

CFS 51 - ITEM XI. Other matters

27 October, afternoon session (15:00 – 18:00)

Chairperson

Thank you, distinguished delegates, Excellencies. We are going to continue with our work now after this morning's Special Event on the Right to Food. We are addressing now the final item on the agenda for this 51st plenary meeting. As you well know, under this agenda item, the Committee is invited first and foremost to address subitem A and listen to the presentation by the Philanthropic Foundations' Mechanism regarding its proposal for this specific mechanism for these philanthropic foundations.

Then XI B, there we are to look at the dates and location for our next plenary session, the 52nd. Under subitem III, very briefly, because we already dealt with this, because we already decided, but we are going to look at the election of the Chair, the composition of the Bureau and the Alternates of the Bureau. Following the election, as I said, which took place on Monday and on Wednesday. And then, as happens in the sessions for all of the committees, a requirement for plenary under the rules of the Committee, we are called upon to adopt the final report for this 51st plenary session. Thank you.

This is something, which should be solved immediately. I can hear the interpretation. In Arabic. Could you please check that the Arabic interpretation is working? Yes? Thank you. Thank you for having drawn attention to this important issue.

So, let's continue. And we will start with our first subitem, the modalities for Philanthropic Foundations Mechanism for relations with the CFS. Now, I am delighted to have this presentation before us. And I will call upon the philanthropic foundations themselves to introduce this. As you will have seen, a reference document has been drawn up, in line with the decision taken by the Bureau, for information to the Plenary. This document is number 51/inf/22. Now before I give the floor to the representatives of the foundations, I should point out that this process of thinking about the best way of having the philanthropic foundations represented has been a process of deliberation the past few years in the Bureau and of course with the Advisory Group, the Vice Chair has helped us many times across the past couple of years, clarifying doubts, clarifying issues which were maybe not as clear as they could have been. And in the long run, we did manage to clarify all of these matters for everyone. And that said, and thanking once again, the representatives of the philanthropic foundations, I would like to give them the floor now for this presentation.

Philanthropic Foundations Mechanism

Thank you, Chair, and I know we have an important agenda to cover. So, I'll try to be sharp. Dear CFS members, participants, observers, I am Matheus Zanella from the Global Alliance for the Future of Food, and I am currently leading the coordination of the Philanthropic Foundations Mechanism.

We are very pleased to present the proposal for modalities for a Philanthropic Foundations Mechanism for relations with the CFS. As rightly stated in the CFS reform document, private philanthropic organizations were encouraged to autonomously establish and maintain a permanent coordination mechanism for participation in the CFS. This engagement with the CFS work has been increasing over the years, and more recently, organizations felt the need to bring more perspectives from the philanthropic community into this space.

As private entities serving public goals, philanthropic foundations are increasingly called to contribute to addressing the growing challenges of disrupted food systems. Collectively, foundations group together or work with other actors launching initiatives to address these challenges. We can take risks. We can fund exploratory research. We can catalyze process support, community led initiatives, build local capacities, and support civil society actors that are often marginalized from development schemes. Foundations have flexibility to respond to the needs of these communities, and their funding can trigger further support.

It is within this context that the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Agroecology Fund, a donor community of 40 plus active funders supporting agroecology and us, the Global Alliance for the Future of Food, a strategic alliance of 28 philanthropic foundations, are setting up this Philanthropic Foundations Mechanism. Our main objective is to coordinate the participation of philanthropic organizations in the work of the CFS, including input to negotiations, input to consultations, contributions to the High Level Panel of Experts.

This mechanism will fulfill its role by exchanging information, analysis, and experience of the CFS with the philanthropic community, developing common positions as appropriate and convening philanthropic organizations. We will seek to offer statements and submissions representing the maximum consensus possible. Where consensus is not possible, the PFM might either express a range of different positions from its constituencies or remain silent on the issue.

And we formed a coordination committee with a representative of each philanthropic organization and a rotating leadership every year. While building these foundations mechanisms, we had several consultations with the CFS community, including informal meeting with the CFS members in June 2022, a side event in the past CFS Plenary, and Bureau and Advisory Group meetings that we were invited to participate. We had very fruitful exchanges on how the PFM could become a transparent and accountable mechanisms with proper safeguards to ensure the participation of interest foundations in the work of CFS.

Let me bring your attention to a few practical highlights. We are working to ensure transparency and accountability of our activities, and we invite you to check our website PFM-CFS.org to keep track of our engagement. We will assess our performance achievements and areas of improvement during an annual review. We are discussing the definition of principles and eligibility criteria to attract other foundations.

We reiterate that the membership to the PFM is open to interested foundations that do not have commercial interest in their givings, and we are defining protocols to ensure how to avoid conflicts of interest. And now we have a focal point of our colleague, Ludovica Donacci, some of you have already met her here in Rome. We take this responsibility seriously. This reflects a continued effort from the philanthropic sector to elevate food security, nutrition and food system transformation in global processes and to collaborate and support different actors.

And let me conclude by trying to answer the single most asked question I heard from colleagues here this week when I was trying to explain this mechanism. The question was: But how exactly are you going to work together? It's an important question, because we do have different approaches and different theories of change. To answer this, let me use two quotes. One is from former CFS Chair Gerda Verburg, who moderated our side event last year. She challenged us, saying, "it's important that this goes through the frictions, debates, the heated debates, so it develops a vision and a consensus to have a principles-based platform, and the need to make those principles public to serve for inclusivity". And my second quote is the title of an article by Thomas Riz, a scholar that influenced my personal academic thinking. I think it fits very nicely as an answer to this question of how exactly we are going to find conversions among our diversity. The title of the article is, "let's argue". Thank you, Chair.

Chairperson

Thank you very much indeed to the representative of the philanthropic foundations. Thank you and congratulations on this presentation and for these two years of work and for all the previous efforts. You know that in this Committee, the philanthropic foundations were traditionally represented by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the only one present for many years. So, thank you for your efforts to extend this, not only for one foundation, but to all of the foundations interested. And I think that this step multiplies the scope of the agreements, the discussions in this Committee. It draws it much wider than we had in the past.

If no one wishes to take the floor, we will then move to the next subitem on the agenda, which is the date of the 52nd session of the CFS. As you know, it's up to the Plenary to deal with the recommendation of the day and place of its plenaries. Initially, the session was planned for October of 2024 here in Rome. And I would like to give to floor to the Secretariat now, to inform us of the proposed dates and the state of play. Over to you.

