



## Statement of the Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) on the conflict in Ukraine delivered on the occasion of the Joint Meeting of the CFS Bureau and its Advisory Committee

18 March 2022, Rome, Italy

Dear colleagues, before going into our substantive segment of the meeting, I wish to start by sharing some reflections. Today, we meet in a different world compared with the one we found ourselves in at the beginning of the year, when we held our last meeting.

The war in Ukraine adds suffering to the already existing conflicts in many parts of the world.

I align with the words of the FAO Director-General Dr QU Dongyu, when he spoke last week at the G7 Extraordinary Meeting of Agriculture Ministers:

*"We deplore the loss of life and displacement of populations. We join the call of the UN Secretary General to end the war, restore peace and protect people's lives. We stand on the side of the suffering people in the Ukraine crisis, and express our solidarity with the people and particularly the ones deriving their livelihood from agriculture."*

While thousands of lives are lost in Ukraine, many of which are civilians, the war hits all people across the globe through our interconnected global food system. The most vulnerable, the poorest and most excluded people and communities will be hit hardest.

Food, energy and fertilizer prices will rise, causing more hunger and malnutrition.

Many of our governments were already facing a difficult financial situation and little fiscal space.

Countries that are most dependent on food imports will be severely affected.

Humanitarian aid will be more costly and each dollar donated will deliver less food.

The UN General Assembly agreed on the expression of:

*"concern about the potential impact of the conflict on increased food insecurity globally, as Ukraine and the region are one of the world's most important areas for grain and agricultural exports, when millions of people are facing famine or the immediate risk of famine or are experiencing severe food insecurity in several regions of the world, as well as on energy security".*

We are all devastated by the effects of the conflict.

The Security Council and the General Assembly must play their key function in addressing the political and security issues related to this conflict.

The Committee on World Food Security was established in 1974, and reformed in 2009, to serve as the intergovernmental body where governments and all different stakeholders gather to face the severe food crises of those days and the long-term challenges to achieving food security and nutrition for all.

This is the space our governments designed to coordinate our policies and agree on difficult issues and in difficult moments.

I invite us all to focus our attention now on the short- and medium-term impacts this war is having, and will continue to have, on the wellbeing of billions of people, on those most vulnerable.

How can we build on what we learned in the past decade to ensure that we effectively face the immediate impacts of this crisis; to ensure that the next harvest is planted and secured; to shorten supply chains; to empower farmers in every country, especially smallholder and family farmers, to be resilient and a key part of the solution to the shock; to reinforce social protection systems.

Dear colleagues,

I have no doubt that CFS will rise to the occasion and will strive to provide its inclusive and intergovernmental platform to foster coordinated policy responses to the impact of this crisis on hunger, malnutrition and on sustainable and inclusive food systems.