



**Statement on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member
States**

**52nd session of the Committee on World Food Security
21–25 October 2024, Rome**

Item VIII: Promoting decent work in agriculture and food systems

Madam Chair,

1. I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.
2. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, San Marino and Serbia align themselves with this statement.
3. We welcome this important discussion on the complementarities and synergies between the CFS and the International Labour Organization (ILO) and recognise the important role the CFS plays in fostering these discussions.
4. In order to achieve the 2030 Agenda, it is crucial that the policy guidance of the CFS and the ILO converge and strengthen each other to promote decent work in the agriculture and food sector and to realise the right to adequate food.
5. Agriculture and food workers, despite their essential role, are one of the most vulnerable groups in the world, facing elevated levels of poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition. This highlights the clear connection between the right to adequate food and the need for decent working conditions in the sector.
6. We recognise the crucial role of the ILO in setting global standards for decent work. We see great potential in aligning their policy guidelines for the promotion of decent work in the agri-food sector with the CFS's policy guidance. CFS policy guidance should supplement and bolster the strong foundation of the ILO guidelines, and vice versa. We need a decent work perspective in all CFS policy recommendations and a right to adequate food perspective in all ILO guidelines. We therefore call on all CFS stakeholders to align and integrate CFS and ILO policy guidance.

7. The EU strongly supports the universal concept of Decent Work Agenda as developed by the ILO and as reflected in UN Sustainable Development Goal 8. Central to this agenda are the principles of gender equality and non- discrimination, which cut across all its objectives. We acknowledge this concept as a prerequisite for realising the right to adequate food.
8. The EU aims to effectively promote decent work for all, with a focus on vulnerable and disadvantaged groups such as women and girls, children and young people, older workers, migrant workers, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities and workers in the informal economy.
9. This approach extends beyond domestic markets to third countries and global supply chains, involving various stakeholders such as governments, social partners, civil society, businesses and consumers. The EU's multifaceted efforts include initiatives such as the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive and the ongoing review of the Action Plan on Trade and Sustainable Development, showcasing a comprehensive commitment to Decent Work principles.
10. The EU promotes decent work in global food supply chains, including safe and fair working conditions and rights. The consideration of workers' social protection, their working and housing conditions and the protection of their health and safety will play a major role in building fair, strong and sustainable food systems. The EU also remains committed to stimulating generational renewal worldwide, by offering support to young farmers and new entrants in the sector.
11. We look forward to further strengthening the link between ILO and CFS policy guidance, and stand ready to work with partners to promote decent work and realise the right to adequate food, leaving no one behind.

Thank you, Madam Chair.