Secretary

Thank you, Chair. The proposed dates for 2024, as they are shown in the Council report of the Council 172 in April 2023, in the Annex, on the calendar of our governing bodies and other main sessions are 21 to 25 October 2024.

Chairperson

Thank you. So, I will open the debate and I would like to hear from those who would like to take the floor and speak on this issue.

Good, I see no one is wishing to take the floor, so I think we can conclude with the dates as recommended, as they have been proposed to us, for the next plenary of the Committee, here in Rome.

Ah yes, I see that Ambassador, you are asking for the floor, Niger.

That was clearly a mistake. Ok, doesn't matter. I thought you were asking for the floor, but actually you weren't, that's fine.

We can conclude with that recommendation. Of course, as you know, that still has to be confirmed by the incoming Chairperson of the Committee and the Director General of FAO, who will then also check with the other Rome-based Agencies and they will of course, then we will inform people of the date of the plenary in due time.

With sub-Item C of agenda item XI. This is on the election of the Chair, the Bureau, and the Alternates. As you all know, on Monday we elected the new Chairperson of this Committee, my successor, that's colleague Nosipho Nausca-Jean Jezile, the current representative of South Africa to the Rome-based Agencies. And I would like to call for a round of applause for her election. And I would like to ask you Ambassador, if you feel fit, if you would like to join me up here Ambassador to say a few words. Whichever way you would like to do this, if you would like to come up and join me. Otherwise, we can do it at a later stage.

Take a seat here. We will swap, before we leave this room, hopefully. So, Ambassador, it is so great congratulations. And if you all wish to say some words, the floor is yours.

Nosipho Nausca-Jean Jezile, Chairperson-elect

Excellency Chairperson, thank you, and thanks to the members of CFS for affording me again the opportunity to, in case we are able to conclude the meeting peacefully and amicably, that I would be able to take over the chairship. So, for now it's still a bit premature, and I can only hope that we will be able to conclude CFS 51. And I do look forward to work with all of you, and to serve you, because, as the chairperson, we work to advance the interests of the members of the CFS and not necessarily my own self-interest, nor even just my country's self-interests.

So, but of course, our region is impacted, as you already saw from the SOFA report, the state of food insecurity in our continent of Africa and other continents, and hopefully, we are still as CFS going to commit ourselves to do what is best for humanity in respect of putting in place, or at least developing products that it would both ease the challenge of food insecurity, and inequalities in the world. Thank you very much, and I count on you. And at this point I would like to hand back to our chairperson, Mr. Ferrero. Thank you so much.

Chairperson

Thank you so much, my dear friend and colleague, Ambassador Nosipho, for your kindness and your generosity for being the best chairperson you will be in the history of this Committee. Thank you really so much. This unanimity and applause signal the support you have, and you will have, during these next two

years from all disciplinary, all this family of the Committee, all the mechanisms, all the participants, all the observers, and certainly from me personally during this, your mandate. So, thank you once again. Let's move ahead.

Just I need to reconfirm. Also recall that we will have a new Bureau and Alternates of the Bureau once we conclude this session and start our next intercessional period. The selection took place. The selection, yes, took place already on Wednesday, as you are very much aware.

Before moving forward, I just want to check if some members would like to express some words or some statement following the appointment or the election of our new leadership and the new Bureau. So, we'll give you the opportunity if you wish to do so now. And then we will go to the last of our matters.

I would like to give the floor to Senegal, followed by Spain and Argentina. Senegal, you have floor.

Senegal

Thank you very much, distinguished Chairperson. I would like to take the floor on behalf of the G77 plus China group. On behalf of Senegal, the G77 and of China, I would like to congratulate all members of the CFS on the high quality of your work. I am particularly delighted that the session began with the election of a woman to the chairpersonship of the CFS. I am also very happy with our event two days ago, the adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Empowerment of Women and Girls.

These guidelines, Chairperson, are not as voluntary as they may seem in truth. For Senegal, most of the guidelines for the empowerment of women and girls have become an important part of our legal framework. Just to say an example, elections, the national elections, and local elections in Senegal, we cannot accept any electoral list, if it does not include an equal proportion of men and women. And judges have already disbanded some bureaus in the national assembly and in some communes that have not respected this requirement with respect to gender equality. In Senegal, we also have funds that are reserved for women and girls exclusively. For example, we have the DFGU, which is a fund dedicated to women and girls. So, as I was saying, these guidelines are not as completely voluntary. But rather, for us, they are part of our legal corpus. And we are delighted that the members of the CFS have subscribed to this logic. We hope that in the coming years, we will no longer speak of voluntary guidelines, but rather of legally binding rules that will apply to all members.

Now to come back to the election of the Chairperson. I would like to thank again the members of the G77. We have held multiple meetings and we have mobilized ourselves so that our candidate may be elected as smoothly as possible. She was elected by acclamation. And this is a big victory for us. A victory, because she was our candidate, but also because she was a woman. We hope that the unanimity displayed during her election will continue throughout her mandate and that she will be supported by all members of the CFS. I would also like to personally congratulate you, Mr. Chairperson, on the manner in which you have organized our work. Thank you very much.

Chairperson

Thank you very much indeed to the distinguished representative of Senegal. And Spain now has the floor as representative of the EU.

Spain

Chairman Gabriel Ferrero, it's an honor for me to speak on behalf of the EU and its 27 Member States. Chairman, the moment has come to hand on the baton. Allow us to congratulate together with you, Her Excellency Nosipho Nausca-Jean Jezile, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa and warmly welcome her as the Chairperson of the CFS for 2024 to 2025. We welcome the huge spoke of the ambassador's work, which will give the CFS also the possibility of strengthening its links with other processes and institutions at international level. To strengthen the systemic focus, the synergies and the transformation of food systems.

The EU and its members hope to strengthen our cooperation with the African Union, in a joint commitment and in a coordinated way to support national processes to eliminate hunger and guarantee food security and nutrition for all in order to gradually achieve the right to adequate food, within the context of national food security situations. I would like to also congratulate the new members of the Bureau and encourage them to continue defending this commitment. Thank you, Chairman and welcome to our new Chairperson.

Chairperson

Thank you to the distinguished representative from Spain. Now Argentina has the floor, followed by Venezuela and then Iraq.

