

Statement Kingdom of the Netherlands – CFS54

Chair, Excellencies, colleagues,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands aligns itself with the statement read by Ireland on behalf of the EU and its 27 Member States.

The Netherlands is very pleased to attend the 54th Plenary Session of the Committee on World Food Security this week.

I believe the topic of the 54th Plenary Session 'Making a difference in food security and nutrition' is timely.

Even though progress was made in many countries, the total number of people living with food insecurity remains high.

Many people worldwide do not have access to sufficient food. Let alone healthy diets. This is a worrying situation. We believe that multilateralism is important as well as diplomacy.

The circumstances and causes of food insecurity vary from country to country and from region to region.

In the Netherlands we are fortunate that most people are not suffering from food insecurity however not all of our citizens do have access to healthy diets. The Dutch government has food security high on the political agenda and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature is currently working towards a National Food Security Agenda that is not only practical and data-driven, but also deeply value-based. This agenda centers on wellbeing — of people, animals, soils, and future generations, to build productive, resilient and sustainable food-systems. The process of developing the National Food Security agenda is participatory and transparent, with space for dialogue, dissent, and co-creation.

The Netherlands appreciates the thematic focus of this year's SOFI report: 'Understanding and addressing the costs of a healthy diet'. Access to healthy diets is an essential step towards

reducing malnutrition. Diets link what we grow and what we eat and the SOFI report clearly states the many factors in the food system that impact the affordability of a healthy diet. The SOFI also indicates directions for action. The Netherlands is committed to contributing to better access to healthy diets for all and works with partners and partner countries to improve access to healthy diets from sustainable food systems.

Dear all, I wish you a very constructive week ahead and my colleagues and me look forward to participating in the sessions of CFS54 this week.