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Final Communiqué 2024

Food Systems for Our Future: Joining Forces for a Zero Hunger World



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Global Forum for Food and Agriculture

2024 Final Communiqué

Food Systems for Our Future: Joining Forces for a Zero Hunger World

1. We, the agriculture ministers of 61 nations, have assembled on 20 January 2024 for the 16th Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Conference on the occasion of the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA) and have conducted in-depth and successful discussions.
2. We recognise with great concern that the world remains in the midst of an unprecedented global food security crisis. SDG 2 “Zero Hunger” is unlikely to be reached by 2030 with the measures implemented to date. Up to 783 million people are suffering from hunger and 2.4 billion people are moderately or severely food insecure¹. It is projected that without drastic action almost 600 million people will still be facing hunger in 2030. We are acutely aware that we urgently need to step up our efforts to combat the causes of this suffering for all. In this context, we acknowledge that one of the main reasons for hunger and malnutrition are wars and conflicts around the world. We stress the need for reliable, sustained, sufficient and unhindered access of food to civilians in conflict areas. We appreciate in particular the supportive role of the relevant international organisations and regional cooperation organisations in this respect.
3. 258 million people living in 58 countries are experiencing acute food insecurity. Concerning the war in Ukraine, we reiterate our national positions and resolutions adopted at the UN Security Council and the UN General Assembly (A/RES/ES-11/1 and A/RES/ES-11/6). We highlight the human suffering and negative added impacts of the war in Ukraine also with regard to global food and energy security, supply chains, macro-financial stability, inflation and growth, which has complicated the policy environment for countries, especially developing and least developed countries which are still recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic disruption which has derailed progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
4. We also see the world reeling from the climate and biodiversity crises and the associated stresses they place on agriculture and food systems. Swift action is needed to address climate change and reduce biodiversity loss. These multiple and compounding crises require our agriculture and food systems to be fit for the future in order to realise the human

¹ The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023 (SOFI)

right to adequate food. The need to transform our agriculture and food systems towards sustainability and resilience and to implement the Agenda 2030 as a whole is becoming increasingly urgent. We therefore welcome the UN Food Systems Summit 2021 and its Stocktaking Moment 2023, including developing National Pathways, as vehicles for building momentum for action from the global to the local level.

5. We are aware that we can only be successful in these tasks if we join forces and work together in a spirit of peace and cooperation. Against this background we commit to the following actions:

Call for action

Promoting sustainable production

6. We commit to continue the urgently needed **transformation** towards more resilient and sustainable agriculture and food systems and to implement the 2030 Agenda in order to achieve the SDGs, especially SDG2 “Zero Hunger”, and hence towards the progressive realisation of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security. We recognise the pressing need to enhance our efforts in strengthening and transforming agriculture and food systems to ensure food security and nutrition, alleviate poverty, promote stability and stimulate economic growth, in accordance with and dependent on national contexts and capacities.

7. We commit to foster resilient and sustainable agricultural practices and technologies to enhance **sustainable agricultural production and sustainable productivity growth**. This is necessary to ensure food security for the growing world population and to generate an adequate income for communities dependent on agriculture and food systems for their livelihoods. In this regard, we support the implementation of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition.

8. We will at the same time strive to substantially reduce the negative **environmental, climate and biodiversity impacts** of agriculture and food production and substantially enhance the positive ones to achieve food security through sustainable intensification, bioeconomy, circular economy and agroecological and other innovative approaches. Examples of applicable tools may include precision farming, organic farming production techniques, efficient plant breeding, integrated soil fertility management, agroforestry, and nature-based solutions. In this regard, we commend the “Coalition for Food Systems Transformation through Agroecology” and the CFS Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems that Enhance Food Security and Nutrition, taking into account the differences of the productions systems and their vulnerabilities.

9. While addressing short-term challenges in relation to the multiple crises mentioned above, we continue to be even more committed to reach our **medium-term and long-term**

objectives for more inclusive, resilient and sustainable agriculture and food systems, being aware of the investment needed to reach these objectives.