Argentina

Thank you very much indeed, Chairman. Allow me to extend an extremely warm welcome to my colleagues, with whom we will share the table of the Bureau for the next months and wish you Chairman for your work, where we've had many debates, discussions, but I think basically there was intellectual respect from both sides and that meant that even our differences were able to enrich us. And as always, we have the possibility of drawing the most positive conclusions and that's what allows us to continue building together, each according to our own responsibilities.

The second point I want to mention is that for me, it is no minor matter, that my dear colleague Nosipho is the incoming Chairperson of this Committee. I love her personally and I admire her professionally and I am delighted that Africa has been able to come up with such a high-level candidate that all the regions around the world are so happy, so satisfied, and that she brings us together. Because this is a very difficult moment in various different areas, a moment when we need huge consensus and a constructive spirit. And I believe that Nosipho for many reasons can help to align the stars, so that the critical context we are living in now can be solved in the best possible way for this CFS. And we can move ahead. I would like to conclude by reiterating my true desire to work and to make the whole of my delegation available under the new leader of this CFS. But I also understand that it's really important that we should be able to conclude this session of the Committee. Putting ourselves above any differences in spirit of consensus, in a constructive spirit, which will allow us to pave the way for what lies ahead under the leadership of our dear friend Nosipho.

Chairperson

Thank you very much indeed also from me personally to the representative of Argentina. And now the distinguished representative of Venezuela has the floor, to be followed by Iraq and then Angola.

Venezuela

Good afternoon and thank you. I would also like to take this opportunity to reiterate our congratulations. Because I think I was one of the first actually, who was able to do this back of Monday, when we elected the distinguished ambassador, Nosipho from South Africa. Now, it couldn't be any other way, it's really gratifying that from a gender perspective, this election has taken place. I think that all of the women in this Committee have to be so proud that the Ambassador of South Africa is our incoming chairperson. And I would like to reassure her once again that we will be totally committed to supporting you in your work and work hand in hand with you, as you guide us through this with your charisma. We've been witnesses of her commitment, her ability and also her diplomatic skills.

I think it's also right to congratulate the outgoing Bureau for its work and the incoming members and we would congratulate them. We will be working together to achieve common objectives. And to you, Chairman, over these two long years, you have been at our head. And as my distinguished colleague, the Ambassador of Argentina, has said, beyond our differences, which are human, they are part of our

debate, we recognize you and your entire team for the committed work you have put in, which has allowed us to get here today. So, thank you very much indeed.

Chairperson

Thank you to the distinguished ambassador of Venezuela for those personal comments as well. The representative of Iraq has the floor, to be followed by Angola and then New Zealand.

Iraq

On behalf of Near East Region, we would like to congratulate the Ambassador of South Africa on her election as Chair of the CFS. As a group, we would like to confirm that we stand ready to support her for food security, sustainable development, and wellbeing for humanity.

We would like to commend the efforts of Ambassador Ferrero. We would like to thank him for his wise management and cooperation during his tenure at the helm of CFS. We wish him every success in his future endeavors. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you to the distinguished representative of Iraq. Angola has the floor, followed by New Zealand and then Pakistan.

Angola

Thank you, Chair. First and foremost, I would like to congratulate the Ambassador from South Africa, our dear friend Nosipho on her election. And I wish her every success as a woman in the implementation of the guidelines, which we have discussed for the past four days. And I wish every success and I want to reassure her that she can count on Angola at the CFS, so that we can discuss issues of common interest and key issues as eradicating poverty, hunger and the transformation of food systems, the right to nutrition, production and so forth. We hope that the work that has been conducted for years by this Committee will continue, because the implementation of our decisions and following through with our agenda will lead to some functional changes that will address the keys to generosity, food security, and will help promote growth, the equality of opportunity and development.

We would like to congratulate her on her election. But we would also like to congratulate our dear friend Gabriel Ferrero. Gabriel, this is the combination of many complex events and efforts. But we would also like to say that is the task of this Committee to tackle complex, difficult issues. And during the session, we have seen that we are united around the work, in which you also participated.

As participants, we believe that we can make a difference and as Africans we hope that the CFS will be a symbol of solidarity, unity in our work and decisions, which should help us achieve our objectives. Thank you very much, Chair.

Chairperson

Thank you to you, my friend and Ambassador. I now give the floor to New Zealand, followed by Pakistan and Kenya.

New Zealand

Thank you. Thank you, Chair. And it's a pleasure to speak on behalf of the South-West Pacific region to add our voices to the congratulations, firstly, to the Ambassador from South Africa, who, we know will

lead the Committee well, and we know it will be in good hands. It's very challenging times ahead for her, but we can rest assured, Ambassador, that you have our support and commitment going ahead.

And also, Chair, to you for your untiring leadership and commitment to global food security. It's been a real pleasure working with you, and we thank you for the efforts that you have put into assisting our negotiations and always ensuring that the focus of the Committee being world food security is utmost at the top of the work we're doing. So, thank you, Chair.

Chairperson

Thank you very much to distinguished representative of New Zealand. We now continue on our list, and I'll give the floor to Pakistan, followed by Kenya and then Mali.

Pakistan.

Pakistan

Thank you. Thank you, Chairperson. On behalf of the Asia Group, I would also like to take the opportunity to congratulate the incoming chairperson of the CFS, Her Excellency, the distinguished Ambassador of South Africa. I believe she will be able to unite the membership in consensus decision-making during sessions of the CFS. I would like to reassure her of our support in discharging her mandate as chairperson of the CFS.

Finally, Chair, we would like to thank you for your able leadership of the Committee, and it has been a pleasure working with you. Thank you, Chair.

Chairperson

Thank you very much indeed, distinguish representative from Pakistan.

It's my pleasure now to give the floor to Kenya with again deep appreciations for your vice chairmanship during these two years in the in the person of Anthony. Kenya, you have the floor.

Kenya

Thank you, Chair, for giving me the floor. I thank you, our outgoing Chair for your able leadership in successively conducting the CFS 51 plenary, which I must admit was done in the true spirit of multilateralism and inclusiveness. I appreciate the high level of debate and choice of key thematic areas that made the core of our discussions during this week. Indeed, they resonate very well with the current food situation in this last decade of action.

Chair elect, your Excellency Ambassador Nosipho, my sister from South Africa, kindly accept my country's warm congratulations on your election as CFS Chair and our best wishes for your success, as we prepare to take up the responsibilities and challenges of this office.

