



COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

Fifty-first Session

"Making a Difference in Food Security and Nutrition"

Rome, Italy, 23-27 October 2023

STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, FAO

Excellences,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. FAO welcomes you to the Fifty-first Plenary Session of the Committee - CFS, established 50 years ago.
2. The strong support from FAO, IFAD and WFP to the work of the CFS makes it an important coherence among the RBAs, as well as with broader UN consultations.
3. Its open-platform and engagement make it a model for a wide range of inter-connected activities in support of the global agenda on food security.
4. The pressing issues of 50 years ago continue to shape global food insecurity today.
5. The current challenges that threaten food security and nutrition demand coordinated policy responses and a new commitment focused on the implementation of policies at global, national and local levels.
6. New approaches, focused on the transformation of agrifood systems to achieve the SDGs have been discussed in many international fora this year.

7. Just last week, we had discussions in the World Food Forum on how to increase investment, how to apply science, innovation and technology, and how to leverage the energy of youth for speeding up transformation.
8. In July, during the UN Food Systems Summit+2 Stocktaking Moment held at FAO, we focused on how to strengthen coordinated actions to support national pathways for agrifood systems transformation.
9. In the SDG Summit of September 2023 in New York, we deliberated on how to close the gaps in the many areas in which the world falls behind in tackling hunger and malnutrition.
10. The CFS is well placed to address these challenges, and to foster collaboration with a wide range of partners.
11. I am pleased to see that the Committee's new workplan lays out a promising agenda that puts the Right to Food at the center of efforts to transform agrifood systems.
12. FAO looks forward to continuing to work with all the partners, including the CFS, for the Four Betters: better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life – leaving no one behind.
13. Thank you.