

PFM statement on item agenda VIII. Addressing multiple dimensions of inequalities

Thank you Chair for giving me the floor. I'm here on behalf of the Philanthropic Foundations Mechanism, and you can find our full statement on our website.

- Inequalities is a topic of deep interest to the philanthropic community. Foundations are both the result of inequalities as well as organizations created for addressing those inequalities.
- If we want to eradicate inequalities, we need to examine the diverse set of deep, systemic drivers behind food security outcomes.
- We commend the HLPE in producing such a comprehensive report and the ambition of the CFS in looking at those drivers of power asymmetries and structural inequities. This includes a critical examination of intersectional dimensions, including gender, education, ethnicity, indigeneity, rural/urban locations, and socio-economic status.
- In the elaboration of the HLPE Report, we recommended the writing team to set a clear agenda on data collection in inequalities, and we suggested that the report could comparatively explore how different food systems transformations impact inequalities. The CFS has already produced important policy documents that touches upon the topic of inequalities, for example, the recommendations on agroecology and other innovative approaches is helping to consolidate our understanding of important principles of agroecology, such as fairness and participation.
- As a policy priority area, we would welcome the CFS to further explore the role of social protection and social insurance mechanisms in addressing income inequalities across different regions - with significant impacts on FSN.
- And we welcome a strong focus on participatory, inclusive, democratic decision-making in food governance. Inequalities in food system outcomes are often a reflection of the inequalities within our political systems; therefore, including marginalized groups in policy design and implementation can be a powerful instrument in addressing the root causes of hunger and malnutrition.
- It is essential for the CFS to persist in challenging the misconception that inequality drives progress. This is a pervasive wrong idea that is still found in many political debates. Inequalities are linked to poorer food security and nutrition, with far-ranging social, economic, and environmental costs.
- Within our new mechanism and several discussions, we are involved at the global stage, the philanthropic sector will continue to explore how to catalyze investments in support of food system transformations that lead to more equal societies. We expect to bring lessons from these discussions into the policy convergence process that is starting now.