We trust that she will continue to work for the improvement of CFS as you have ably done in other assignments. Chair-elect, we have worked closely together. We appreciate your open-door policy and spirit of inclusiveness to all members as demonstrated during your leadership as the Chair of the African Regional Group. You are elected by members in this plenary session, more so through acclamation, is a strong statement of the confidence members have in your leadership.

We also take note of the plenary session, which approved the CFS multi-year program work of 2023 to 2027, which I must admit is quite ambitious. I have however, no doubt that you will deliver on this within the stipulated time and do so much more. For this, I assure you of Kenya's support. Kenya, as the outgoing CFS Vice-Chair is grateful for the support you accorded us as we served in the Bureau and also for running ARG members to support the participation in CFS activities.

Allow me now to thank the outgoing CFS Chair, Ambassador Gabriel Ferrero, for your leadership and stewardship at the helm of CFS for the past two years. We are aware that you took the mantle, when the world has been faced with recurrent shocks, which have escalated up acute food insecurity. This has been as a result of interconnected, mutually reinforcing drivers: conflicts and insecurity, economic shocks and weather extremes. We are encouraged by your vision for a united and vibrant CFS and for steering policy guidelines and enhanced capacity on the ground, as you have clearly demonstrated in the CFS Bureau in the past two years. We appreciate that, despite these challenges, you are able to deliver key policy documents, which were approved by the fiftieth plenary and the sessions. We recognize that achievements of gender equality and women and girls' empowerment, youth engagement and employment, as well as strengthening collection and use of food security and nutrition data are positively correlated with increased productivity and improved efficiency in agriculture.

As the outgoing Vice-Chair of CFS, we appreciate our close working relationship and close consultation that we had during our tenure. We are glad that we were able to successfully chair the data workstream whose policy recommendations were endorsed in this plenary session. In conclusion, Chair, allow me to reaffirm Kenya's commitment to CFS as the foremost international and intergovernmental platform which brings us together to ensure food security and nutrition for all. I thank you, Chair.

Chairperson

Thank you very much indeed, distinguished representative of Kenya. Now the floor goes to the Civil Society Mechanism, followed by Mexico and Zimbabwe.

Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples Mechanism (CSIPM)

Good afternoon. Thank you so much for giving us the floor. We would like to extend our thanks, the members of the CSIPM and congratulations, we actually congratulate ourselves, as we say in Arabic, to the new chair of the CFS, Her Excellency Ambassador Nosipho Nausca-Jean Jezile. We look forward to her leadership and the collaboration to attain our common goals of ending hunger within the Right to Food perspective.

We would also like to thank the Chair, Ambassador Gabriel Ferrero, for the zeal and dedication for rendering the CFS mandate a reality, also for his support and appreciation for the CSIPM. It is a mutual sentiment. We want to particularly thank the vice chair, Anthony Murithi, as well as the CFS Secretariat, the invisible heroes, along with the interpreters. Thank you so much.

Chairperson

Thank you very much indeed to the CSIPM, Civil Society Mechanism and Indigenous Peoples. Thank you, despite our differences in certain cases, thank you for the cooperation we have enjoyed. It's a pleasure now to give the floor to the distinguished representative of Mexico, followed by Zimbabwe and Egypt.

Mexico

Thank you, Chairman. Mexico would like to express its thanks to Gabriel Ferrero, the Chair of the CFS, with a very ambitious agenda. And from the first day, Mr. Ferrero showed his commitment to bring home the best causes of the CFS through the lines of work proposed. And he showed great interest in those areas of work, which were a huge challenge coming from different points of view, thriving to find the points which bring us together in this Committee to achieve adequate food, to eliminate hunger and to achieve resilient food systems, which meet the needs of a growing world population.

Mexico is also hugely enthusiastic at the election of Ambassador Nosipho Nausca-Jean Jezile as the incoming Chairperson for the next two years. We are sure that she will do some great work and Mexico would already like to express its support. But there are many challenges out there. We will have to think

carefully about the projects for the Committee. We have thought long and hard and worked hard to achieve consensus as the Civil Society Mechanism and Indigenous Peoples, as has also the Private Sector Mechanism. And it's time now to quick up on those products and actually start using them. They can be very effective in helping countries achieve that right to decent food within the food security context. So, we would like to congratulate the new Bureau and wish them all the best for the upcoming work. To the Secretariat, thank you for your tireless work, as well as to the interpreters, who always show such patience with us. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you to the distinguished representative of Mexico. The representative of Zimbabwe has the floor, followed by Egypt and then Ecuador.

Zimbabwe

Thank you, Chair, for giving me the floor. I would like to join other colleagues and other ambassadors who have expressed congratulations for the appointment of Ambassador Nosipho to the chair of the CFS. I wish to express my country's readiness and commitment to work with her and support the efforts as she is going to take up her responsibilities to lead this august organization. We are fully aware of her ability to bring a lot of good to this during her tenure. We also want to express our appreciation to the outgoing Chair, Ambassador Ferreiro, for a job well done. We remember that you have worked so much with us to try to bring consensus in many areas, where we had a lot of disagreements. We thank you in the board for this job that you've done. We appreciate. Thank you, Sir.

Chairperson

Thank you to the distinguished representative of Zimbabwe. It's a pleasure now to give the floor to Egypt, followed by Ecuador and Mali.

Egypt

Thank you, Chair. At the outset, I would like to congratulate Ambassador Nosipho Nausca-Jean Jezile on her election as the Chairperson of the CFS. Personally, it is our honor that an African woman has been elected to head this Committee. We assure you that you can count our collaboration, Madam.

Distinguished Chair, I would also like to express my gratitude for your work over the past several years. Throughout a large number of consultations, meetings, exchanges it has been a pleasure to work with you as a Member of the Bureau of the past several years and we wish you every success in your future endeavors.

Chairperson

Thank you very much indeed to the representative of Egypt. Well, yes, Real Madrid, we have something in common there, I have to confess that. The floor now goes to Ecuador, followed by Mali.

Ecuador

Thank you very much indeed, Chairman. On behalf of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, we would like to express our satisfaction at the election of the Ambassador of South Africa as the incoming chairperson of this Committee and wish her every success. I would also like to reiterate the support of our group to her work.