10. Given that the multiple crises have laid bare dependencies of countries on single food sources, we stress the importance of promoting more diverse local and regional production, markets and food value chains and supporting rural development in order to complement international trade with an increased variety of trade partners and to build more **resilient** and well-functioning agriculture and food systems.

11. We are aware that sustainable food production is closely interlinked with sustainable **food consumption** and healthier, enabling food environments. Governments and other stakeholders, including intergovernmental organisations, the private sector and civil society, are invited to promote a range of activities, based on scientific advice, to make it easier for consumers to make informed, healthier and sustainable choices. We commit to progress policies to promote sustainable and healthier food consumption choices and healthy diets from sustainable agriculture and food systems. This should include actions to inform consumers through education and information campaigns and to improve food environments and the availability and affordability of nutritious foods.

12. We will promote **locally adapted**, sustainable production methods, plant varieties and animal breeds as well as locally and sustainably produced feed and food to optimise production and nutrient cycles and improve the supply of affordable, fresh and diverse food, taking into account traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities.

13. We note that **climate change** adaptation and mitigation are closely interconnected with the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the context of agriculture and food systems. We therefore commend the Sharm El Sheikh Joint Work on Implementation of Climate Action on Agriculture and Food Security and the Emirates Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems and Climate Action, and take note of the Nairobi Declaration. We commit to promote climate-smart food systems, agricultural practices and methods in order to support continued food production, in particular in countries and regions already suffering from the impacts of climate change. We acknowledge the unique sectoral position of agriculture as being a driver of, while also being affected by, climate change and **biodiversity loss**. We stress the role of agriculture and food systems as an important part of the solution in protecting, conserving, restoring and sustainably using biodiversity and in fighting climate change, in line with the One Health approach. We underline that sustainable agriculture and food systems and bioeconomy play a vital part in finding a way out of the climate and biodiversity crisis.

14. We note that sustainable **livestock** management practices can contribute positively to biodiversity and nutrition and to achieving long-term climate objectives.

15. We stress that the conservation and sustainable use of **genetic resources** for food and agriculture is crucial for ensuring the adaptive capabilities of crops and livestock and is a fundamental pillar of the conservation of biodiversity. We will continuously promote the

access to and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of these genetic resources. We recognise the critical role that small-scale farmers, indigenous peoples and local communities play in protecting, conserving and sustainably using biodiversity. In line with national priorities and preferences, we will promote research and innovation in breeding, in order to improve health, robustness and production efficiency and accelerate the climate adaptation and climate change mitigation capacities of agricultural production.

16. We will direct all our efforts into realising the objectives of **international agreements** and instruments on climate change, biodiversity and land degradation in a coherent manner, in particular the Paris Agreement, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

17. We highlight the vital need of agriculture to have access to sufficient **water** of adequate quality, aligning with SDG 6. We also recognise the need to improve integrated water management and practices at water basin level, including water-use efficiency, conservation and infrastructure in agriculture. In order to alleviate pressure on all surface and groundwater resources, we will promote sustainable water management and water-use efficiency in agriculture. We underline the importance of safeguarding scarce water resources and of supporting farmers and food producers in producing sustainably in order to minimise run-off and contribute to preserving and improving water quality. We welcome the over 700 voluntary commitments made at the UN Water Conference in March 2023, summarised in the Water Action Agenda.

18. In line with the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable **Soil** Management (VGSSM), and building upon other ongoing and past initiatives of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) hosted by FAO, we will increase farmers' knowledge and adoption of sustainable soil management. In doing so, we aim at fostering soil health by maintaining and where possible increasing organic soil content and restoring, protecting and developing the sustainable use of peatlands, thus directly contributing to climate change mitigation. This can reduce input costs through the effective and sustainable use of manure and compost and through cropping practices such as catch crops and agroforestry. We recognise the relevance of no or minimum tillage practices to sustainable soil management.

