a single chapter on a single goal and that cross-fertilization but, also, the coordination is absolutely critical and that is just a governmental level, we have to get it across all stakeholders and I think in terms of the role of the CFS, it is in some ways a kind of microcosm of the combination of inputs and teamwork that we really need to crack the goals.

We have some big moments coming up and Sean mentioned COP26 which the UK will be hosting next year. That is going to be absolutely central for framing where we all go forward with climate, 2020 is also the decade of delivery. So, we are going to see a big push from the United Nations and from civil society and many others to go for a push of the final ten years of the SDGs. In 2021, the UK will be hosting the G7 and there will be a lot of attention to what we will be prioritizing there.

What Sean also mentioned was I think you said that something like USD 140 billion to make progress on SDG-2. That is almost the same figure as the entire total official development assistance globally for all development. The gulf between what is available through official sources and what is needed, as we all know, is absolutely vast and one of the things that the UK did and presented at the SDG summit in the United Nations last month, was the results of a survey we have held in the UK around investing in a better world where we asked members of the public, if you had the choice to invest your pensions, your savings in a vehicle that allowed you to help deliver the SDGs, how important would that be to you and overwhelmingly people want to do that. They also are interested that you can do this without losing out. You can do well by doing good and we took this to the United Nations and said, this is just the results of a national survey, we would really encourage everybody to look at the scope for impact investing to get somewhere close to the USD 2.5 trillion we need to deliver the SDGs in developing countries per year. It is an exciting area.

There is a lot of interest in doing this, a lot of assets that are not delivering good and are not necessarily doing very well. We would really encourage everybody to look at that, there are some countries and companies and investors that are really blazing the trail and it is also important from our perspective that while we do this, we make sure that we protect the integrity of the system, that we do not inadvertently advertise companies that are not complying with best practice. This is a really important area to unlock the resources to help deliver the decade of delivery. Thank you.

**Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator**

Thank you, Neil. Saul?

**Mr Saul Vicente Vasquez, International Treaty Council, CSM**

Thank you, Carin. We would like to answer the question that was posed, how can we make sure that the next summit will bring about change and will enable to put an end to hunger and, in our perspective, we believe that summits need to have an inclusive perspective and this inclusiveness in this perspective, the major role is not to be played by the World Economic Forum but, by CFS and this really needs to be clear in order for you to say something at this session so as to play a very important role at the summit.

Why? Well, because in this forum right here, we have developed recommendations and policy outcomes that are geared towards the achievement of several SDGs, particularly SDG-2. On top of that, because they are based on a vision which will enable us to progressively realize the human right to food amongst others. The contributions made by CFS to the HLPF include this holistic vision that take into account most SDGs, although a focus has been on SDG-2, but we do have to have a comprehensive holistic vision. Several approaches have been developed here and that is why CFS has to play a prominent role.

We believe that the summit has to strengthen multilateralism and, as pointed out by Mexico, development cooperation efforts. Economic resources should not be defining food systems, otherwise we are going to go back to the situation which we are today. Instead, there has to be development cooperation so that we

can identify the weaknesses, the criticalities here, in order to be able to address them on the basis of policies that we are continuing to develop. For example, the guidelines that are coming up on food systems and nutrition. That is a great opportunity to focus on the direction we need to move in.

We believe that this is definitely an important perspective that we need to take into account and the other, as pointed out by the distinguished delegate of Spain, has to be inclusiveness and sustainability. This is the perspective that we have had in the past and we need to keep that up but, especially, it needs to characterize the upcoming summit and especially it needs to carry towards the deliberations of CFS because we have said time and again that we need a radical change in the model that we have had thus far.

We have said before, and we heard this this morning, results have been obtained, outcomes have been delivered. We know that the outcomes are negative, we said this last year and the year before. So, why do we do things differently, we do we not turn things around to make sure that things are different? Here at FAO, we need to push forward a different model, not an innovation; that is what agro-ecology is to us. It is the sustainable model to guarantee that we can eradicate hunger in the world but, also, to address the problem of adverse effects of climate change.

