

**Statement by the Private Sector Mechanism  
On the Opinion Survey  
CFS 42, October 14, 2015**

Thank you Madam Chairperson.

As the newly elected PSM representative to the CFS Advisory Group, it is my honour to address this august body today. My name is June Arnold from the Grain and Feed Trade Association, an international Trade Association with over 1500 Members in 89 countries. Our aim is to promote international trade in grain, animal feed materials, pulses and rice.

We commend CFS for testing its progress and support reflection upon areas for improvement at the five year mark in the Reform. The private sector values the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS) as a unique multi-stakeholder decision-making forum of global importance. Private sector engagement, as well as the coordination mechanism, have been significantly strengthened over the past number of sessions and negotiations. We have agreed with the observation that business engagement in the early days was not adequately robust. Since 2010 when we had just one private sector representative we have grown to 141 who have registered and 130 who have made it here this week. They come from every aspect of the value chain - farmers to processors and from 39 different countries.

Collectively, the companies have operations in 191 of 193 UN countries.

Our constituency has demonstrated its ability to consult and coordinate the many voices representing business and industry in the global agri-food value chain. The private sector believes that it has a strong role to play in translating CFS decisions into operations, in facilitating the impact of CFS products 'on the ground', and in finding synergies with other multilateral processes.

In our opinion, a key challenge for the CFS post-reform is to ensure that it can make use of its convening power to further its impact in practical terms. Over the past 12 months, negotiations on responsible agricultural investment, fisheries and food waste, PSM members have expressed a common concern that there should be a window of opportunity for the CFS to better embrace the technical aspects of its products. CFS can focus on products that can be practically operationalized not only by business actors but also by governments and civil society.

The PSM supports a diversity of actors at CFS. The PSM believes in the principle of self-organising and we emphasise the importance of encouraging all Advisory Group representatives to have modalities to enable larger participation in a transparent manner.

The PSM calls for parity of seats with the CSM, given the breadth of the private sector actors involved at CFS. The private sector also encourages the inclusion of two farmer

seats on the Advisory Group to recognize the unique role of farmers in food security discussions. Any change in seats on the Advisory Group should be inclusive though not unmanageable.

May we also take this moment, to thank the secretariat for their tireless work and their focus on evaluation and continuous improvement. Congratulations too on an excellent CFS.