19. We commit to improve **fertiliser** management by promoting the FAO Code of Conduct for the Sustainable Use and Management of Fertilisers and by employing various practices for sustainable nutrient management, taking into account the local conditions of each area and making it a part of integrated sustainable soil fertility management to increase efficiency and reduce nutrient losses from the use of organic and inorganic fertilisers and close nutrient cycles. We commit to explore the potential of producing nitrogen fertiliser based on renewable energies. We also stress the need to improve the availability, affordability and accessibility, and promote the efficient and responsible use of fertilisers, including through local fertiliser production.

20. We recognise that the **legume** family offer various benefits, such as their abilities to fix nitrogen, improve soil health and enhance local feed supply. At the same time, they can contribute to a healthy and balanced diet as a source of protein.
21. We will promote integrated pest management to reduce the potential risks from **pesticides** to human health and the environment, which are determined by scientific evidence, and avoid resistance to pesticides. We will do so by fostering early warning systems, crop management techniques and the responsible use of plant protection products, and by promoting risk reduction and alternative methods that provide farmers with the means and knowledge for the biological and technical control of pests and diseases.
22. We will support more **research**, which is direly needed for sustainable agriculture and food systems, and into how best to apply and scale up the results. We will do so in collaboration with the farmers and smallholders working on the ground. We will increase the scale and diversity of collaborative international research and development initiatives and programmes. We acknowledge the importance of traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities and the need to respect their respective rights to protect their traditional knowledge.
23. We will promote responsible public and private **investments**, if applicable in line with the Voluntary Guidelines for Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) as well as the CFS Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (RAI). We recognise the need to improve responsible investments, to provide finance and credit, including micro credits, and to promote the development of innovative financial instruments in order to make better use of public and private funds, and hence to achieve the SDGs, particularly for developing countries. We call upon the global community to accelerate investments in sustainable agriculture and to reallocate funds to the agricultural sector as urgently needed responsible investments. We call upon all countries to look into their current policies and incentive structures and increase their commitment to find entry ways and solutions for assuring that national policies and food system development goals fully align.
24. We emphasise that many forms of **innovation** are required for the transformation towards resilient and sustainable agriculture and food systems. We commit to support the development and adoption of sustainable new technologies and practices, across all stages of agriculture and food systems. We share the view that proven sustainability-oriented approaches, innovations and technologies must be put into practice more actively and used on a larger scale, requiring capacity building and skills development efforts. We reiterate the important role bioeconomy can play in agrifood systems transformation and sustainability.
25. We emphasise that all stakeholders should have **access** to the benefit of scientific progress, innovation and data. In this regard, we welcome the CFS Policy Recommendations on Strengthening FSN Data Collection and Related Analysis Tools to Improve Decision-Making in Support of the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security and commit to facilitate the access, uptake and

application of digital technologies. We highlight the important role of farmers' associations, extension services and community groups in providing relevant information and knowledge for farmers in a comprehensible, locally adapted, gender-responsive and convincing way.

26. We are convinced that sustainable food systems require the strengthening of global and national functioning **governance** institutions geared towards sustainable development to overcome all forms of discrimination, especially with regard to rural areas. Examples of areas in which governance is needed could be to strengthen institutions to secure land tenure rights, particularly for women and youth, land registries, access to locally adapted and high-quality seeds, registration and control systems for pesticides, marketing authorisation of veterinary drugs, prevention and management of food chain risks, weather and market information, as well as equitable access to finance and to rural infrastructure. We will promote cross-sectoral coordination and policy coherence.

Fostering resilient and sustainable supply chains

27. We highlight the fact that international trade enables a stable and diverse supply of safe and nutritious food at global scale. However, global agricultural value chains are increasingly at **risk** due to wars and conflicts, unjustified trade restrictions, extreme weather events, pest and disease outbreaks, inflation and volatile markets. We note that these risks affect small island states particularly severely.