We know what we can do but, on top of that, we have been discussing who we can do that with. Of course, with the Governments attending this conference here, but also with those who have been most affected by these crises and food insecurity at large, particularly smallholders who continue to produce the largest amount of food throughout the world but, they continue to be the most adversely affected. So, why not funnel the resources towards them and why not design with them, alternatives to eradicate hunger.

We believe that these are the prospects for the future and as CSM and as ingenious peoples, we are going to continue to insist that we need to really harp on human rights. This was the recommendation that was made at ECOSOC. It was said, we are not going to be able to achieve SDGs unless they are based on human rights. Thank you.

## **Applause**

### **Ms Carin Smaller, IISD, Moderator**

Thank you, and thank you, once again, to all of our panellists. Thank you to all of you for participating in the survey. Unfortunately, we are not going to have time for the third question. The results of the second question are up there and there were 99 people who participated and more than half felt that the most critical area for intervention is to mainstream the 2030 Agenda international action and budget planning, which was definitely a very strong theme of this panel with the experience from the UK and from The Philippines.

I am going to try and make some wrap up in five minutes and then I will pass back over to the Chair. I would like to thank all of our panellists, including our keynote speaker and our introductory remarks today. I think there were some very important messages that have come through and I hope I capture them fairly. We started with the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food with a very important message about the need to reduce inequality if we are going to have a food system that supports a transformative global Agenda 2030 and a particular message about the need for enhanced participation of indigenous people in that respect.

Quite an important message about the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs not sufficiently integrating the human rights into the agenda, but that still, both the human rights agenda and the SDGs remain closely aligned and mutually reinforcing but, maybe a message to the CFS, given that the CFS does have a very strong rights based focus, to help strengthen that element within the SDG discussion.

We had Ms Spatolisano from UNDESA who shared with us some of the results from the United Nations summit in New York a few months ago, reiterating that there was a very strong commitment by the member states to achieve the SDGs and Agenda 2030. A very important message about how critical youth mobilization was, particularly during the climate action summit and the importance of mobilizing the youth in this agenda for change. This was a theme that came up repeatedly throughout the Plenary Session today, including a remark from Finland about these youth are quite angry with us, so what are supposed to do and how do we change to support that movement of youth. Also, encouraged by the high-level participation of heads of state, Ministers, philanthropic leaders and the business community at the financing for development summit.

That was followed by a round of questions and comments on the importance of international cooperation, development cooperation and global solidarity to try and address the global challenges ahead, particularly climate change but, also, others and that national action alone is not going to solve this global challenge. Comments about the need for better integration of the recently adopted declaration of peasant rights as part of this rights based agenda, particularly for SDG-2.

We then moved to our panel discussion and we started off looking at the question around the principle of no one left behind. Here, we had Mr Vasquez from the CSM, speaking about the importance of the CFS as an inclusive and consensus based platform and forum to be at the centre of helping achieve that principle of leaving no one left behind and that we should put the CFS forward and I think you said this, also, in your closing remarks now, that the CFS, given how inclusive and participative it is, should be at the heart of the discussions around the food system, the changes needed to the food system and the approach to bringing people together in a consensus based manner and the need to radically change the current way of intervening to address SDG-2 or to address hunger and needing to change the way that has been done in the past and then a very important presentation from the UK about how the UK is trying to apply this principle of leaving no one behind and I think goes to the people's preference for the second question about mainstreaming Agenda 2030 into national action and we saw the example of the equality act, the inclusive data act and how the UK is trying to make sure that there is better data available, disaggregated data available, so that the right types of investments and the right scale of investment is targeted to the need, also, a very important call for the need to strive for more and a better impact, especially given that resources are insufficient to tackle the problems ahead and so it is more and more urgent to find value for money ways of achieving these goals.

We then moved to the experience of The Philippines, particularly the shifts in planning and policy that have taken place with the Green Jobs Act to try and help improve decent work, with the whole of society approach which makes sure that all actors within the society, Government, private sector and civil society are engaged in addressing the Agenda 2030. The important policy shifts that have happened around climate action, SDG-13, and the process that The Philippines is going through with its nationally determined contributions and an example of how agriculture is being integrated into those contributions to try and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Those shifts in how The Philippines national development planning is happening to try and make sure that nutrition sensitive agriculture is also prioritised and that is something that is now and will be updated in the new national development plan and some examples of laws that have been introduced to try and address that.

