

Inputs of the Russian Federation to the Zero Draft CFS Policy Recommendations on Building Resilient Food Systems

- The Russian Federation believes that the issue of high and unsustainable levels of public debt should be given greater attention within the CFS Policy Recommendations. Excessive debt burdens significantly constrain countries' fiscal space and their ability to invest in resilient food systems, rural development, agricultural infrastructure, research and innovation, and social protection. The CFS could play a useful role in developing policy-relevant recommendations and facilitating dialogue on how debt-related challenges affect food security and nutrition outcomes.

- The Russian Federation considers it essential that CFS Policy Recommendations address more comprehensively the impact of trade and financial restrictions, including unilateral coercive measures (UCMs), on the resilience and sustainability of food systems worldwide, including in Latin America, Africa, Asia and Europe. These restrictions have systemic and cross-cutting effects that go well beyond trade flows, affecting production, investment, innovation and long-term development prospects.

Trade and financial restrictions disrupt agricultural production and trigger high food price inflation, undermine supply chains and logistics, and constrain access to essential agricultural inputs, including seeds, fertilizers, plant protection products, machinery, energy and financial services. This has been highlighted in the recent SOFI-2025. They increase production, energy and transportation costs, reduce farmers' incomes and weaken incentives for investment, thereby exacerbating volatility in food availability, affordability and accessibility. Ultimately, such measures have a disproportionate negative impact on food security and nutrition, particularly for low-income countries and populations in vulnerable situations.

In addition, trade restrictions negatively affect the diversity and adaptability of food systems, limit the exchange of knowledge, technologies and best practices, and hinder international scientific and technical cooperation. They may distort science-based and risk-based decision-making processes, weaken early warning systems and reduce preparedness and response capacities in the face of food crises and other emergencies.

Addressing the multifaceted impacts of UCMs, trade and financial restrictions is necessary to protect populations in vulnerable situations, strengthen social protection systems, preserve the proper functioning of markets and support sustainable approaches such as agroecology, circular food systems and resource-efficient agricultural practices.

- The Policy Recommendations should place stronger emphasis on the importance of equitable access to technologies, innovation and digital solutions across the entire agri-food value chain. This includes production technologies, climate-smart and resource-efficient practices, data and information systems, and technologies for storage, processing and distribution. At the same time, the report should underline the interconnectedness of local, national, regional and global markets, and the need to ensure that this interconnectedness contributes to stability, resilience and inclusiveness rather than increasing vulnerabilities.

- The Policy Recommendations should more thoroughly address issues related to emergency response and crisis management in food systems. Particular attention should be paid to ensuring coherence and continuity between humanitarian assistance and long-term development efforts, avoiding gaps in financing, coordination and institutional responsibility. Strengthening early warning, preparedness and anticipatory action mechanisms is essential to reduce the scale and impact of food crises.

- The Policy Recommendations should also reflect new and emerging challenges that are increasingly affecting food security and nutrition. These include transboundary animal diseases, which pose serious risks to agricultural production and trade, as well as economic- and disaster-related migration, which has significant implications for rural livelihoods, labor availability, social cohesion and food system stability in both countries of origin and destination.

- In order to enhance accessibility, inclusiveness and practical usability, the Policy Recommendations should be clearly structured and organized into coherent thematic sections. Such an approach would facilitate understanding by a broad range of stakeholders and support effective implementation of the agreed policy recommendations.