

**CFS Plenary Session – The UN Food Systems Summit and its  
implications for CFS**

**October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Rome**

**Rick White, Chair, Private Sector Mechanism**

As Chair of the Private Sector Mechanism, we have been actively engaged in CFS and the Food Systems Summit. We fully support the goals to develop more holistic ways about how we produce food, reduce its waste, and successfully nourish the population with diverse diets.

CFS has foreseen many of these needs including policy convergence processes that align with the SDGs and include multi-stakeholder partnerships that are so important to the path forward.

The multi-stakeholder approach represents a core value of CFS that we hope will be embedded in the food system globally going forward. Working jointly is essential to the efforts on School Meals; the Zero Hunger Pledge (over 40 companies have already committed); as well as work on improving soil health.

We welcome the CFS side event this week that focuses on living incomes and wages and also the one on democratization of digital technologies. With pressure on food affordability, now more than ever we need innovation, greater empowerment of women and youth, and resilience for all aspects of the food system from crops to livestock, vegetables to fish, local to global trade.

The Private Sector Mechanism is an open platform providing a permanent seat for private enterprises right across the agri-food value chain, from farmers, to input providers, cooperatives, processors, SMEs, and food companies. We embrace the responsibility that this gives us, which is to coordinate the consultation with the wider private sector to provide CFS with contributions from business and industry. In doing so we continually strive for diversity of participants, across regions, countries and embracing the role of women in agriculture and the need to create the space for the voice of youth to be heard and actively engaged. We need support in the resources and space to include these diverse voices as the prospects return of meeting again in person.

It is also fortunate that CFS workstreams pick up areas that need more attention, such as gender, youth, and data. In this way we can see that the MYPOW adds to the Summit work, creating more action where it is distinctly needed.

On the go forward, we believe CFS is the logical place to take up the multi-stakeholder aspect of the Food Systems Summit work as a body already dedicated to hearing from state and non-state actors and that meets annually.

Creating space in the plenary process, its side-events, offer an ideal forum and modality to report back on the progress of food systems transformation. The PSM looks forward to continuing working with CFS partners and developing the collective business action needed to achieve these goals.

Thank you.