Finally, we had our panellist from the WEF who called for a systems thinking approach to address the Agenda 2030 and the challenges to the food system, that the 2030 Agenda is asking for the food system to move quicker and better on all fronts and that food is a major delivery vehicle, not only for SDG-2, but for all of the SDGs. We saw an example of how WEF is helping to translate the CFS guidelines at the regional level with the ASIAN guidelines that have been adopted through the support of Grow Asia and then a really important message about multi-stakeholder partnerships as being the most effective vehicle to help this happen at the national level.

In the discussions that then ensued, I think everybody recognized that the CFS has a strong role to play, not only in helping to achieve the SDG-2 agenda, but also in the upcoming food systems summit and that there is an important role for more and more cross bridging of different dialogues that are happening both within the CFS and outside the CFS on food systems as we move up to the food systems summit.

I will end there and just say, again, thank you to all of our speakers, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for UNDESA, our representatives from WEF, from UK DfID, from The Philippines and from the CSM. Thank you everyone, for your contributions.

### **Applause.**

### **Chairperson**

We are about to finish our afternoon session. The very first thing that I want to do is to thank Carin Smaller. She performed brilliantly, conducting, moderating, and facilitating this panel discussion. The keynotes that we had and the subsequent panel.

Can I get everyone's attention please? I was saying that we are all very grateful to Carin Smaller, the keynote speakers and the panellists and, of course, all of you who enriched this discussion and I am very grateful, as CFS Chair, in the name of everybody.

After consulting with the Secretary, I think it is important to recall how we got to where we are now. So, I would like to say the following. When, over the past 12 months, we have conversed, we have had conversations at the bureau of CFS on how to reflect the results of the different items on the agenda which, like these, involve panels and statements and questions and comments on the part of the membership and participants, we came to the conclusion that what we would do, and that is what we are going to do right now is, the Chairman, me in other words, will submit to you a summary of our deliberations today. This is not a negotiating document, it is not a policy decision that the committee is taking, it is just a summary, a general summary where we are going to try to capture what happened. It is an intermediate point between the proposal that exist and it was rejected, which was to create a decision on the part of the Committee on what had happened, on the discussion, on the debate, on the conversation and on everything else.

That was one extreme, the other extreme that we discussed was to simply ignore what happened here and we would have the statements, the panel, the questions and we would forget about the issue. But, we thought that that would not be a good prescient because there would have to be some kind of record in order to document what it was that happened over the three hours that we have spent together here. So, the happy medium is what we came up with, the Chairman is going to read very slowly to help out the interpreters who are wonderful professionals but, we are going to read the summary slow enough, in order for the interpreters to have the opportunity to convey my statement into the other United Nations languages, so that we can take note and just listen to a reportage and narrative and explanation which is general in nature of what happened here.

We are not going to underscore any issues and we are certainly not going to discuss specific cases. Ms Smaller, who I congratulated on everyone's behalf, is an excellent moderator and she provided a much more comprehensive and detailed summary than what I am going to be reading out right now and that was webcast and it is also going to be available on the website of FAO and CFS. Do not worry, it is not going to be lost. In case you did not hear it, it is going to be there so that all of us can go back to it and see exactly what happened over the last three hours.

There are two parts here, one part includes the names of the panellists and it shows who they are, their titles, Ms Elver, Ms Spatolisano, the panellists that spoke. All that is going to go straight to the Drafting

Committee because it is just a list, basically just the name of the individuals and their professional qualifications.

Instead, I am going to read the seven points that summarize what we worked on today.

The Committee, A. Recognized CFS as an effective platform to contribute to the successful attainment of the SDGs, particularly SDG-2. B. Welcomed that the issues identified in the CFS draft MYPAL were all raised, including the importance of gender equality, youth, quality data and date systems and reducing inequalities, all within the context of universal human rights, including the right to adequate food. C. Took note of the links between the CFS and United Nations Secretariat processes and events, including the recent climate summit, the SDG summit and the annual HLPF. D. Determined that the planned 2021 food systems summit is extremely relevant for CFS and vice versa. E. Recognized that CFS policy products and its inputs to the HLPF are effectively addressing the root causes of hunger and malnutrition while accelerating linkages among and between SDG-2 and other SDGs. F. Highlighted partnerships and investment, as well as climate action, as decisive in shaping global efforts towards Agenda 2030. G. Emphasised science, quality data and evidence based policy solutions as areas requiring more attention.