To you, Chairman, we would like to thank you for your leadership, your dedication to the work of this Committee. And we would in particular thank you for your commitment to multilingualism and would also like to thank the Secretariat, who has supported you and always facilitates our work. Thank you very much.

Chairperson

Thank you to the distinguished representative of Ecuador. Now, I will give the floor to the representative of Mali, the PSM and then the Dominican Republic.

Mali

Thank you, Chair. Distinguished Chair, I would like to use this opportunity to take the floor and speak to my dear sister, the Ambassador from South Africa, Nosipho. I can congratulate you most sincerely and I wish you every success in your mission. And I am sure that this will happen, because I have seen your work in the Africa Regional Group. Madam Ambassador, at that level you were able to patiently, dexterously encourage and also through firmness and determination and also to organize our work within a festive atmosphere, when it was necessary. And to paraphrase, I would like to send you a signal by saying something which will mobilize you to work on this difficult task to chair the CFS. So, I would like to tell you zigi zigi and I am sure you know what this means.

Before concluding, I would also like to speak to you, distinguished Gabriel Ferrero, Chairperson of the CFS. I would like to congratulate you on the excellent organization of our work, which you have done over the past several sessions and during this session as well.

I would like to also congratulate all members of your Bureau and on this note, I wish the new Bureau and CFS every success.

Chairperson

Thank you very much indeed to the distinguished representative of Mali. The Private Sector Mechanism now has the floor.

Private Sector Mechanism (PSM)

Dear Chair, thank you, thank you for giving me the floor. It is with great pleasure to deliver our thanks to you, Chair, for the commitment you showed over the course of the last years. It was a difficult path, and we thank you for all your effort.

We can only express our congratulations and thank the Ambassador Nosipho Jezile for her leadership putting forth her name as the incoming chair. She and all CFS multi-stakeholders can certainly count on the Private Sector Mechanism to provide a constructive role and participate in the upcoming CFS program of work.

The challenges we've seen are many, but the value of this multi-stakeholder platform has never been as clear as it has been made throughout this week. Lastly, we would like to thank the CFS Secretariat and all the CFS members for their dedication, to this Committee, especially the workstream rapporteurs and ambassadors and distinguished colleagues that have led to the endorsement of really important CFS outcomes. Thank you very much.

Chairperson

Thank you. Dominican Republic has the floor, to be followed by Zambia.

Dominican Republic

Thank you very much indeed, Chairman. Our delegation would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the distinguished Ambassador from South Africa on her election as chairperson of this Committee and we are sure that her recognized leadership will really help us in our work over the next two years. You can count on our dedication to support you in achieving the objectives we've set.

To you Chairman, I would like to congratulate you as well for all the work you've put in over these two years, in a period of huge challenges for this Committee. And your achievements are there. My delegation recognized in particular to the work over these years some rather difficult negotiations and you really pulled out all the stops to achieve consensus, that goes without saying. We wish you all the very best of success in your continuing work and continue to support your team. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you to the representative of the Dominican Republic for those words. And to conclude this turn of speakers, I will give the floor to the representative of Zambia.

Representative of Zambia? Distinguished delegate of Zambia, do you wish to take the floor? Alright, yes, that was also a mistake.

So, thank you to everyone for your kind words on so many matters. Thank you, I have felt the thanks from all of you the delegations, as family, the various mechanisms, now with the Philanthropic Foundations Mechanism, the Private Sector Mechanism, the representatives of the Rome-based Agencies. And obviously there are representatives, we see each other very often, others, we see each other less, but we manage to work together. Many times, you have changed my mind.

So, when I stepped into these shoes, two years ago, there was a major challenge out there before us, because combatting hunger was something we had to work on, that was the main aim. Certain issues, which divided the Committee in terms of the Food Summit and issues which were quickly pushed aside, because of the huge crisis out there in the world. Many of you have talked about the many causes, the question of climate change, new and dramatic conflicts, and they slowed our progress, but also aggravated the possibilities. So, with all honesty, I believe that worked and we had a huge responsibility, because we are the only ones out there to stand up for food security and work to ensure global food security.

Now, I am very satisfied, because from the first day, we managed to achieve some progress on very difficult issues such as gender, youth, data. There was an ambitious program, so that we can face up to the challenges over the coming years, in a very difficult moment, a moment is where it's really difficult to achieve agreements. And I am hugely proud of all of you, because you are the ones who achieved these agreements. All I did was to facilitate your job.

Delegates, I have dedicated these two years, I brought to it everything I could, because I wanted to get the voice of all of you, the voice of this Committee, to all of the little corners of the international system and into our countries as well, where your voice deserves to be and must be heard. And I have been very satisfied, because the Secretary General of the United Nations, the Chair of the Security Council, everybody spoke of the critical role of this Committee. And that was hugely satisfying for me, because I can assure you that the voice of this Committee, not only is it necessary, people are wanting to hear it, people seek it out. And it's going to be more necessary than ever, in the coming years. Well, you said it yourself, my dear friend from Angola, this Committee, it brings us together on complicated issues, fighting hunger and malnutrition. There are so many factors, which determine the Right to Food, whether we have it or not. And institutionally, we are here to support those who are most affected by this.

So, I am about an hour off concluding my remit and I would like to do that by thanking all of you for your support, wishing all the best for my successor, the Ambassador from South Africa, my dear friend Nosipho and for the work of this Committee over the next few years. And I am going to conclude by sharing something very personal. With the German Minister of Agriculture, I co-chaired the conference in Berlin a few months ago. At that conference, the Ambassador Nosipho, who is going to step into my shoes, was there as well, and over those days, what I saw in the Ambassador was this ability to attract

consensus, to attract enthusiasm, and there was a huge leadership magic there. I am not surprised by that, because I knew, and I was really hoping that she could be the next Chair of this Committee. So, I would ask everyone to put their hands together and applaud you and your future role. Thank you.

I believe Spain has asked for the floor. In your national capacity maybe?

Spain

Dear Chairman, thank you for giving me the floor once again, to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. When I first took the floor, I wanted to warmly welcome our new chairperson. I would now like to thank you for your fruitful leadership and your huge commitment in the Chair of the CFS over the last few years. These have been completely difficult times for global food security with growing conflicts and interconnected factors, which seriously affect all the dimensions of food security and nutrition.

