

Final Draft drafted 19 January 2023

Global Forum for Food and Agriculture

2023 Final Draft Communiqué

Food Systems Transformation: A Worldwide Response to Multiple Crises

- 1 1. We, the agriculture ministers of xx nations, have assembled on 21 January 2023 for the
2 15th Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Conference on the occasion of the Global Forum for Food
3 and Agriculture (GFFA) and have conducted intensive and productive discussions on the
4 worldwide response to the current crises.
- 5 2. We are gravely concerned by the increased and ongoing conflicts in the world which are
6 having severe consequences on food security and nutrition. We have witnessed the war in
7 Ukraine further adversely impact the global economy. There was a discussion on the issue.
8 We reiterated our national positions as expressed in other fora, including the UN Security
9 Council and the UN General Assembly, which, in Resolution No. ES-11/1 dated 2 March
10 2022, as adopted by majority vote (141 votes for, 5 against, 35 abstentions, 12 absent)
11 deploras in the strongest terms the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine
12 and demands its complete and unconditional withdrawal from the territory of Ukraine. Most
13 members strongly condemned the war in Ukraine and stressed it is causing immense human
14 suffering and exacerbating existing fragilities in the global economy - constraining growth,
15 increasing inflation, disrupting supply chains, heightening energy and food insecurity, and
16 elevating financial stability risks.
- 17 3. We are alarmed about recent declines in global food security and nutrition. The situation
18 had already been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and is leading to further
19 disruption of global supply chains. This is contributing to increased prices and price volatility
20 for food, commodities, fertiliser, and other agricultural inputs, also deepening inequality.
- 21 4. The repercussions from these shocks are occurring against the backdrop of the ongoing
22 crises of climate change and biodiversity loss, which constitute a further threat to global
23 food security and sustainable development. While unsustainable agriculture and food
24 systems are themselves a driver of these crises, we acknowledge the particular vulnerability
25 of all food systems to the impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss. At the same time,
26 sustainable agriculture and food systems may also provide game-changing solutions to
27 mitigate climate change and conserve biodiversity. A range of further interlinked factors is
28 putting additional pressure on food systems, such as the degradation of land, water and

29 ecosystems, including due to desertification, salinity intrusion, drought, floods,
30 deforestation, water scarcity and pollution of air, soil and water, and the increasing threat of
31 transboundary plant and animal pests and diseases. The consequences of many of these
32 multiple crises are felt most strongly by the least developed countries, Small Island
33 Developing States, fragile countries hosting refugees, and by women, youth and vulnerable
34 and marginalised groups. Moreover, hunger and malnutrition are already most pronounced
35 in regions that are severely affected by the climate crisis, in turn potentially aggravating all
36 kinds of inequality, including gender inequality, as well as conflict and forced migration.

37 5. We underscore the importance of taking action to address the current food crisis to
38 achieve SDG 2 through sustainable food systems. Also, we emphasise that it is vital to
39 address all crises with equal intensity. As discussed during the UN Food Systems Summit,
40 this should be done in a holistic and integrated way. These multiple crises require our
41 collective dedication to urgently transform our food systems towards more resilience and
42 sustainability. Having only seven years left to implement the 2030 Agenda, we will accelerate
43 and intensify our common efforts. We commit to the following actions to progressively
44 realise the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

45 **Call for action**

46 **Creating sustainable and resilient food systems**

47 6. We commit to promote sustainable, inclusive, efficient and resilient **food systems** by
48 enabling the agricultural and food sectors to produce sustainably, adapt to new conditions,
49 enhance their ability to deal with risks, close the inequality gap, and recover quickly and
50 better from crises. We recognise that this includes ensuring that agriculture is economically
51 and socially viable and provides a decent income and decent working conditions for farmers,
52 pastoralists, workers and rural communities. Particular attention needs to be given to
53 smallholders, women, youth and people in vulnerable and marginalised groups, including
54 Indigenous Peoples and refugees. We will engage with fellow ministers in our respective
55 countries to ensure that food is available, accessible, affordable, safe and nutritious for all in
56 order to realise the right to adequate food.

57 7. We will develop and implement **risk management** policies that foster greater resilience in
58 food supply chains and enable all stakeholders to cope with more frequent and
59 unpredictable events. We stress the importance of promoting diversification in production
60 and consumption patterns as well as in trade for food and inputs. Thereby, we want to make
61 the agricultural sector more resilient to external shocks, such as extreme weather
62 phenomena, while at the same time minimising negative environmental impacts through the
63 promotion of risk planning and management tools and systems. Concerned by the current
64 worldwide fertiliser market disruption and volatility, we will strive to improve the
65 production, availability and accessibility of fertilisers, as well as encouraging their sustainable

66 and efficient use in a non-trade distortive manner. We welcome the different ongoing
 67 initiatives on fertiliser, including the joint fertiliser mapping of WTO and FAO.

