

CFS52

II. Coordinated policy responses to the food crisis – the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2024

DATE: 21 October 2023

TIME: 10.00-13.00 (exact time to be advised)

LOCATION: Plenary Hall, FAO Headquarters, Rome

Statement by Nkhangweleni Sharon Mphaphuli, CEO/Managing Director, Mashero PTY (LTD), on behalf of the CFS Private Sector Mechanism

Madame Chair, Your Excellencies, and esteemed colleagues,

Madam Chair, the 2024 SOFI Report tells us that hunger remains persistently high, particularly in Africa, where approximately 20.4% of the population is affected and further highlights that nearly 2.33 billion people globally experience moderate to severe food insecurity with Africa remaining the hardest hit.

As representatives of the private sector, and a member of the African private sector, we stand united with Governments and all stakeholders, in addressing the critical challenges of food security, hunger, and malnutrition.

The Private Sector recognizes that achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2, Zero Hunger by 2030, is not just a governmental responsibility but also an imperative for the private sector. Collaboration between Governments and Private Sector can lead to concerted action, greater innovation, and financing solutions that address both the immediate and structural drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition. We are ready to play a transformative role in developing sustainable agrifood systems, investing in innovations that improve food production, and collaborating with governments and international organizations to increase the availability of affordable nutritious food.

We appreciate that the 2024 SOFI report highlights the pivotal role of the private sector. We believe that we have a crucial role in leveraging resources, expertise, and innovation to support agrifood systems and rural development.

We emphasize the need for inclusive and equitable financing mechanisms that allow smallholder farmers, entrepreneurs, and agribusinesses, particularly those led by women and youth, to access the capital needed to thrive. We are committed to fostering entrepreneurship, enhancing agricultural value chains, and investing in technologies that promote climate resilience and food security.

We will work tirelessly to ensure that no one goes hungry and that every child, woman, and man has access to nutritious food for a healthy and productive life.

Thank you.