Like I said, this is a general narrative of what transpired. This is not a Committee decision, we need not negotiate where the commas should be put or where a specific question or comment should be added because this is not a Committee decision; this is a Chair's summary, as per the decision taken by the bureau.

So, I believe that my explanations were satisfactory and that said, this text will be sent to the Drafting Committee and I see that we have Cuba, the United States and Russian Federation. Cuba, please? Before Cuba takes the floor, if anyone wants to speak, please remember that we are not raising flags here, we are punching the microphone button because the room is so big and we would need 100 eyes. So, push the button. We have ten minutes interpretation time. So, Cuba, US, Russia and then The Philippines. Cuba?

### **Cuba**

Thank you, very much, Mr Chair, and thank you, very much, for the effort that you made and for your effort to make this summary. It would be very interesting to leave this as a historical memory of the Committee and the organization of the debates that were very important indeed. It would be very important, also, considering the challenges globally and considering the multilateral solutions that we are all trying to come up with in order to advance towards a fair and more equitable world to attain the 2030 Agenda. Well, there was part of the debate that regrettably you did not include in your summary, which would be really interesting and important for future generations and it would help us in our multilateral efforts, throughout the world. So, I would like to know whether your summer is to be intended as a draft for the Drafting Committee or whether the Drafting Committee also has the authority to include the rich debate that happened today. Thank you.

### **Chairperson**

Thank you, Cuba. We have taken note of your intervention and we are going to listen to all those who wish to speak and then provide answers that can meet the requests of all members. The US has the floor, please?

### **United States of America**

Thank you, Chair. We simply request if you could, once again, read the Chair's summary at a dictation speed, so we can be sure that we have heard it clearly. Thank you.

**Chairperson**

We may not have the time to do that but, we are going to first hear from Russia. Please?

**Russian Federation**

Chairman, thank you for giving me the floor. We believe that we need to decide on one very important technical issue in relation to the reflection of the Committee's decisions in the report. Unfortunately, we cannot agree with the fact that the ideas and the initiatives of the panellists are turned into general decisions of the Committee. Yes, these ideas are very interesting, some of them are very useful and helpful. But, they need to be discussed, they need to be studied and they need to be developed further. Believe us, there is also a lot to be said in relation to the issues relating to the organization of future events like the food systems summit in 2021 and we would also like to express our view on the role of CFS in relation to human rights. But, member states were only given one minute to ask questions and in these conditions, we cannot consider this decision. I repeat, this is a decision after all. We cannot see this and regard this to be a decision of the Committee. In this connection, we would like to propose that we replace this procedure and in the report say that the Committee took note of the statements made by the panellists which addressed the following issues and then we could also mention some of the items, some of the issues that you mentioned in your summary. Thank you.

**Chairperson**

Thank you, Russian Federation. The Philippines, followed by Mexico and then the Civil Society Mechanism.

**The Philippines**

I have a point of clarification, first on the process and second on the substance. We do understand on the process that this is going to be a Chair's summary and, therefore, should be under the responsibility of the Chair and if it is going to be going to the Drafting Committee, as you mentioned, as we understand, it should be also explicitly stated that way because, to allay the concerns by some of the members on how this is going to figure into the actions by the Committee, it is not really, as we understand, it is not going to be a policy decision on our part. Also, we would like to concur with the Russian Federation on how to approach this, by just taking note of if there is a Chair's summary that is going to be circulated or incorporated into the report.

Second, on the substance, we would like to point out that we appreciate the summary that you made and also the summary made by the very efficient moderation by Ms Smaller and we would just like to emphasise on the financing for development because it was touched upon during the UNDESA presentation, Ms Spatolisano, and then by some of the panellists. If that could be elaborated further or be included more in the summary because that is what is important for developing countries. Even if we do have some capacity to finance or budget the SDG implementation, we would still need other, maybe external, sources for funding this implementation. Thank you.