68 8. We underscore the need to reduce international food market volatility and tackle the
 69 uncertainty of commodity prices. In this context, we particularly emphasise the vital
 70 importance of the G20 **Agricultural Market Information System** (AMIS) as a tool for
 71 enhancing transparency in food and input markets and forming policy responses for food
 72 security and nutrition. We stress the need to strengthen and adequately finance AMIS to
 73 improve the monitoring and reporting of, and sharing of data on, the existing basic food
 74 commodities and expand coverage to related areas such as international fertiliser markets.

75 9. We stress the vital role of trade and well-functioning markets for food security and
 76 nutrition. We welcome the outcomes from the World Trade Organisation’s 12th Ministerial
 77 Conference, which confirmed the importance of the multilateral **trade** system for
 78 agriculture, food and fisheries. We underscore the importance of the rule-based, open, fair,
 79 predictable, transparent, non-discriminatory, inclusive, equitable, and sustainable
 80 multilateral trading system for global food security. We commit to continue to work
 81 together constructively and take effective and non-distorting measures, consistent with
 82 WTO trade rules to facilitate and stabilise the smooth functioning of international markets to
 83 secure food supplies. We will continue to avoid any unjustified trade restrictive measures
 84 that lead to food and fertiliser price volatility in a manner inconsistent with relevant WTO
 85 provisions, in particular to mitigate the impact of food crises that hit most net food-
 86 importing developing countries and Least Developed Countries. We will also fight against
 87 speculative behaviour that endangers food security or access to nutritious food for
 88 vulnerable countries or populations.

89 10. We commit to work on making **food supply chains** sustainable, safe, inclusive and
 90 resilient, at local, regional and global levels, in accordance with the UN guiding principles on
 91 business and human rights. The role of the private sector in the food chain is of utmost
 92 importance. With regard to implementing sustainable practices along the food supply chain,
 93 the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition and the OECD-FAO Guidance
 94 for Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains can help businesses to improve on their
 95 sustainability outcomes. We will work on reducing food loss and waste in accordance with
 96 SDG 12.3.

97 11. We stress that **sustainable production systems** and sustainable agricultural productivity
 98 growth are important to secure the resilience of food systems, especially in view of food
 99 insecurity, the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, the growing world population and increased
 100 urbanisation. We stress the importance of promoting diverse locally and sustainably
 101 produced food to improve food security and nutrition, while at the same time recognising
 102 the important role of trade and taking into account local production and environmental
 103 conditions.

104 12. We commit to promote healthy, affordable **diets** and take into account responsible food
105 production and consumption patterns, as envisaged in the SDGs.

106 13. We commit to promote and improve **research**, innovation, digitalisation of agriculture,
107 vocational training and advice, including farmer-to-farmer exchanges, to sustainably increase
108 agricultural productivity and assist in the establishment of sustainable and resilient food
109 systems. We recognise that many sustainable solutions, including in the form of traditional
110 and local knowledge, have already been developed and successfully implemented. We
111 commit to foster better dissemination of these approaches. We underscore the importance
112 of regular data and evidence in evaluating the sustainability of food systems.

113 14. We stress the importance of scaling up responsible **investment** in sustainable agricultural
114 development and highlight the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and
115 Food Systems produced by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS-RAI). We commit
116 to develop favourable conditions for the respective responsible investments.

117 **Fostering climate-friendly food systems**

118 15. We highlight the fundamental importance of climate change **adaptation, adaptation co-**
119 **benefits and mitigation** in agriculture and food systems. We commit to continue to scale up
120 and support action in the agricultural and land-use sectors to keep 1.5 °C within reach. We
121 recall the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the
122 Paris Agreement, and the conclusion and relevant outcomes of the UNFCCC Conference of
123 the Parties (COP), in particular of COP27. We welcome the COP27 decision to establish the
124 new Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and
125 food security, including implementation of the outcomes of the Koronivia joint work on
126 agriculture and previous activities addressing issues related to agriculture. We look forward
127 to continuing inclusive discussions on agriculture. We also recognise the importance of
128 increased access to international resources, such as finance from public and private sources,
129 capacity building and technology development and transfer to implement the outcomes. We
130 will promote sustainable agriculture, in particular low-carbon agricultural practices,
131 sustainable soil, nutrient and livestock management practices with the aim of reducing
132 greenhouse gas emissions in the agricultural sector, which will contribute to achieving long-
133 term climate objectives.