28. We commit to support a rules-based, open, safe, transparent, non-discriminatory, inclusive, equitable and sustainable multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) at its core. We underline the importance of not imposing unjustified **trade**-restrictive measures such as export prohibitions or restrictions that tend to undermine global food security. We commend the achievements of the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC12), particularly the Ministerial Decision on World Food Programme's Food Purchase Exemption from Export Prohibitions or Restrictions. We highlight the importance of promptly sharing relevant information about policies that may affect trade and markets for food and agriculture to avoid excessive price volatility which affects both producers and consumers. We also stress the significance of science-based multilateral standards to protect consumers and the environment, and encourage the alignment with relevant international standards and regulations to facilitate trade. We commit to work constructively with other WTO members leading up to the 13th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC13) with a view to achieving a positive outcome. We commit to contribute to discussions on the negotiating issues under Article 20 of the agreement on agriculture and other relevant ministerial mandates during MC13.

29. We acknowledge the important role played by the G20 Agricultural Market Information System (**AMIS**) initiative in enhancing agricultural market transparency and policy responses for food security. We stress the need to strengthen AMIS in order to be able to provide timely data on the food market situation. In this regard, we emphasise the need to broaden the voluntary donor base and to remind all AMIS participants of their commitment to provide all relevant data, including on stocks and prices, and to help broaden the AMIS

monitoring work on fertiliser and vegetable oil markets, as well as helping AMIS work with its partners in early warning systems for acute food insecurity.

30. We call for unimpeded **deliveries** of grain, foodstuffs, and fertilisers/inputs from the Russian Federation and Ukraine across the Black Sea. We welcome the Grain from Ukraine Programme. This is necessary to meet the demand in developing and least developed countries, particularly those in Africa. In this context, emphasising the importance of sustaining food and energy security, we call for the cessation of military destruction and other attacks on relevant infrastructure.

31. We highlight the importance of implementing best practices and preventive controls to combat food safety risks, animal diseases and plant pests and diseases. Supply chains will not be resilient or sustainable without addressing these risks. In line with the **One Health** approach, all sector capacities need to be enhanced to establish national systems for prevention, preparedness and control in respect of infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in humans and animals. We will promote the prudent and responsible use of antimicrobial agents as laid down in the Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Food-borne Antimicrobial Resistance. To this end we emphasise the relevant role of the Quadripartite (WHO, WOA, FAO and UNEP).

32. We note that **sustainable supply chains** for agricultural commodities may have positive impacts on human rights and sustainable development. We stress that they can help promote sustainable production and consumption patterns and contribute to halting forest loss and degradation. We call upon the private sector to take responsibility for transforming their supply chains. In this regard, we will i.a. facilitate dialogue amongst all actors and stakeholders along the chain by building on existing initiatives, analyse and foster available technologies and assist stakeholders, especially smallholders and their producer organisations. We highlight the need to monitor the effects of relevant regulations to guarantee they do not have a negative effect on food security, particularly in low-income countries.

33. We underline that it is important for **market relations** to be equitable for all actors along the chain. We commit to strengthen the position of farmers, in particular smallholder and medium-size farmers, to facilitate their participation in markets and value-added production. We will strive to ensure that the rights of all stakeholders, including farm workers, female farmers and young farmers, are strengthened along the value chain.

34. We note with concern prices hikes, ongoing disruptions in global supply chains, and the increasing price volatility of food, feed and fertilisers. We are convinced that transparent, resilient, rules-based, diversified and reliable supply chains, including local production, are essential for the **access, availability and affordability** of safe and nutritious food for all. This is essential for the realisation of the right to adequate food, in particular for vulnerable groups.

35. We firmly support the strengthening of **human rights** along the value chains, in accordance with the UN guiding principles on business and human rights. We underline that an in-depth dialogue with the actors along the chain, both in exporting and importing countries, is the basis for value chains to contribute to sustainable development. With regard to business implementing human rights due diligence along the food supply chain, we note the OECD-FAO Guidance for Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains and others which can help to improve sustainability outcomes.