Thank you also to you, Chairman, for your huge efforts to ensure that the international community recognizes the central role of food security and nutrition, that it must have on the national, regional and international agenda. The CFS has to work to coordinate international efforts in facing up to current challenges on the food security front. We all appreciate your open and honest leadership, which means that the CFS's work, and its activities have been an opportunity to have frank and open discussions. You have intensely promoted the inclusive multilateral nature of the CFS and its fundamental role in proving convergence and cohesion in our policies addressing food security and nutrition. I would also like to highlight your efforts in linking up with those very different aspects around the world, working on food security and taking out into international, regional, and national fora the results of the CFS's work.

Also under your leadership, Chairman, the CFS has managed to negotiate key political agreements of extreme importance in facing up to the challenges of food security, including the Voluntary Guidelines on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and also the Policy Recommendations on strengthening data collection and analysis for food security and nutrition. Also, under your leadership we have also drawn up and approved the Multi-Year Programme of Work for 2024 to 2027. Congratulations Chairman and all the very best going forward.

Chairperson

Thank you, distinguished representative of Spain and all the countries of the EU of course. Before we move to the next item on our agenda, there is one last word of thanks I would like to express. As I said, I was in Berlin with my successor, and I was talking about that and I forgot my last point. To the Secretary and his team, who are behind us, thank you to you for your work over the last years. It would have been impossible without you, all the work on these documents and the different languages and that wouldn't have been possible. I do apologize, but I got carried away beforehand. But before we move on to the next item, I would like to ask everyone for a round of applause for all of the Secretariat's team.

Thank you to the Secretariat. Thank you to FAO, IFAD and WFP and the generous contributors, who allow us to continue our work.

So, let us proceed now with the final item in this plenary, which as you all know, is the adoption of the final report. Under this agenda item, as you well know, the Committee, this plenary, is asked to adopt the final report. It was finalized in its details by the Drafting Committee last night. Thanks, and appreciation go to them. And allow me then to hand over to the Chair of the Drafting Committee. Mr. Siragi Wakaabu. I would ask you, please to come up to the podium in order to introduce the draft report. I would like to thank you Mr. Wakaabu as Chair of the Drafting Committee for the huge work you did yesterday and to congratulate you. So, with the thanks of the entire plenary, you have the floor whenever you are ready.

Chairperson Drafting Committee

Thank you, Chair, Excellencies, distinguished members, it is an honor for me to present to you the report of the Drafting Committee. Before I present the report, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for

entrusting us with this duty of preparing this report for you. I would like to thank the committee members for working very hard to produce this report. If I remember checking my time correctly, we left this house shortly after midnight. It was a lot of hard work. The product I'm presenting before you is a result of hard work and I would like you to receive it in that light.

Mr. Chairman, the report I'm going to present right now achieved consensus in the Drafting Committee. It was well done. Most of the items were agreed upon, except for only two simple items. That is, the footnote on page two of the document and a bracket we have under item number nine, sub paragraph b. Mr. Chairman, I think these were just a few things that members felt, if you present them here, they did not have challenges that members would accept them, and the report would be adopted en bloc. This is my proposal to you, I submit. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you very much, Chair of the Drafting Committee and thank you to all members of the Drafting Committee for your excellent work. Dear friends, dear delegates, this has been an extraordinary plenary. We have had a very successful work; we have listened to all the concerns that have been expressed and we heard the word peace mentioned a lot more than the word war. I would like to say that the time has come to adopt the report that includes our recommendations. So, thank you for your flexibility and thanks again to the Chair of the Drafting Committee, thank you for your proposal to adopt the report en bloc. And I would like to take on this recommendation.

And now I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Pakistan and then Kuwait. Sorry, Kuwait and then Pakistan.

Kuwait

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, good afternoon, everyone. First, I would like to thank the Chairperson.

[indistinguishable chatter]

Explain, Mr. Chairperson, or I continue?

Chairperson

Yes, please, if you can restart. On my screen, it was.

Kuwait

No, no, it's okay, no problem.

Chairperson

But Kuwait was first, sorry. Whatever you prefer, but I think that you requested the floor first, or what is on my screen, whatever you prefer.

Kuwait

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. Sorry, I'm sorry for the technical issue, hopefully, we will not have any more today. Anyways, thank you, Mr. Chairperson, and I thank the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee for his hard work, also the members, sure they've done a wonderful job staying up late. We have, as you said, one minor, and the other one, not so minor. The one so a minor, which is para 20 B, as also Mr. Kharma, who was also wanting to mention. I don't know what happened here, but maybe as a Chair, you can explain to us. I'm sure it will, it will be back this one. It's not a problem, it will be removed, the brackets

will be removed. But was there a reason that initially, that what was not mentioned in erased, or was there any refusal from any of the Drafting Committee members to reject the addition of the Near East? And this paragraph, maybe the Chair can explain to us, so we can understand exactly what is going on in the Drafting Committee.

The other thing is on para number 10. Mr. Chairperson, we had with us today, Mr. Michael Fakhri and he talked so much about the situation in Gaza in very good details, and we are wondering if that will be summarized under this paragraph, there will be a mentioning for the Right to Food, will there be a mentioning for not using food as a weapon against civilians? Because it's impossible to only leave the para like this with the link, because even when I put the link, it forwards me to the best restaurants of McDonald and Rome, so that is not what really we are looking for. We are looking for a clear and precise statement that outlines, in any conflict - we are not talking about only what is going on in Gaza - we are talking about any conflict in the world. There has to be the Right for Food, people have the right, you cannot prevent them from getting food and water. Soon they will prevent them from taking air. I mean, this is impossible. So, this Committee, the mandate of Committee, for us as members, for our morals, for our humanity, we have to put something that reflects the situation in Gaza. Because this is impossible, that we can finalize the report and then we stack it and then we say it's in the link. Who will see the link? I'm sorry, nobody will ever see the link, because it's on paper. Nobody will go on and see the link. That has to be stated, has to be put, has to be clear, has to be precise. We have a proposal, and we hope members can understand, have the humanity to understand the situation, so we can all finish and go home and reflect on this report in the future as we did our job. Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Chairperson

Thank you to the distinguished representative of Kuwait. Before I give the floor to the representative of Peru, I would like to point out that the proposal we have in brackets before us now, that's in paragraph 20, point B, my proposal will be to leave it without brackets, to have it included. Now, probably when this draft was approved in the Bureau, maybe they weren't so focused on the situation. Maybe that's what happened. Anyway, I don't think I have heard any comments against inclusion of a region in this question of food insecurity and malnutrition. So, my proposal would be to include it.

