

**Written Statement of Ireland’s Minister for Agriculture, Food and
the Marine, Charlie McConalogue**
OECD Meeting of Agricultural Ministers, Paris,
3rd and 4th of November 2022

Ireland is pleased to participate in this OECD Ministerial meeting, which provides an opportunity for us to recognise our shared challenges, set common goals and agree ‘transformative solutions for sustainable agriculture and food systems’. The OECD has summarised the “triple challenge” for food systems to: ensure food security and nutrition for a growing population; support the livelihoods of millions of people working in the food supply chain; and to do so in an environmentally sustainable way.

Ireland, both at a national level and as a member of the European Union’s Common Agriculture Policy, has an advanced food system, exporting high-quality nutritious food around the world. However, we recognise that we are on our own journey and that we can improve. Our own stakeholder-led agri-food strategy, Food Vision 2030, seeks to strike the optimum balance across the three pillars of sustainability - economic, environmental and social. The ambition is to become a world leader in sustainable food systems, producing safe, nutritious, and high-value food that tastes great, while protecting and enhancing our natural and cultural resources and contributing to vibrant rural and coastal communities and the national economy. We see this being enabled by an innovative, competitive and resilient agri-food sector, driven by technology and talent. Ireland’s experience of inclusive, multi-stakeholder dialogue has shown that systemic change, while challenging, is possible but that it requires the willingness of all stakeholders to engage and cooperate, and at times to accept difficult compromises.

At the UN Food Systems Summit in 2021, Ireland committed to sharing its own journey in food systems transformation and to assist developing countries in their journeys, supporting the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in providing technical assistance in this

regard. We will continue to work multilaterally for a food system that is delivering food security and sustainability.

Despite ongoing efforts, the global food system is a long way from delivering food and nutrition security for all, and in particular from achieving the Sustainable Development Goal target of Zero Hunger by 2030. The underlying causes, such as conflict and the effects of climate change, were exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, with its subsequent supply chain disruption and inflationary pressures.

Recent events are challenging established assumptions on food security. Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine shows how conflict creates immediate humanitarian issues for the people concerned but can also have significant consequences for people not directly involved and raises questions about the overall resilience of the global food system. We are all concerned about the global food security situation, especially the impacts on developing countries. Multilateral cooperation on emergency relief and facilitating Ukrainian and global trade is vitally important and the resumption of Ukrainian grain exports via the Black Sea must be allowed to continue.

To achieve transformation to meet the triple challenge, we will need to work together to ensure that evidence-based solutions and best practices are identified and shared. We all recognise the importance of trade and well-functioning markets. OECD support will continue to inform policy choices and facilitate our discussions on achieving our shared goals. We look forward to making progress together.