

CFS52

III. GLOBAL THEMATIC EVENT ON ADVANCING THE UPTAKE OF THE CFS VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON THE PROGRESSIVE REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT TO ADEQUATE FOOD IN THE CONTEXT OF NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY

DATE: 22 October 2023

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

LOCATION: Plenary Hall, FAO Headquarters, Rome

Statement by Yolène Pagès, Nuffield Scholar, France, on behalf of the CFS Private Sector Mechanism

Madame. Chair, Your Excellencies, and esteemed colleagues,

Firstly, the PSM joins all other CFS members present today to welcome the 20th anniversary of the endorsement of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food and the opportunity that this session has provided to monitor progress on the use and application of in the Guidelines.

Madame Chair, we welcome the approach that you and the Secretariat have taken to providing a vibrant and engaging discussion and we thank the panellists, including our colleagues from the PSM, for their contributions and engagement. That engagement needs to continue as we seek to facilitate & support the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines and, to that end, the discussion later today on the Action Plan to increase the awareness and use of CFS policy products will be important if we are to see the application of the Guidelines at national, regional and global level.

As we've been hearing today, collaborative partnerships at country level are needed to reiterate the role of the Guidelines in guiding countries towards the progressive realization of the right to adequate food and the PSM looks forward to working in those partnerships. Those partnerships may also need capacity building and training, and development of the

leadership skills needed to take this forward, and we need to work together to see how that could be provided.

At country level, taking forward the Voluntary Guidelines also requires advocacy in local and national governance structures as well as in educational institutions so that we get everyone involved in the process – including with mentorship and partnerships.

The PSM is pleased to have heard the voice of SMEs this morning on this important topic. This the front line to deliver the right to adequate and nutritious food. Let's do more together.

Congratulations on this anniversary!