

Ambassador Gabriel Ferrero de Loma-Osorio,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I. Introduction

I am delighted to be here today.

Due to prior commitments, I was unfortunately unable to join the conference yesterday.

But our team and our Federal Minister Özdemir was full of praise about yesterday.

I just studied the pinboards outside and was impressed by your hard work!

I am therefore all the happier to be here with you today and to have the honour of concluding this renowned conference.

- The Policies against Hunger conference over the past two days was dedicated to the right to adequate food.
- It is important and all to the good that there was such broad-based involvement by politics, administration,

international organisations, civil society, industry, and science.

- Over two days, you held intensive discussions and made invaluable contributions to the results of the conference.

My sincere gratitude therefore goes out to you, dear participants!

- You make this conference an important platform where the brightest minds and most experienced experts struggle for the best solutions.
- Thank you for your valuable contributions, your expertise, and your commitment!
- Gabriel Ferrero, thank you for presiding over our conference as chairperson of the CFS.
- My thanks also go out to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Michael Fakhri, who has also intensively contributed to the conference.
- And I would like to thank all those involved in organising this conference, particularly the members of the conference's advisory panel.

My deepest gratitude goes out to the eight chairs of the working groups, who ensured that the discussions

ultimately also bore fruit in the form of concrete recommendations.

II. Résumé and look ahead

Next year, we will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Adequate Food.

- These guidelines are viewed as a milestone in the implementation of the right to food on the international agenda – and rightly so!
- Let's not forget: It is a binding norm for states parties from the **International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**.
- Our conference has thus been the resounding **prelude to the upcoming anniversary and the starting point of a more intense integration of the right to food into our efforts to transform our food systems**.
- The fact that we were able to bring together so many major players from that time shortly before the anniversary puts me in a very hopeful mood.

- In Germany, Renate Künast, who was Federal Minister of Agriculture at the time, substantially contributed to the development of these guidelines.
- I was absolutely delighted last night to hear her speech on this topic.
- We will deepen our dialogue with the members of parliament on the right to food within the next months.
- And we will also continue to talk with the private sector on how to better integrate the right to food in their business models.
- I am glad to hear that business representatives followed our invitation and took part in the discussions over the past two days.

Ladies and Gentleman,

- We at the BMEL view the recommendations from your working groups as a **starting point for further work** on implementing the right to food while transforming our food systems
- Especially now that the 20th year after the adoption of the guidelines is fast approaching.

- We will use these results to draw attention to just how important it is to also involve non-governmental stakeholders – and particularly, those from civil society – in the identification of solutions.
- And this applies to the national as well as the international level.
- The first opportunity to do so will be the upcoming Stocktaking Moment within the scope of the follow-up event on the United Nations' Food Systems Summit.
- We want to promote the work conducted by the CFS and use it to bring human rights-based approaches into the centre of Policies against Hunger.
- We want to consistently focus the BMEL's international collaboration on this goal by reinforcing our international and multilateral projects.

III. Closing

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have to take the right to food as a fundamental human right seriously. Only then will we have a chance to beat hunger and all forms of malnutrition.

**Policies against Hunger Conference, Berlin 28 June 2023,
Closing remarks by Parliamentary State Secretary Claudia Müller**

This conference was an important contribution to this aim.

Thank you very much indeed for your commitment – I hope that all of you will draw new energy and many ideas from this event.

I wish you the greatest of success for the important work that you do. Keep up the good work! Let us keep in touch with each other!

Thank you very much.