

UK Statement – CFS ITEM 2

Thank you, Chair. Let me start by congratulating you on taking the helm of your first CFS Plenary. You have the UK's support in guiding us towards successful, action-oriented outcomes.

The UK recognises the efforts of FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO in delivering the rigorous analysis in the 2026 SOFI report. As we have heard - while SOFI shows welcome progress, this progress remains uneven and insufficient, and we face the harsh reality that we are far from achieving our ambition of Zero Hunger by 2030.

And as we all know, acute food insecurity and conflict are intimately connected. We remain deeply concerned by the situation in many countries around the world, as highlighted by the Hunger Hotspots reporting, particularly Gaza and Sudan.

The UK is also deeply concerned that maintaining a healthy diet remains unaffordable for so many people worldwide, disproportionately affecting already vulnerable communities and deepening food insecurity. This, in turn, can fuel further unrest, instability and displacement.

Russia's systematic attacks on Ukrainian grain exports, port infrastructure, land routes and civilian merchant vessels, continue, despite Ukraine's repeated offers of a full and unconditional ceasefire. Russian attacks are disrupting exports from one of the world's most important corridors for agricultural trade. For Ukrainian farmers, reduced storage capacity, higher transport costs and lost incomes from this year's harvest all risk future planting seasons. This will affect food security far beyond the region and could prolong disruption into next year.

Pressures are being compounded by wider disruptions across global food and fertiliser supply chains, including continued disruptions to shipping through the Strait of Hormuz and attacks affecting shipping through the Bab al-Mandab Strait.

Meanwhile, a strengthening El Niño is increasing the risk of drought, flooding and extreme heat during critical planting and growing seasons. All of these shocks threaten harvests, livestock and livelihoods, particularly in fragile and import-dependent countries where hunger, malnutrition, climate stress and conflict are already high.

As the UK Minister for Development said recently: food security is one of the defining challenges of our time. As food security risks become increasingly interconnected, we need a coordinated approach that combines better analysis, earlier action and greater long-term resilience.

Strong coordination between governments, IFIs, MDBs, the UN and humanitarian partners is essential. The UK is working to improve how we share analysis, identify emerging risks, and align preparedness, financing and operational delivery. Alongside early action, the UK is also supporting longer-term resilience through stronger food and fertiliser systems and investment in sustainable agrifood production. Together, we must invest in long-term resilience by diversifying supply sources, strengthening resilience in fertiliser and food systems, reducing dependence on limited chokepoints, and protecting critical infrastructure for food production and distribution.

Building resilience also means investing in healthy soils through a One Health approach that recognises the links between soil, plant, animal and human health. Healthy soils underpin productive agriculture, biodiversity and water security, and are essential to delivering more nutritious diets and stronger long-term food-system resilience.

It is crucial that the RBAs and CFS play complementary roles, drawing on their respective mandates and comparative advantages to strengthen coordination on food security risks. CFS has an important role to play in bringing together stakeholders from across the food system to advance these discussions, and the UK welcomes the opportunity to discuss this further this week.

The UK stands ready to work through CFS and with partners to strengthen coordination, act before risks become crises, and build more resilient food systems for the future.