

16 October PM

II. SOFI, ITS POLICY IMPLICATIONS and the SDGs (continue)

CHAIRPERSON

And so, now we are going to move on to go back to Item on the State of Food Security Nutrition in the World 2019, or the SOFI report. And I have a list of speakers and I am going to give the floor without further ado to the Republic of South Africa who will speak on behalf of the Africa Regional Group. You have the floor for five minutes South Africa. South Africa, you have the floor.

We could not continue because of time. We continued yesterday and again we had to cut it short because of time. And we are finalising it now, item II on the SOFI report. Do you have a statement to be made on behalf of the Africa Group? Please.

South Africa

I am aware of the statement but the statement was supposed to have been posted via the email yesterday.

CHAIRPERSON

Okay. I understand Sir. Thank you very much.

South Africa

All right. Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you South Africa and thank you to the Africa Regional Group. We need silence. We need silence in the hall to proceed with the Committee. We have not adjourned. We have not finished. We are on Item II so please take your seats or take your leave. We will now listen to Indonesia. Indonesia. Do we have Indonesia in the room on Item II? You have the floor sir, three minutes.

Indonesia

Thank you Chairperson. Due to the time constraints I will convey a very short version and the full version I will as the national statement will be conveyed to the Secretariat.

I would also like to align our statement with G77 and China and Asia Group. Similar to the previous delegation, we note that we are concerned and alarmed the fact global hunger continue to be on the rise. We believe this serious situation calls for extraordinary action that involve policy convergence along with developed policy domain and stronger collaboration among relevant stakeholders.

To tackle the challenges of improving food security and nutrition the Indonesian government commit to continue to focus on food availability, accessibility and utilisation. To ensure food availability Indonesia has increased food production by optimising the use of the marginal land boosting agriculture mechanisms, development of water storage and education infrastructure.

And actually the knowledge and innovation for climate change adaption and mitigation and providing agricultural insurance to minimise vermin risk. In dealing with the fishery and aquaculture development again, I would like to say that we try always to protect our marine from the illegal fishing, we call it IUU fishing, foreign intervention and conserve our marine ecosystem.

Indonesia also aim to improve national logistics system maintaining the stability of the food prices, expanding market access and developing essential food safety net system and delivering food aid for the emergencies area.

In the aspect of the food utilisation Indonesia is focused on education and promoting of a variety of balances of safe nutritional, food safety development and improvement of sanitation and health services. Indonesia use the food security and vulnerability atlas to monitor vulnerability and spot programme planning and implementation and the district, sub-district and community levels.

We use all our efforts according to the global food security index Indonesia food security ranks continue to improve for the last three years from 75 in 2015 to 65 in 2018 out of 113 countries in the world. We have also managed to reduce food price inflation and reduce the prevalence of stunting, overweight and undernourishment.

Thus our success story highlights the importance of using local resources, developing local capacity as well as ensuring policy and inclusivity. On this occasion I would like to offer Indonesia's commitment to participate and support the global effort in achieving food security and nutrition including through the agricultural cooperation with the South-South and Triangular Cooperation Framework. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you sir. I gave Indonesia some more time on account of the noise that was coming out of the door. Some colleagues were leaving the room. So that is why I gave them some more seconds. I will read the list of speakers so that everybody knows it and especially the speakers to be ready.

I will now give the floor to China followed by the Private Sector Mechanism, then France, the Civil Society Mechanism, Cuba, Switzerland, the Gates Foundation, New Zealand, Belgium, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Thailand, Angola and the Parliamentary Front Against Hunger in the order that I have mentioned them. I will ring the bell when you have, that's a 30 second warning, when you hear the bell 30 second warning. China three minutes.

China

Thank you Mr Chairperson, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. China thanks the Secretariat for the presentation of SOFI 2019. and we note that the Global Food and Agricultural Development is undergoing profound changes. The number of the hungry in the world is on the rise posing new challenges to the achievement of SDGs.