The Drafting Committee, and I do understand that this is a procedural issue, should not under its functions accept the inclusion of something so important. It would be up to the Plenary. And I don't think the Plenary has any problem with that. So, I will continue with the Speaker's list and then we'll come back to your considerations.

The representative of Peru has the floor, followed by Qatar and Pakistan.

Peru

Thank you, Chairman.

Chairperson

No, I am sorry, it is Pakistan. Pakistan, I believe you were the next speaker. I don't know what is happening with the screen. But Pakistan, you now have the floor.

Pakistan

Thank you, thank you, Chair. First of all, let me say that the reason I asked for the floor first was after your previous intervention, when there was suggestion from the Chair of the Drafting Committee that we should adopt the report by acclamation, when you stopped your comments, there was an acclamation, and there could be a misunderstanding that the membership was agreeing to the report.

We couldn't, because as you've just pointed out, there's a text, para 20 B in brackets, and you're now suggesting that the brackets should be removed. So, if there has to be any acclamation, it should be after the brackets have been removed, and not when the brackets were there, and the suggestion was made

to adopt the report by acclamation. I've also listened very carefully to the comments from my distinguished colleague from Kuwait, and I entirely agree with whatever he has said, and I support what he has said.

We need to clarify that we need to, our report has to, like all previous reports for years, has to reflect the discussions which took place here. We can't go by giving a link. We have to reflect the discussions. Otherwise, no use having a meeting here, no use having CFS and sitting for hours and discussing, and the report doesn't reflect the discussions. So, Chair, I entirely support Kuwait, and we have to amend the report to take account of the discussions which took place here. Thank you, Chair.

Chairperson

Thank you, representative of Pakistan. Qatar has the floor, followed by the United States.

Qatar

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairperson. In fact, I have requested the floor only once in order to save your time. First of all, thank you, your Excellency, for your work and effort in chairing the CFS for two years. You were quite able and competent in leading our proceedings. Thank you again and I will not forget to express thanks and congratulations to the Ambassador of South Africa. We will be by her side, providing her with every possible support.

Mr. Chair, I have asked for the floor in regard of para 9 B. There is a reference that the Committee remains deeply concerned about the on-going insecurity and malnutrition in different regions of the world and their on-going negative impact on health and nutrition. And this is para 20 and not para 9 as the speaker said and he read the entire paragraph. There is some ambiguity in this paragraph. As if there is no mention of the Near East, as if there is no problem of food insecurity and malnutrition and as if this applicable to the entire region. We know that some countries have reservations in regard of the discussions of the situation in Gaza and we would not want to embarrass anyone regarding the double standards, regarding Gaza. But what is taking place in Gaza is not human and or acceptable. The extended food insecurity and malnutrition in the region is there for decades in addition to many conflicts which affected many of the countries in the region.

In addition, the discussions in regards of this item in this room was not referenced here in relation to the Near East and North Africa. Our report, the report of the CFS, should be consistent with the deliberations and discussions that took place in this room, which was not ensured in item 9 para 20 sub-para B. And it should be rectified. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you very much indeed to the distinguished representative of Qatar. I would like once again to reiterate, following what Pakistan and Qatar have said, the proposal that came should be seen as an acceptance of the changes proposed. In other words, deletion of those brackets, which were still in there after the Drafting Committee. That's what I understood as being the proposal made.

Peru, followed by the United States and then Panama.

Peru

Thank you, Chairman. Well, I'd like to start by welcoming the incoming Chair of the CFS, the Ambassador of South Africa. We wish her all the best and we will be there to support her.

I have a question, referring to the structure of the report, because you have asked for it to be approved by acclamation. Now, obviously in the text we don't find a reference to the question of the 52nd meeting, nor do we have the part relating to the election of the Chair, the Members of the Bureau, and the Alternates. And the part relating to the adoption of the report. That's lacking, I think. It needs to be included in the text

and I would like that to be clarified and I think we should mention the name of the Chair, the countries for the Bureau and the Alternates. And I think that would be in line with the type of report we should have.

Chairperson

Thank you very much indeed, distinguished representative of Peru. I will turn to the Secretariat for this. Would you like to take the floor on this? Go ahead.

Secretary

Yes, I can just briefly explain. The normal procedure is that item 11 will be added after the adoption, because we are still in Item 11.

Chairperson

Thank you very much indeed. The floor now goes to the delegation of the United States, followed by Iraq and then Lebanon.

United States of America

Chair, this has been a really great week. Thank you, everybody who has been part of these discussions. We've disagreed with each other, we've agreed with each other, we fought with each other. This was a fun week. We're on the verge of showing the world the strength of CFS of what it could actually be. That it works, that it functions, that it can come together to advance our goals, our long-term goals to end global hunger.

We worked hard in the Bureau over the course of the past year. We worked with our colleagues in this room, and I know, thanks to our ambassador from Uganda and others, that people worked really hard last night in the Drafting Committee as well. We agreed through strong and clear consensus on the way forward. None of us were happy all the time, but we did it for the good of the Committee and our important work that we're doing.

I do want to say I agree with the Ambassador from Qatar. I think that the addition or the oversight of putting the Near East into paragraph 20, section B, was an oversight that's unacceptable. To pretend that there aren't problems of food insecurity and malnutrition in the Near East is an oversight that this Committee should not make. And I agree with the ambassador of Qatar that we should include that, which is why we agreed with the adoption en bloc without the brackets on there.

Chair, that's where we are now and I would strongly urge our colleagues in this room to support the text as presented by the Drafting Committee and the way forward, as we agreed in the Bureau and in the Committee. Make our statements on the subjects of importance, we all have. We all see the conflicts around the world, and we know that people are suffering. We talk about it in every fora. We talk about it here. We talk about it in New York. We talk about it in our capitals. And our leaders and the leaders of the Rome-based Agencies talk about it on the ground, on the borders, in the conflict zones, where we are empowering them to bring the help, the assistance, and the hope that these people need. So, let's not block this Committee from doing its work today. Let's not block the adoption of this report and these conclusions. Please, please. Thank you, Chair.

Chairperson

Thank you to the distinguished representative of the United States. And thank you very much indeed for that message I can 100% support. It's unacceptable omission here. And I take full responsibility for that of course.

Iraq has a point of order. You have the floor.