**Chairperson**

Thank you, The Philippines. You understood the process, sir. So, the first part of your intervention is right on point and on the second part, there is a reflection on point F on investment that covers financing, in my view. We will now listen from Mexico. Please?

## **Mexico**

Thank you, Chair. Although we understand that this is a summary of the Chair and, of course, there would be an influence from the Drafting Committee, however, I would like to respectfully suggest that we include in the summary of the Chair the following points. One: the strengthening of the CFS for the development of its activities over the coming years. Two: that the food systems summit 2021 include the active participation of the CFS. Three: that we eliminate all unilateral measure that hinder the right to food of countries. Four: that we strengthen the role of international development treaties as part of the strategy to fight against hunger and food insecurity. Thank you.

## **Chairperson**

Thank you, sir. Civil Society?

## **CSM**

Chair, thank you. We would like to start by thanking you for this process. We would like to thank all of the panellists for the presentations and in particular the Special Rapporteur and the representative of UNDESA and we would like to thank Carin, the moderator, she made some wonderful conclusions about that discussion.

Secondly, in relation to the process, it is important to clarify that this is a Chair's summary. It would be in the annexe to the report because this is not really the time place to open up negotiations.

Thirdly, we would like to say that we welcome the conclusions made by the Chair but, we would also like for the inclusion of the issue of attention to inequalities. I think the Special Rapporteur mentioned this and it was mentioned in other interventions on the floor and other panellists mentioned as well, so that we address these inequalities so that we can achieve the results we want in relation to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG-2. We believe that the issue of inequalities was actually left out of these conclusions, so we think this would be important to include this and I would also like to say that, in relation to one of the things that was said in the room, we cannot share and agree with the proposal from the Russian Federation to say that we just take note of what was said.

Having heard the results of the SOFI report this morning, we heard the presentations from various panellists, from the Special Rapporteur, the information on the results of the climate change summit. We need to make decisions and not just take note of things and I think this would be in line with the spirit of what we have been discussing today. We can only share and agree what was said by the delegation of Mexico and we would like for these elements to be included.

## **Chairperson**

Thank you, Civil Society Mechanism. It is a bit strange for you to be speaking as a panellist and then again from the floor but, we will give this floor to Finland, to be followed by the United States of America. Finland, you have the floor.

## **Finland**

Thank you, Chair. Let me thank you very much for this summary and its content. One of the key issues I did not hear, maybe I missed it, but the important issue of sustainability of food systems. We would like

to stress that point. In terms of the process, I think that it is very important to pay attention to the inclusiveness, transparency and accountability and I do understand that this time, also because of the time pressures, we go with the Chair's summary but, I do want to make a suggestion; that next year, when we play for CFS, we take into account the importance of taking into account the member states inputs and having the possibility to shape the conclusions and have things put on the screen. It is very important for us and because we have worked so much on the working measure, also with the FAO, I think we have come up with some very good practices and lessons learned and I hope that this can be taken into account. Thank you.

### **Chairperson**

Thank you, ma'am. If we were to put these things on the screen, we would need two or three month long CFS and not a week long one. US, please?

### **United States of America**

Thank you, Chair. As we all can see by the discussion, we have clearly hit on some political issues, so in a sense we are negotiating this now, my delegation think that is the wrong process and we cannot focus on the individual statements and elements of that. So, we believe that there was a proposal made earlier that the best that committee could do was take note of interventions that were made, so we have to get the terminology correct. We do not think, at this point, that the Committee can actually endorse the Chair's summary or in any way be portrayed as this is some kind of decision. The most the Committee can do at this point is take note of the summary and statements. Thank you.

### **Chairperson**

Thank you, US. Give me just a second.

The interpreters have informed us that they are only going to be able to interpret this statement for one minute. For this reason, the executive decision that the Chair of the Committee has made, that is me, is that we will leave this item where it is now, open, so that we can have further discussions and consultations with the Secretariat and the legal office and legal counsel, so we can see what we can do and we will discuss it in the first session tomorrow morning. This is an option and I am convinced that this will be satisfactory to everyone.

Thank you, very much, you are all invited to the side events that will take place now and they are going to be displayed on the screen. Tomorrow we will begin our work at 10 a.m. sharp with the conclusions of this item on the agenda. Thank you.