China thinks it is important to conduct policy dialogue, technical exchange information sharing and strengthen multilateral cooperation. China will continue to firmly support the work of the CFS, and we will engage in, as I mentioned, policy dialogue, technical exchange and information sharing.

Ladies and gentlemen, early October of this year, China marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China and over the past seven decades through hard work and self-reliance the Chinese people have overcome poverty and backwardness and through 40 years of reform and opening up efforts, 700 million Chinese people have been lifted out of the poverty. The poverty rate in rural areas had dropped from 97.5 percent in 1970 to 1.7 percent in 2018. In 2020 China will eliminate absolute poverty achieving SDG on poverty elimination ten years ahead of the schedule.

This will boost the confidence of the international community on poverty reduction efforts. China has always been open and engaged in equal mutually beneficial and win-win cooperation with all countries in the world in all fields. Elimination of hunger is a major challenge and we are ready to share with all countries our experiences and contribute to the acceleration and implementation of SDG2 and full achievement of all SDGs. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much sir. And we will now listen to the private sector for five minutes please. Five.

PSM

Thank you Chairperson. Good evening. The findings of the 2019 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World are extremely sobering. For the fourth year in a row the number have gone up and we have failed to make meaningful progress towards the many targets of the SDG2. This persistent lack of progress should serve as a call to action for everyone in this room as the DG notes, we do not have the luxury of business as usual.

Our actions must become vastly more coordinated and more effective and the must do the same as a matter of great urgency. With the new findings come from more of the world's hungry and undernourished call Asia home. We also have the double burden of rising obesity rates across the region as well. This troubling trend only heightens the need for renewed effort to build stronger and more impactful partnerships among governments, industry, civil society to develop shared solutions and act now.

As the Executive Director of CropLife Asia, it is also clear that we must invest more in science, infrastructure in rural areas which bears this disproportionate share of the global burden in malnutrition and food insecurity. We must strengthen the resilience and adaptive capability of the food system this area of support in the face of climate change and adverse economic cycles.

Asia is the home to most of the world's smallholder farmers. This men and women remain on the front lines in the fight against hunger as they are the most severely impacted by the disruption arising from these challenges.

We must ensure that they are enabled and empowered to grow more safe and nutritious food sustainably. That means that having the access to market, social protection, services and technology, they need to realize successful livelihood and good nutrition. The role of women in this respect is also crucial as we are pleased to hear that the DG has stated this yesterday.

We commend the inclusion of estimates of the combined prevalence of moderate and severe food insecurity as a means of providing a more complete picture of the obstacles that we face in combating hunger and the means of overcoming them.

To that end, I hope that this report may play role in galvanising the redoubled efforts that are so sorely needed. The stakes in Asia and across the world are simply too high not to act now. Thank you Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you to Private Sector mechanism. And we will now hear the Republic of France. You have the floor.

France

Thank you. Thank you Chairperson. France welcomes the statement given by Finland on behalf of the European Union.

The new edition of SOFI has unfortunately confirmed that we are on a downward trend. The figures are very alarming, and it is our collective responsibility to buck that trend very quickly if we achieve the SDGs by 2030.

This year the report shows the impact of the effects of slowdowns and economic slowdown on food insecurity. Economic crises compound the seriousness of food insecurity and lead to greater crises that are often caused by climate change and conflicts also.

We must act on these three pillars then. Firstly by reducing conflict. Secondly, adapting to climate shocks. And thirdly, by reducing economic vulnerability which entails less dependence on commodities, diversifying the economy and accumulating human capital.

France through its international action and development policy is working towards this. On 20th October it will publish its new international strategy on food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture.

This has five axes stepping up world governance of food security and nutrition with a central role played by human organizations and the CFS. Secondly, develop sustainable agricultural systems particularly agroecology in a context of climate change and reduced biodiversity.

Thirdly, stress nutrition through a multisectoral integrated approach. Fourthly, support the creation of employments in rural areas particularly through young people and family farming. And fifthly, to step up food assistance for vulnerable populations and to improve their resilience.

