

## **Holiday greetings from the Committee on World Food Security!**

2021 has been a pivotal year for CFS and the rest of the global food security and nutrition community. Unfortunately, the numbers of hungry and malnourished are going in the wrong direction, but we mustn't lose faith in our collective ability to urgently reverse these trends. We all must double down on our shared commitments in the 2030 Agenda, to address conflicts, climate change, persisting poverty and inequalities, and the compounding impact of the COVID-19 pandemic which have increased inequalities all around the world and the numbers of hungry and malnourished to unacceptable levels.

Despite the enormity of the challenge, I have seen unambiguous conviction and action by the global community for a world free from hunger and malnutrition. This year saw the world come together at the UN Food Systems Summit in September to mobilize action, investments and policies to transform our food systems. In his Statement of Action, UN Secretary-General António Guterres noted that "all participants were able to benefit from the engagement and products of the CFS, that steers global policy making" and highlighted the critical importance of CFS delivering on its mandate. I have no doubt that the Committee will respond to the Secretary General's call to engage to provide leadership, in a responsive way. Likewise, the UNFCCC COP 26 held in November and the Nutrition for Growth Summit in Japan in December spotlighted hunger and malnutrition and the urgent actions needed to address them.

*"The CFS remains an essential intergovernmental and stakeholder platform for all working together to ensure food security and nutrition for all through sustainable and transformative food systems. Engagement with the CFS to provide leadership to the follow-up to the FSS will be essential to deliver on its mandate." (UN SG Statement of Action)*

The year was among the busiest for CFS with three plenary sessions – CFS 47 in February, CFS 48 in June and CFS 49 in October. CFS 47 saw the adoption of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSN) after many years of consultation and intense negotiation. The CFS policy recommendations on Agroecological and other Innovative Approaches were endorsed at CFS 48. Our 49th Plenary session focused on the 2021 State of Food Security and Nutrition report; uptake of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition; the implications of the UN Food Systems Summit on CFS; ongoing CFS workstreams; and priorities and synergies and opportunities between CFS and the 3 Rio Conventions.

We need to harness the momentum generated by these efforts together with existing tools, products, resources and partnerships to speed up the transformation needed to fulfil the 2030 Agenda through the advancement of SDG 2 and inclusive, resilient, equitable, sustainable and healthy food systems. We agree that the moment is now; that the coming years will mark the difference for decades to come and for billions of people and the planet.

CFS will be front and center in this effort, hand in hand with the Rome Based Agencies, playing its convening role in transforming food systems for the progressive realization of the right to adequate food, as the most inclusive global inter-governmental policy platform. It offers what no other existing international platform does: an inclusive multilateral space where countries, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders; The UN system and other stakeholders come together to share, deliberate

and reach consensus on complex systemic issues for achieving food security and nutrition, providing also a knowledge-governance interface (the CFS HLPE) that is transparent and participatory.

In 2022, we will conclude critical components of our current programme of work including on gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment, youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems, and set the pace for our work on data collection and analysis and on reducing inequalities for food security and nutrition.

None of our work is possible without the tremendous support we receive from our Members, Bureau and Advisory Group members, our funders and other stakeholders. I thank you all on behalf of myself and the CFS Secretariat. We are counting on your continued support in our work to achieve the Committee's vision.

Gabriel Ferrero y de Loma-Osorio  
Chairperson  
Committee on World Food Security