Reducing Food Loss and Waste

36. We stress that **reducing** food loss and waste is a key ingredient for several sustainable development goals. At global scale, 14% of the food produced is lost prior to retail, and 17% is wasted at retail and consumer levels. All the resources that went into producing discarded foods are lost, too. Furthermore, disposal also results in additional emissions. We encourage incorporating food loss and waste in national climate action plans and National Determined Contributions to the Paris Agreement (NDCs). Food loss and waste are responsible for nearly 10% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Reducing food loss and waste can therefore make an important contribution to combating climate change.

37. We commit to reducing food loss and waste along the entire supply chain. We reconfirm our aim to achieve SDG 12.3, to **halve per capita global food waste** at retail and consumer levels and to reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses, by 2030.

38. We strongly encourage developing national strategies for the prevention and reduction of food loss and waste. This requires a systemic, context-specific approach, including setting targets, **measuring** food loss and waste in line with established standards. Additionally, appropriate measures along the whole food supply chain should be developed and implemented, according to the food waste hierarchy. We will strengthen our efforts to involve all stakeholders in this regard and to foster the exchange of information at regional, national and international levels. We will strive to support rural institutions, infrastructure and communities and stimulate public-private partnerships that can help to prevent and reduce post-harvest losses.

39. We strongly underline the need to scale up investments in **research and development**, in particular for improved value chain practices and integration that will reduce post-harvest loss and waste. Furthermore, we will commit to facilitate information-based, digital and technological solutions for all stakeholders along the value chain with regard to market information. We emphasise the need to step up our efforts in the promotion and support of responsible investment in storage, transport, processing preservation and packaging of food. We call upon International Organisations to engage in this regard.

40. We will strive to promote the donation of surplus food, or food that would otherwise be wasted, e.g. food nearing the end of its shelf-life. We highlight the vital role that the

circular economy, in particular bioeconomy, plays. It enables co-products derived from food production to be used, e.g. as feed, and hence to be kept in the food chain. Co-products not suitable for human consumption or feed should be used for producing alternative bio-based resources for sustainable applications in different sectors. We stress the need to foster the options with the best environmental and health benefits for humans and animals, and with due care to the safety of food and feed and supply chains.

41. We will promote **consumer education and information** initiatives on ways to prevent and reduce food waste. We see the need to improve access to consumer information, for instance on planning and demand-oriented shopping, best-before-dates, storing, cooling and conserving food and the creative use of leftovers.

Strengthening vulnerable groups

42. We emphasise that adequate food satisfying everyone's dietary needs must be available, accessible and affordable at all times in order to realise the human **right to adequate food**. In this regard, we highlight the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security endorsed by the CFS, which celebrate their 20th anniversary this year, and we commit to accelerate our efforts to implement them and support their utilisation.

43. We recognise that **vulnerable groups**, facing marginalisation, discrimination and poverty as producers but also as consumers, tend to be affected to a greater degree by food insecurity, poor nutrition and the multiple crises. Those especially affected are people that lack the economic or physical means to gain access to sufficient, safe, healthy, adequate and nutritious food. We note that the risk of food insecurity is particularly high in regions where climate change and environmental degradation have already hit the hardest. We remind countries to respect their financial commitments in the COPs to help developing countries to adapt to and to mitigate climate change.

44. We emphasise that the measures to support the sustainable productivity growth of food systems need to be linked to improving food security and nutrition and ensuring better livelihoods for all stakeholders, especially in **rural areas**. We commit to developing policies to attract and maintain youth, women and new entrants to the agricultural and food sector. We aim at strengthening the co-creation and transfer of knowledge and skills and appropriate financial services to address the evolving needs of all those working in the sector. In this regard, we commend the CFS Policy Recommendations on promoting youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems for food security and nutrition. We aim to raise awareness of the living conditions of people in rural areas and recognise that policies and institutions must be aligned with protecting and promoting their livelihoods.