Additionally, as part of the Chairperson of the G7 on Fighting Inequalities, France addressed the issue of decent work for rural youth in the Sahel and called upon mobilising resources to attack this scourge. These are just a few examples of the work we have done, but we must not rest on our laurels.

I would also like to mention the last GEAC report which is unprecedented and describes how land degradation is affecting the climate. We know that climate change has a huge impact on the four pillars of food and security availability access, use and stability. These effects vary from country to country, but it is clear that they are worse in low income countries. General mobilisation for sustainability is key today to tackle climate change and our discussions on agroecology have contributed to this.

France work with FAO and the other Rome based agencies as well as the CFS to increase the impact to make sure that we are effective in attaining the sustainable development goals. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you France. I had to give a little bit more time to France, as you have realized, because of that technical glitch. So, you all saw that. Civil Society Mechanism, you have the floor.

CSM

Chatrika Selwandi [?] from Sri Lanka [unclear 02:48:28] Nationalist Federation. The Civil Society and the Indigenous People Mechanism for relations with the CFS appreciate the SOFI report 2019 its analysis and reflections.

However, the result of the report are shocking. Hunger is on the rise. Today, almost as many millions of people are undernourished as ten years ago when the CFS was reformed. Since 2015 the number of the hungry is increasing. The SOFI report confirms what we witness every day in our communities and countries. Millions of people are left behind struggling for their right and livelihoods. Again, the criminalisation, exclusion and other resource grabbing, market concentration unwinding inequities within and among countries.

The recent report of the International Panel on Climate Change shows that land is under increasing pressure and the current food system is a key driver of the climate crisis severely impacting food security. We see unprecedented losses of biodiversity, persistent conflicts and food prices increasing criminalisation of human rights defenders, violence against women as other reports point out.

The 2030 agenda and the sustainable development goals are heading for failures especially SDG2. Acceleration is not enough we need to change direction. If a train goes into a wrong direction acceleration is not a solution. The new direction of policies is based on the certainty of the people and their human rights and the urgent need for a profound agroecological transformation of the food system toward food sovereignty and the full realisation of the right to adequate food.

Chairperson, the CFS has developed and adapted policy instruments that can and should guide a shift towards more people and community centred public policies. Member States and UN agencies should make much stronger efforts to use and apply CFS policy instruments and ensure policy requirements and accountability in close cooperation with us as peasants and smallholder family farmers, agricultural and food workers, indigenous peoples, pastoralists, fisher folks, landless, consumers, women, youth, children and urban food insecure.

Chairperson, the CFS, its members and participants must promote the respect, protection and fulfilment of women's rights and ensure that they become a transversal priority for the CFS in the ongoing and upcoming policy negotiation.

Chairperson, the urgently needed change of direction includes a different relationship with us. The young people, our agency our agency autonomy and diversity as youth must be recognised and respected. We have the right to decent work, living wage and decent incomes. The right to land and other natural resources is fundamental for us as young food producers.

CFS and member States should give priority attention to those of us in the youth who live and work with the communities most affected by hunger and malnutrition. Our voice must be heard. Our rights to participate in policy decision making on all levels must be ensured.

Chairperson the world is at the crossroad and our future is at risk. We can't afford to not change direction. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much indeed CSM for that statement. I have just received a message from the representation of Cuba sent to the Secretariat saying that they would prefer to record a video tomorrow whenever it is suitable. So, please take note of that. And we now move on to Switzerland.

Switzerland

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, Switzerland is deeply concerned that after decades of steady decline the trend in world hunger reverted in 2015. Ever since hunger is on the rise again reaching an alarming number of 821 million undernourished people in the world with the highest prevalence of 20 percent in Africa, but 500 million people in Asia. This is unacceptable.

The SOFI report 2019 highlights well the causes of hunger. Economic shocks many of them are manmade, prolonging and worsening the severity of acute food insecurity. Transformative change of food and agricultural system is necessary.

Switzerland sees the following three critical aspects to accelerate this required transformation. One, an integrated sustainable food systems approach. Two, inclusive multi stakeholder partnerships. And three, agroecology as a pathway to more sustainable systems.