134 16. As part of the climate crisis solution, we highlight activities for enhanced **carbon**
135 **sequestration** in agriculture, including pastures. Under the right circumstances and with the
136 right policy instruments, these activities can improve climate stewardship and biodiversity
137 conservation and benefit farmers in many ways. We recognise the importance of soil health
138 for resilience and sustainable increases in production and commit to identifying and
139 promoting the adoption of techniques that increase soil organic matter.

140 17. We will promote **energy-efficient** agriculture and food systems. Reliable energy supply is
141 essential for food security and development.

142 **Promoting the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity**

143 18. We emphasise the urgent need to **halt and reverse biodiversity loss** and environmental
 144 degradation by 2030. Those of us who are parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity
 145 therefore reiterate the commitments we made under this convention and the Kunming-
 146 Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. We support solutions by the public and private
 147 sectors to meet these commitments and accelerate action under the UN Decade on
 148 Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030. We underline that the conservation and sustainable use
 149 of biodiversity is critical to ensure long-term food security and nutrition and can contribute
 150 to emissions reduction and climate adaptation and resilience.

151 19. We commit to conserve and sustainably use **agricultural biodiversity**, including species,
 152 local and traditional breeds and varieties, crop wild relatives, animals and pollinators, and to
 153 promote soil health. We will strive to provide farmers and pastoralists with locally adapted,
 154 climate-resilient propagating material and animal breeds and sustainably managed
 155 landscapes for improved resilience and biodiversity conservation.

156 20. Conserving **genetic resources** for food and agriculture is a fundamental pillar of
 157 conserving biodiversity and crucial for ensuring the adaptive capabilities of crops and
 158 animals. We will promote the conservation and sustainable use of these resources and the
 159 fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use. In this regard, we stress the
 160 great importance of the work carried out by the International Treaty on Plant Genetic
 161 Resources for Food and Agriculture, the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food
 162 and Agriculture, the Global Crop Diversity Trust and the CGIAR centres.

163 21. We highlight the special role that **biodiversity-friendly practices**, such as sustainable
 164 intensification, agroecological and other innovative approaches, play for global biodiversity.
 165 In this context, we support the FAO Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and
 166 Agriculture and acknowledge the CFS Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and other
 167 Innovative Approaches. We also support the work of international organisations such as the
 168 FAO and the OECD for a better coordination and monitoring of the effects of the global
 169 efforts to conserve global biodiversity.

170 22. We commit to promote **integrated pest management** and to reduce the risks from
 171 pesticides by fostering the responsible use of pesticides and promoting alternative methods,
 172 such as mechanical and biological pest control, providing farmers with effective ways to
 173 produce.

174 23. We will increase farmers' knowledge and adoption of an integrated soil fertility
 175 management which strives to responsibly optimise nutrient use efficiency, close nutrient
 176 cycles and foster soil health. This can reduce input costs through the effective and
 177 sustainable use of mineral and organic **fertilisers** and through cropping practices such as
 178 catch crops. We commit to reduce overuse, increase efficiency and improve the
 179 environmental footprint in the use of all fertilisers.

180 24. We will take measures to prevent and reduce **pollution** of soils and waterbodies deriving
 181 from agricultural plastics, inappropriate use of fertilisers and pesticides, and promote
 182 expertise of users, advisors and distributors in this regard. We underline the great potential
 183 of, and need for, agriculture, as the largest water user worldwide, to contribute to
 184 sustainable integrated water management, water quality and availability, also in view of
 185 decreased water available for agriculture. At the same time, we acknowledge that agriculture
 186 is highly dependent on clean and sufficient water in order to contribute to food security. We
 187 highlight the importance of protection of riverbanks to improve water quality and
 188 biodiversity.

189 25. We will strive to reverse the ongoing global trends in environmentally harmful **land use**
 190 **change**, in particular deforestation, desertification and land degradation, including soil and
 191 land sealing. We recall our aim and will step up our efforts to achieve a land degradation-
 192 neutral world by 2030 in accordance with SDG15. We commit to foster the sustainable
 193 management of forests and the protection, restoration, conservation and sustainable use of
 194 all terrestrial ecosystems in the context of Article 5 of the Paris Agreement. We stress that
 195 sustainable supply chains for agricultural commodities assist in achieving our goal of halting
 196 and reversing forest loss and land degradation, as they decouple agricultural production and
 197 consumption patterns from deforestation and forest degradation.

