

CFS54

Item II: THE STATE OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE WORLD -
STRENGTHENING COORDINATION AND COLLABORATIVE ACTIONS

Chair, Excellencies, Colleagues,

First, let me extend our thanks to you, Chair, for your dedication. Your commendable efforts help ensure the continued relevance of our work.

Today's discussion on strengthening coordination and collaboration further underlines the importance of the CFS multistakeholder platform and its unique convening power. At a time of multiple and interconnected crises, with profound effects for food safety and nutrition, greater coordination becomes more than a choice. It is a responsibility.

Let me also thank FAO and its partners for the important analysis in the 2026 SOFI report. It serves as a stark reminder that food security is about more than calories. It is also about ensuring access to safe, nutritious, diverse and affordable food.

A meaningful discussion on improving food security cannot take place without fully recognizing the crucial contribution of blue or aquatic foods in our food systems. Highly nutritious, they supply over 3 billion people up to 20% of their animal protein intake and 1 in 5 people with vital micronutrients not easily replaced from other resources. More than playing a key role in ensuring food security, supporting livelihoods and promoting economic development across the world, blue foods underpin healthy diets globally.

And climate reliance. Aquatic food production uses less land, less freshwater, and emits fewer greenhouse gases than almost any other animal protein.

This means that responsible use of marine and freshwater resources, sustainable fisheries management, reducing post-harvest losses, and combatting illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing are crucial contributors, not only to global food security, but also to our GDP, our health and the health of our planet.

But realizing the potential benefits calls for action -coordinated, collaborative action.

To this end, Iceland is proud to materially contribute to undertakings - coordinated by the FAO - to actively combat illegal, unregulated and unreported fisheries; to promote sound and transparent arrangements governing access to resources; and we will continue to argue the case for informed cooperation and responsible conduct in the high-seas.

More investment must be directed to supporting sustainable aquatic food production and science based marine resource management; blue foods need to be better integrated into our national food and climate policies; and our collaboration must be genuinely inclusive. This includes recognizing the critical contribution of women throughout food systems. Gender equality and women ´s full, equal and meaningful participation are essential to achieving lasting food security and nutrition.

Thank you.