On these points, first, we understand an integrated sustainable food systems approach as: A, ranging from before production to consumption and beyond. B, including all four dimensions of food security. C, taking into account the social, economic and environmental dimensions. And D, including related systems outcomes.

Two, inclusive multi stakeholder partnerships are key to find robust global solutions to address multi-faceted, complex and systemic global challenges like climate change and food security. Such multi stakeholder partnerships allow for the required dynamic and systemic interaction between all stakeholders, policymakers, governments, private sector, civil society, academia, and most importantly the 570 million smallholder farmers alike.

Three, Switzerland recognises agroecology as one major path towards more sustainable systems. Agroecology is a relevant systemic and holistic approach that promotes sustainable agriculture and food systems in support of the SDGs.

The HLPE report on agroecology and other innovations as well as FAOs ten elements on agroecology are important reference documents that provide guidance towards more sustainable food systems.

Ladies and gentlemen, one potentially powerful policy are the voluntary guidelines on food systems and nutrition. Switzerland is pleased to see progress and acknowledges these guidelines as a great opportunity to address today's policy fragmentation across food, agriculture, trade and health sectors.

Switzerland, therefore, stresses the important to define and develop sustainable diets as healthy for humans, for society and the environment. Thank you Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Switzerland. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has the floor. Actually they are hosting a cocktail at this time, I believe. Pardon. Yes I have been told that the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is probably not present. Let us see if we can find anyone else before we finish the session. New Zealand.

New Zealand

Thank you Chairperson. The overall challenge the world is facing over the coming decades has already been well described by other speakers. Essentially, we must produce more food that is higher in nutrition in more efficient manner using less resources.

Changes to the global agriculture and food system are necessary if we are to address climate change, eliminate hunger and halt biodiversity loss. There are many challenges that lie ahead of us to achieve the level of transformation needed to scale up efforts in ways that support small scale farmers, improve the productivity of farms, build resilience and significantly reduce emissions across the entire agricultural system.

To achieve this triple win we must simultaneously increase productivity, reduce environmental impacts and ensure people have access to an affordable and stable supply of nutritious foods. Our economies must focus on increasing agricultural efficiency and increasing the amount of food that is lost or wasted.

In fostering a sustainable food system the focus must also shift from calorie intake to nutritional quality. Over two billion people suffer from micronutrient deficiencies. In some countries people do not have enough iron, and others not enough vitamin A, while in many countries people have excess energy intake resulting in increased rates of obesity.

New Zealand believes the report provides a useful and comprehensive contribution to discussions on different pathways towards sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition.

New Zealand agrees that given the huge diversity of food systems across and within countries and the diversity of the challenges and constraints they face contexts specific pathways towards sustainable food systems can be developed. And these transition pathways may be grounded in different narratives and these will lead to different sets of options for how change is realized. Thank you Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much indeed New Zealand. Belgium please.

Belgium

Chairperson, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, first of all Belgium aligns itself with the EUs statement.

The general observation after years of SDG implementation is that despite the many efforts we are not on track to reach the SDGs by the 2030 deadline. The observation is supported by various reports including the Global Sustainable Development report presented in New York at the SDG Summit.

The 2019 SOFI report discussed as the FSC this week also makes this case with particular focus on SDG2 eradicating hunger and malnutrition in all its forms is further away now than it has been over the past decade. More 820 million in the world are still hungry. This number underscores the immense challenge of achieving the zero hunger objective by 2030.

Four years down the line in the Agenda 2030 and ten years after the reform of CFS Belgium is convinced that three observations remain particularly relevant if we truly want to accelerate progress on SDG2 in order to achieve all the SDGs.

First, as we have a little over ten years left to reach the Agenda 2030. That means that our actions to tackle these troubling trends will have to be bolder. Not only in scale, but also in terms of multisectoral collaboration in order to provide the adequate frameworks and policy guidance by involving all relevant sectors and aiming at achieving a pro-poor and inclusive transformation.