198 **Improving collaboration for sustainable global food systems**

199 26. We take note with appreciation of the ongoing processes initiated by the **UN Food**
 200 **Systems Summit** and the establishment of the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub. We
 201 encourage the UN system and the ecosystem of support, including the Coalitions of Action,
 202 to prioritise, in coordination with the Hub, concrete support to countries for the
 203 implementation of their National Pathways or other transformation processes and the
 204 continuation of the National Dialogues. This should ensure a strong Summit follow-up
 205 process towards the 2023 stocktaking.

206 27. We greatly appreciate all efforts and initiatives that ensure the flow of agri-food inputs
 207 and goods to ease tension and prevent global food insecurity and hunger in developing
 208 countries, such as the Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance (UNGCRG)
 209 led by the UN Secretary-General and the Türkiye-UN-brokered Black Sea Grain Initiative.

210 We acknowledge the Global Alliance for Food Security (GAFS) as a mechanism and
 211 coordination forum working closely with the UNGCRG in synergy with other international
 212 initiatives, such as the Food and Agricultural Resilience Mission (FARM) for the respective
 213 participants. Where possible, we will promote the use and continuous improvement of the
 214 GAFS Food and Nutrition Security Dashboard as an important **collaborative data** tool in
 215 coordination with all its partners, which is available for all stakeholders and gives timely and
 216 detailed information on the global food and nutrition security situation.

217 28. A strong and inclusive **multi-stakeholder approach** with an explicit role for local
 218 stakeholders is crucial for transforming food systems. We emphasise the need to establish
 219 and strengthen mechanisms to involve stakeholder groups in policy formulation to develop
 220 readily available, accessible and affordable solutions for everyone. This applies especially to
 221 family farmers, smallholders, women, youth and people in vulnerable and marginalised
 222 groups, including Indigenous Peoples and refugees. In this regard, we welcome the inclusive
 223 work in the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and its various sets of voluntary
 224 guidelines, policy recommendations and principles. We encourage the continued promotion
 225 of the uptake and implementation of CFS products in collaboration with all CFS members
 226 and stakeholders. We welcome CFS' efforts to enhance participation of stakeholders,
 227 including through digital means.

228 29. We highlight the importance of the **CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and**
 229 **Nutrition (VGFSyN)** as an example of a global policy instrument that was negotiated
 230 multilaterally among governments and other stakeholders on the connections between food
 231 systems and nutrition. We encourage the continued promotion of the use of the VGFSyN at
 232 country level and the dissemination of guidance on policies and interventions to address
 233 hunger and malnutrition in all its forms through a holistic food systems approach. We
 234 support the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land,
 235 Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (CFS VGGT) and will support
 236 their implementation as we mark their 10th anniversary.

237 30. We commit to strengthen cross-sectoral collaboration in the transformation of food
 238 systems in line with the **One Health** approach. In this regard, we highlight the critical role of
 239 science-based international standard-setting organisations, such as the Codex Alimentarius
 240 Commission, the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the World
 241 Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH). We also strongly support the work of the
 242 Quadripartite (FAO, WHO, WOAH and UNEP) with their respective members and welcome
 243 its One Health Joint Plan of Action (OH JPA). In close cooperation, the Quadripartite sets the
 244 preconditions for food and nutrition security in areas such as food safety, antimicrobial
 245 resistance, zoonoses and sustainable agriculture. We particularly welcome the work of the
 246 One-Health High-Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP) established by the Quadripartite.

247 31. We will foster **collaboration** among national and international **research institutions** in
 248 agriculture and food systems, including public-private research and innovation partnerships.
 249 We welcome partnerships such as the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse
 250 Gases in this regard.

251 32. We highlight that **policy coherence** is essential to bring about transformative change. We
 252 therefore commit to better align our various policy instruments, including multilateral
 253 cooperation, bilateral agreements and autonomous measures. We will thus continue to
 254 review our policies and support programmes for agriculture and to realign them as needed,
 255 especially those currently contributing to environmental harm or distorting trade, to better

256 address interlinkages, synergies and trade-offs between the SDGs. Whole-of-government
257 and whole-of-society approaches need to play a crucial role in this regard. We need good
258 governance, both within and beyond agriculture. We therefore call upon our fellow
259 government ministers to actively support the transformation process.

260 33. At a time of unparalleled, multidimensional crises, we aim more than ever to cooperate
261 closely to achieve the **SDGs**, which are our common goals, by 2030. We look forward to
262 meeting again at the 2024 GFFA.