45. At the same time, we must not neglect the living standards of the urban poor. We underline the need to foster research into urban farming, urban food systems and rural-urban linkages. Against the backdrop of a growing **urban population**, including through

increasing rural migration, we are committed to ensuring that urban and rural populations alike have the same level of access to adequate, safe, sufficient, healthy and nutritious food. We call upon our fellow ministers to develop effective anti-poverty policies focused on economic growth, social inclusion and generation of income and employment, leaving no one behind. We welcome the upcoming HLPE-FSN report on “Strengthening urban and peri-urban food systems to achieve food security and nutrition in the context of urbanisation and rural transformation” and the 2023 SOFI report.

46. We recognise the important role of **smallholder producers and rural workers** as well as of local communities and indigenous peoples for sustainable food systems. However, many of them lead a precarious existence and their needs should be given higher priority in national policy making. Having in mind the UN Decade of Family Farming and the corresponding UNGA Resolution 72/239, we will collaborate with stakeholders to develop and implement policies and regulatory frameworks supporting family farming. We acknowledge the efforts carried out by those groups in developing countries, as well as the significant challenges faced by them regarding limited access to financing schemes, new technologies, technical training and assistance, and social insurance.

47. We commit to reinforcing measures to acknowledge and strengthen the role of **women** in the agriculture and food systems, including in leadership and decision-making positions, in order to reduce current inequalities and inequities. We therefore welcome the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls’ Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition.

48. We will strive to improve **access to productive resources** such as land, water, financing, seeds and fertiliser, in particular for vulnerable groups. We stress the vital need to strengthen access to land and secured land property and inheritance rights for indigenous people and members of local communities, in particular women. We recognise the importance of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT).

49. In order to realise the human right to adequate food, we call upon our fellow ministers to ensure that everyone has the **possibility to gain reliable access** to safe, adequate, affordable and sufficient food. We acknowledge the important contributions of FAO and the other Rome-based agencies during the past 20 years in supporting countries to implement the right to adequate food and encourage FAO to enhance its technical support to member states' efforts to further promote the right to adequate food on the national level.

50. We underline the vital role of the **CFS** as the foremost inclusive, international and intergovernmental platform for all stakeholders to work together to ensure food security and nutrition for all. We commend the Committee’s policy products and their global policy coordination role and multi-stakeholder platform function for substantive debate on food security and nutrition topics.

51. We commit to strengthening the **participation** of smallholders, women, youth, indigenous peoples and local communities and minorities in the development of food policies. We will strive to ensure that all groups and stakeholders are heard in the implementation of the National Pathways, as developed during the UN Food System Summit Process, as an important tool for food systems transformation.

52. We commend inclusive **dialogue platforms** on sustainable food systems such as food councils for civil society, business, politics, administration, education and science, within the established institutional landscape. We welcome the role these platforms play in providing education and facilitating information and access to food, in particular for vulnerable groups.

53. At a time when the world is reeling from an unprecedented number of crises, we will strive more than ever to cooperate closely in order to achieve the SDGs by 2030. We look forward to meeting again at the **2025 GFFA**.



List of participants

African Union	Ireland	Qatar
Albania	Italy	Rwanda
Argentina	Japan	Sierra Leone
Armenia	Kazakhstan	Slovakia
Botswana	Kosovo	South Africa
Brazil	Latvia	South Sudan
Bulgaria	Lithuania	Spain
China	Luxembourg	Sweden
Côte d'Ivoire	Malta	Switzerland
Cyprus	Mauritania	Tajikistan
Czech Republic	Moldova	Thailand
Estonia	Mongolia	The Netherlands
European Union	Montenegro	Tunisia
Fiji	Morocco	Uganda
Finland	Nigeria	Ukraine
France	Norway	United Kingdom
Georgia	Oman	Uruguay
Germany	Pakistan	Uzbekistan
Greece	Paraguay	Zimbabwe
Hungary	Poland	
Indonesia	Portugal	