The active engagement of the Civil Society and engaged citizens at large is crucial. Also the inclusion of the private sector in new ways of financing are key. All actors need to be involved such as academia and youth. We acknowledge the crucial role of CFS in this regard as the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform to work together towards the elimination of hunger and ensuring food security and nutrition for all human beings. Second, we need to continue to focus on those furthest behind. Development will never be sustainable if it is not fair and inclusive.

Therefore, we need to further intensify our efforts to realisations of human rights, in particular the right to food. The food insecurity experience scale shows us another disturbing number, namely that about two billion people in the world experienced moderate or severe food insecurity. In every continent the

prevalence rate is slightly higher among women than men. Gender equality, women and girl's rights and women's empowerment need to be systematically mainstreamed. Also, least developed countries and conflict affected countries continue to merit our full attention.

Peaceful, just and inclusive societies are important levers in fighting poverty. Belgium stands ready to support efforts in these areas including through the application of the CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in protracted crises.

Third, we need to recognise better the main interlinkages between the different SDGs, the climate agenda and the financing agenda. Implementing Agenda 2030 is about synergies as much as it is about trade-offs. The tough policy choices will need to be made. Belgium will continue to strengthen our approaches for policy coverings. Thank you Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Belgium. The Republic of Korea please.

Republic of Korea

... of the Republic of Korea. Today we confront undeniable challenge that the number of the world's undernourished people is sliding backwards during the last three consecutive years reversing the positive trend in the preceding years. The number of the undernourished people increased by 10 million in 2018.

It keeps increasing across every cline in Asia. About 500 million people are suffering from malnutrition. It is truly a red light in achieving sustainable development goals by 2030, particularly goal number two: zero hunger. Moreover, the increasing number of refugees, enforced migrants due to regional conflicts and natural disasters, bring negative impacts on the world food security.

Against this backdrop we all recognise that the international community's cooperation is more critical than ever before. In this regard, Republic of Korea joined the Food Assistance Convention last year. We have donated 50,000 metric tons of rice to four countries in the Middle East and Africa last year and also this year.

The Korean government is also exerting efforts to improve agricultural productivity and promote rural development in developing countries. We have established several centres named ACOPIA [?] in Asia, Africa and Latin America to transfer our experience of agricultural policies and technologies.

Furthermore, in order to enhance agricultural infrastructure we have been implementing rural development and irrigation projects in 12 countries. Through these projects we are contributing to the improvement of agricultural productivity and income growth of rural households and are promoting the sustainability of agricultural system in developing countries.

Chairperson, before conclusion I would like to make a brief reference to transponder of animal disease as related to the world food security. On September 16 the first outbreak of African swine fever was detected in Korea, and we are struggling to block additional outbreaks. Despite our utmost efforts for disease control we still have difficulties due to the lack of full understanding of the fever.

I hope that the international community will share their relevant information and experience of preventing or eradicating this scourge. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. Thank you very much. And now we are going to hear from Malaysia please.

Malaysia

Thank you Chairperson. Malaysia aligns itself with the statement made by the Philippines on behalf of the Asia Group and the statement by South Sudan on behalf of the G77 and China.

SOFI 2019 report reminds us that business should not be as usual. The increasing number of global hunger and undernourishment while the trend of overweight and obesity are on the rise showed us that there is a growing disparity in access to food. These pose great challenges for us to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition by 2030. We do not have much time left, we must be bolder.

Chairperson, most of the countries experiencing undernourishment in correspondence with economic slowdowns and downturns are developing countries that are highly dependent on commodity exports and imports.

Malaysia is a country that depends on export of commodities while being a net importer of food products. The change in commodity prices affects terms of trade, exchange rates and balance of payments which will impact the prices of food and inputs for food and agriculture production.

To mitigate this effect the government of Malaysia adopted pro-poor policies that support vulnerable groups including women, youth and indigenous people. This is reflected in our national budget for 2020 which was announced a few days ago. Where significant allotment is dedicated to improving farmers' resilience through the provision of infrastructures, new production technology, improving access to financing, as well as provision of incentives and income support with the aim to reduce inequalities and increase the vulnerable groups resilience to commodity price volatility.

