

The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World

Draft remarks for the President of ECOSOC

12 July 2023

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to join you for the launch of the 2023 edition of **The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI)**.

It has become a tradition to launch this Flagship report during the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. This is the fifth time.

This year's HLPF is focussed on the theme: "Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels".

The theme is very relevant to what we will be discussing today.

The findings of the report will contribute not only to the discussion around the impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on hunger and malnutrition and how we have been recovering from its effects in 2021 and 2022, but it will also assess if we are on track to achieve SDG2; Zero Hunger, and the implementation of the 2030 agenda.

This discussion is critical and timely, as we are getting prepared for the SDG Summit in September this year.

There is no doubt that SDG2; Zero Hunger is central for the achievement of all the SDGs.

As the Secretary-General has stated during the Food Systems Summit 2021: "*Rich or poor, young or old — every person in the world needs to eat. Safe and nutritious food provides not only life and health, but hope.*"

The COVID-19 Pandemic, economic downturn, extreme weather events and conflicts have set us back in the fight against hunger and poverty.

But we have also witnessed that quick actions, evidence-based solutions, stronger partnerships and increased financing will lead to positive results.

Millions of people are suffering from hunger and malnutrition. I am particularly pained by the impact on the millions of children around the world whose futures are being

compromised by wasting and cognitive decline. We should accelerate our support to countries where support is needed the most; SOFI will guide us in the right direction by providing a clear picture.

I would also like to highlight the report's forward-looking focus on Urbanization.

Recent discussions at the United Nations General Assembly and ECOSOC have raised the importance of achieving Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11), as this is closely related to other important interconnected issues, including poverty eradication, climate action, migration, land degradation, economic prosperity and creation of peaceful societies. Indeed, SDG 11 is being reviewed tomorrow at the HLPF so we will hear more about these interlinkages.

By 2050, almost seven in ten people are projected to live in cities.

Urbanization will change and shape our lives and we should also change our approach in order to build on its benefits and the opportunities it may bring.

The lack of a clear divide between urban and rural areas is a vital point to be taken into consideration for planning at national and local levels. It is also vital for informing global discussions in the remaining 7 years to fully implement the 2030 Agenda.

Last but not least, I would like to thank all SOFI's partner agencies for their efforts to provide solid and transparent data and information to Members. Your data and advocacy will allow us, Member States, to take evidence-based and informed decisions towards eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition.

Thank you!