

## 2022 Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA)

### Plenary 1 - *opening of the Agriculture Minister conference*

---

- Excellences, ladies and gentlemen.
- Allow me to first express my deepest gratitude to our host **Minister Ozdemir**, for inviting the Committee on World Food Security – the CFS - to organize this second High-Level Panel, which focused on the critical importance of land tenure and governance for sustainable land use and healthy soils.
- In this High Level Panel we overviewed the uptake, impact, lessons learned and the contribution to achieving SDG 2 and other SDGs of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forestry –commonly known as the CFS VGGTs-. These Guidelines were adopted ten years ago at the CFS as the internationally negotiated framework to improve land governance, with human rights at the centre.

#### INTEGRATION

- On his remarks at the High Level Panel, Minister **Ozdemir**, provided an holistic perspective and highlighted the important role of soils and land for a wide range of SDGs, to fight against poverty and inequalities and for climate action.
- In these lines, **Her. Exc. Frida Krifca**, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Albania spoke to the critical role of gender equality around issues of tenure and highlighted her government’s work to address those issues directly in their national policies and programs.
- These reflections brought as to a **first conclusion, the need for integration**, through a **“Food Systems” approach** that urges us to refrain from looking the issues of land in isolation of biodiversity, climate, landscapes, rural prosperity, social justice and the empowerment of smallholders and family farmers. We noted the potentials of bringing together our national pathways for achieving SDG 2 in an integrated manner with all of the SDGs, with the NDCs and National Adaptation Programs of Action.

#### COMMITTMENT

- Joining participants in celebrating the 10-year anniversary of the adoption of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines, minister Ozdemir noted that the Guidelines are making an

Check against delivery

important contribution to food security by securing property and use rights and equitable access to land, fisheries and forests.

- This was supported by speakers from the CGIAR, Civil Society and the Private Sector, who also highlighted the importance of **youth and women's** empowerment.
- FAO's Chief Economist Dr. Maximo Torero provided evidence of the uptake of the VGGT around the world -133 countries in different ways- and detailed efforts by FAO to support countries on their adoption of the Guidelines in 78 countries.
- However, we also realized that despite encouraging examples of the implementation and impact of the VGGTs, the scale is not enough and the world's attention on land tenure has slid down the global priority list over the years.
- **Hence, our second conclusion is a strong plea for an urgent recommitment to existing global frameworks such as the VGGTs**, as well as to others equally needed for sustainable land use such as the Principles for Responsible Investments in Agriculture, or the CFS Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and other Innovative Approaches recently adopted.

## GO LOCAL

- The third conclusion of the session is **the need to think and act local**. This was exemplified by **His.E. Ibrahim Turay**, Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Sierra Leone. He noted the importance of an inclusive and bottom-up approach to developing their national framework for tenure governance, including traditional leaders, local authorities, civil society, and other stakeholders.

## GO GLOBAL

- As our last conclusion, the session called for **the need to connect globally**, calling on governments and other stakeholders to make use of the Committee on World Food Security and to connect the negotiations and agreements in this arena with those under the COPs on Climate, biodiversity and desertification, with the World Health and Environmental Assemblies and other multilateral fora.
- I thank you. Over to you, Excellency.