

VIII. Promoting Decent Work in Agriculture and Food Systems

DATE: 23 October 2024

TIME: 15:00-18.00 (exact time to be advised)

LOCATION: FAO Headquarters, Rome

Statement by Claire Fehrenbach, Engagement, Impact & Communication Director of Nutriset Groupe, on behalf of the CFS Private Sector Mechanism

Madame Chair, Your Excellencies, and esteemed colleagues,

Thank you for giving me the floor on behalf of the Private Sector Mechanism to address a foundational element of our food systems—promoting decent work across the entire agrifood value chain. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that the men and women who feed the world are supported through dignified and equitable work conditions.

Agribusinesses commitment to decent work must be unwavering across all scales of enterprises. This means fair wages, safe working conditions, and respect for labour rights within all sectors of the food industry. By promoting these standards, we not only enhance the quality of life for workers but also improve productivity and quality across our food systems.

Advancements in technology offer unprecedented opportunities to improve labour practices. From precision agriculture that can reduce the physical toll on farmers to blockchain technologies that ensure fair and transparent payment processes, the private sector is uniquely positioned to drive these innovations forward.

It is imperative that we advocate for policies that recognize the diverse needs of food producers of all sizes. This includes supporting trade policies that are fair, promoting gender equality, and ensuring that young people have opportunities to engage and innovate within the sector.

As we look to the future, let us remember that promoting decent work in agriculture and food systems is not just about enhancing economic efficiency—it's about upholding the dignity of every individual who contributes to feeding the planet. Let's commit to a world where decent work is not a privilege but a fundamental right for all workers in the agrifood value chain.

Together, we can cultivate a future where agriculture thrives, and communities prosper. Thank you to all our colleagues in the room for your dedication to this vital cause, and I look forward to our continued collaboration in this critical forum of the CFS.