

Statement by Ireland

Item 7a) 5) - World Food Programme Executive Board

Rwanda CSP– 19 November 2025

Thank you, Madam President,

Ireland thanks the Government of Rwanda and WFP for a clear and coherent country strategic plan. The document aligns well with Rwanda's long-term development vision and the UN cooperation framework, and maintains a strong focus on national systems, nutrition and human capital. We welcome the sustained commitment to life-saving support for refugees, the continued targeting of the most vulnerable, and the integrated approach linking school feeding, nutrition, livelihoods and resilience.

Food insecurity and malnutrition remain significant, with stunting at 30 percent and 17 percent of households food insecure. These pressures are intensified by climate shocks, limited fiscal space and regional instability. In this context, we value the plan's emphasis on anticipatory action, disaster risk management and stronger national programmes. Operational space for humanitarian actors must be protected, and food must never be used as political or economic pressure.

Ireland welcomes the strong collaboration with FAO and IFAD, particularly on food systems, regenerative agriculture, market access and rural livelihoods. These partnerships are essential for long-term resilience and better nutrition outcomes.

We note the shift from direct implementation to national ownership. This transition is right, but it requires realistic sequencing and predictable resources. Ireland would welcome further clarity on beneficiary prioritisation in the event of funding shortfalls, the expected gains from digital and shock-responsive systems, and the sustainability of self-reliance pathways for refugees. More detail on cost effectiveness and measurable efficiency gains would support future resourcing decisions.

Ireland also welcomes the focus on women's economic empowerment, youth employment, disability inclusion, and improved access to healthy diets, reminding us, as you have reminded us Madame President more than once this week, that all existing WFP policies will be implemented in CSP implementation. We recognise Rwanda's full national ownership of school feeding and support WFP's technical role in maintaining quality and safety.

Ireland and Rwanda enjoy warm bilateral relations, supported through education partnerships, collaboration with IFAD on the dairy value chain, and targeted support to local agri-food enterprises through our national Africa Agri-Food Development Programme. We look forward to building these links further.

Ireland will continue to support principled humanitarian action, nationally led systems, predictable funding, and food systems transformation. We thank WFP, the Government of Rwanda and partners for their commitment to reducing hunger and

malnutrition, and we look forward to working together on the successful delivery of this plan.

Thank you, Madam President.