

Item II. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2025 – Strengthening Coordination and Collaborative Actions

PFM statement on strengthening coordination and collaborative actions for food security and nutrition.

Thank you to the Chair for giving us the floor and thanks to our colleagues at the Bureau, Advisory Group, and the Secretariat for the work they do all year in preparation for this plenary. While I ordinarily represent the Gates Foundation, with this statement, I am speaking as chair of a group of philanthropies collaborating under the Philanthropic Foundations Mechanism.

As we've heard today, the SOFI report underscores that global hunger has stabilized at an unacceptably high level. Unfortunately, we continue to witness the world drifting further away from our collective goal of achieving zero hunger.

As private entities dedicated to charitable purposes, philanthropic foundations are increasingly called upon to address the escalating challenges of disrupted food and agricultural systems. Our unique position allows us to take risks, fund exploratory research, catalyze essential processes, support community-led initiatives, and build local capacities.

This underscores the need to continue expanding and coordinating a community of funders committed to equitable and sustainable agri-food systems, which is the principal purpose of philanthropic collaboration at the CFS.

The SOFI 2025 report makes clear, the resources that philanthropies invest in food security, nutrition, and food systems remain relatively modest in the overall financing landscape. Our efforts can only complement other sources of public support, from governments and multilateral institutions, but cannot supplant them.

For the first time, SOFI provides deep analytical insights into Official Development Assistance for food security and nutrition. It finds that ODA remains fragmented and falls far short of what is needed to meet global targets and that only a small portion of total ODA directly addresses the main drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition.

Tracking funding for food insecurity on a regular basis through the SOFI can help the CFS play its mandated role in advancing multistakeholder dialogue to achieve food security. The rigor of the Report, backed by the UN's expert agencies, can serve as a cornerstone for the CFS community to deliberate and align on actionable guidance for the sector. Transparency and accountability through regular reporting on funding is a pre-condition for improving outcomes. We commend the work of the FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, and WHO.

Deliberation and analysis must be accompanied by action. To this end, we welcome Brazilian leadership on the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty, and the Support Mechanism hosted at the FAO. Rome, as the hub for global dialogue and decision making on food and agricultural development, can help the Alliance work with the many Members represented here.

From lessons on advancing a rights-based approach to transferring knowledge on policy implementation, the Alliance can build momentum on global cooperation to achieve food and nutrition security. We are encouraged by the growing dialogue between the CFS and the Alliance since both have mechanisms for philanthropic engagement.

While I am speaking on behalf of a diverse group of philanthropic organizations, each with its own approach, strategy, and priorities – we are firmly united by a shared commitment to achieving a world free of hunger and malnutrition and to supporting the transition toward equitable and sustainable agri-food systems. We look forward to working across the CFS community to this end.

Thank you.