The United Nation systems in particular the Rome based agencies play a key role in providing integrated support for countries to understand the nexus between economic growth, poverty and food security and nutrition. These could improve the ability to adapt and mitigate factors affecting food security and nutrition. Therefore, resilience building is salient for countries to minimise negative effects to food security and economic and social stability.

Lastly Chairperson, Malaysia would like to emphasise the importance of more aligned partnerships between multi stakeholders in resilience building for countries to accelerate its effort to improve food security and nutrition. As the food systems constitute many players including those beyond the food and agriculture domain, partnerships should expand to non-traditional partners and engagement with these stakeholders must be done on a systematic basis for a more concerted contribution to its achieving 2030. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you sir. Now the floor goes to Thailand please.

Thailand

Thank you Chairperson. First of all, Thailand align with the Asia statement delivered by the Philippines.

Hunger and poverty are our utmost concern which related to our other problems such as conflict, migration and climate change. Thailand realize the importance to nutritional values and healthy food for our people to lead a healthier life.

Over the years, Thailand have adopted sufficiency economy philosophy or SEP as a key strategy of our country to achieve the national sustainable development and SDG. The initiated SEP for SDG partnership

programme has successfully ensured food security and nutrition. This knowledge has been distributed to our neighbouring country.

With regard to the eliminating hunger the initiative of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn who is FAO Goodwill Ambassador for Zero Hunger and WFPs Special Ambassador for School Feeding, helped support the food security and nutrition of target groups nationwide through the home grown school feeding.

Essentially Thailand has implemented a policy on collaborative big farming system which engage the groups of smallholders to work together to increase their productivity and reduce productivity cause through the public/private and producer partnership.

In addition, young small farmer programme has been launched to empower local communities and local enterprises with new innovation. This approach has strengthened the country's economy at the grass roots level. We aim to enhance and link farmers and producer to the market for sustained development.

Lastly, Thailand commits itself to achieve food security and eliminate malnutrition at all forms. It will continue its role to enhancing partnership of our country and all stakeholders to share experiences and best practices. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. Thank you Thailand. We will now give the floor to Angola please.

Angola

Thank you Chairperson. Because we do not have much time we will send in our statement to the Secretariat and I would like to add also, that my delegation is in line with the statement made by the Group of 77 and Africa. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

The delegation from the Parliamentary Front Against Hunger please.

Well we had a meeting with them this afternoon and they assured me they would be present. Maybe they have been held up somewhere. But in any case, the Gates Foundation has not arrived and that takes us to the end of the list of speakers. If I could just have a second please.

So in respect of Item II on our agenda we, I think, can say that it has now been concluded. And I would like to thank all of those delegations who have taken the floor here in plenary, also those who have sent in their statements in writing and those who intend to record their statements by video.

The conclusions from this issue will be established according to the same method that we decided upon and that we have done already. The Secretariat, well this concludes Item II and the Secretariat is now going to deal with some administrative matters.

SECRETARY

Thank you Chairperson. Thank you everyone who has remained after this long day. I will be short.

The statements that you have made here please feel free to send them to the CFS Secretariat. We will be posting those statements on the CFS website. Ideally those will be as delivered.

We still are waiting for at least one Regional Group's bureau nominations. So, if you could take that back to your groups to make sure that everyone has communicated those formally to the CFS Secretariat.

Also, just outside these doors in the hallway are two white boxes that our youth delegates have asked us to provide our inputs, questions, comments in advance of the Special Youth Event programmed for Friday morning. So, if you could be so kind, please take a minute or two and provide some input to make that a valuable and useful discussion.

Similar, on the CFS website the address of which is FAO.org/CFS/CFS46 is the survey site for each of the sessions that we have concluded so far. Again, having your feedback input will help us plan for next year even better. That is it, Mr Chair, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Chris, Secretary Hegadon. If there are no other questions on administrative issues, the 46th session of the Committee on World Security will reconvene tomorrow morning at 10 a.m. here in this room. Thank you all.

Meeting adjourned at 19.17 p.m.