Iraq

Thank you. Iraq subscribes with Kuwait, Qatar and Pakistan. We appreciate the intervention made by the United States and we stress the importance of not using food and water as a weapon against any population. Supporting and standing by people in their afflictions and trials in moral obligation that should be kept away entirely from any differences or divergences. The work of the CFS is to ensure the right to food, a decent life for all and to leave no one behind. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you distinguished representative of Iraq. Yes, sorry for the confusion. The representative of Egypt has the floor.

Egypt

Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm not 100% sure if this is a point of order, but I wanted to highlight that was raised by the Chair and of the Drafting Committee, who I commend for the hard work he has done yesterday, and by some colleagues here, that the removal of the Near East was an oversight. I just want to highlight that was, this was not correct. Me, on behalf of the Near East Group, I was in the Drafting Committee, and I was requested, even by the Chair of the Drafting Committee, to remove the reference of the Near East and some other delegation, have argued why we should not add the Near East to the regions that are suffering from food insecurity. So, my point of order is to highlight that this was not an oversight to drop the Near East.

We, yesterday in the Drafting Committee we have had discussion why we should or should not add the Near East, and I had a request from the Chair of the Drafting Committee to show flexibility and accept the removal of the reference of Near East to the paragraph 20 B. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairperson

Thank you very much indeed, Egypt. I'm not sure that was a point of order, but we've noted your comment.

Now, just let me clear this, it's not up to the Drafting Committee, whether an addition of text should be included or not in the draft. You know this is under my exclusive responsibility, it's not up to the Drafting Committee, it's up to the Plenary to address these issues. And as you've seen, we've addressed it in full clarity. The whole plenary accepted that inclusion and accepted, me first and foremost, that as we've said, this was an oversight, first and foremost. Because it was. And over many months, many months, we've been working on the draft conclusions, so I assume the responsibility myself and I think it's become very clear that we all agree that the Drafting Committee is not a place for negotiation. It's come back to the Plenary and the Plenary has taken a unanimous decision on the inclusion of the Near East. As I say, I accept my responsibility for the omission. So, thank you very much indeed, thank you, Egypt. And now the floor goes to the representative of Lebanon, followed by Spain representing the EU.

Lebanon

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, for this opportunity to take the floor. First of all, as regards the brackets, referencing the Near East, the reference was there inside brackets. This was under discussion, and it was not agreed on in the Committee. We would like also to express our respect and abiding to the mandate of this CFS Committee. We respect all the deliberations that took place and we have heard our colleague from Kuwait. We agree with all he said regarding the questions and the inquiries as well as the requests. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you to the distinguished representative from Lebanon. Spain now has the floor, for the EU. Followed by Libya.

Spain

Chairman, thank you for giving me the floor. On behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States, I would like to say that we have agreed with the draft report before and we believe that we shouldn't reopen that report. We have enjoyed a really stimulating and fruitful plenary of the CFS and congratulations for that. We would like to conclude this plenary in a positive spirit, a spirit of cooperation, seeking as always consensus, which is part and parcel of the spirit of this Committee. Reopening the report today would mean that it would be highly likely that we would not conclude our session this week. I don't believe that's the direction we wish to or should take. And we would stress that we would not wish to reopen the draft report before us, and we would like to approve it en bloc. We accept that the reference "in the Near East" could be added, as pointed out by the delegations. Thank you, Chairman.

Chairperson

Thank you, Spain speaking on behalf of the EU. The representative of Libya has the floor. Followed by Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.

Libya

Mr. Chairperson, distinguished delegates, good evening. Thank you, Chair, for your leadership today. I am very satisfied regarding the discussions that took place in this room for the entire week, addressing important issues related to every human being on earth. There is no doubt that from all these matters in relation to the items we addressed this week and all the interventions and lectures we heard; this has led to a successful outcome.

We agree with our colleagues from Kuwait, Pakistan, Qatar and Lebanon. And their interventions prompted me to take the floor. I belong to the Near East and in fact the exact name is "Near East and North Africa" and we hope that North Africa will be added to the name, the formal name of this regional group, when it is added in the text. I take note of what our colleague from the US said regarding this omission of mentioning the Near East. And I do not want to talk about what happening in the Drafting Committee. After all, we thank the Chair of the Committee and all the members, we thank them for this draft report. Of course, we would have not wished to see these two brackets. However, be it, we would call on all our colleagues in this room to continue in the same spirit that carried us through the week to agree to remove the brackets, to reference Near East and North Africa.

On the other hand, the Right to Food should never be used as a weapon when it comes to civilians. The Right to Food is the obligation and the mandate of CFS. This Committee, this esteemed, noble Committee, the intergovernmental platform, where all stakeholders, all parties pull together to end hunger in the world, we are riding the same boat, the same boat to end hunger and we should leave no one behind. Let's abide by this principle. And to all of you, my deep appreciation.

Chairperson

Thank you to the distinguished representative of Libya. The floor now goes to the representative of Saudi Arabia followed by Pakistan, Sudan and Qatar. Saudi Arabia, you have the floor.

Saudi Arabia

Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia fully supports what was said by His Excellency Ambassador of Kuwait, Pakistan, Qatar, Pakistan, Iraq, Lebanon and Libya. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you to the representative of Saudi Arabia. The floor now goes to Pakistan. I don't know if it's the previous request. Does the representative of Pakistan wish to speak?

Pakistan

Thank you, Chair. Yes, I would like to make a point. I agree with you when you say that it is not for the Drafting Committee but the Plenary to decide on the final wording of the report. And in that context, we still haven't addressed the point raised by Kuwait about the link in paragraph 10. We need to address that because Kuwait raised a very valid point.

And secondly, it's good to note that there's consensus on the deletion of the brackets where in Para 20 B. I don't know how that error could have occurred. We nearly adopted the report by acclamation. But anyway, I won't dwell on that, since everybody's agreed that the brackets can be deleted. But I would like us to address the point raised by Kuwait on paragraph 10. The question of the link. Thank you, Chair.

Chairperson

Thank you to the representative of Pakistan. Yes certainly, we've noted the various positions of everyone. The representative of Sudan now has the floor, followed by Qatar and then Algeria.

Sudan

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairperson. It's well known that the report follows the plenary. As regards para 20 B, Sudan yesterday made an intervention, and we mentioned that Sudan is part of the Near East region. Our country suffers from food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms. We mentioned our region in our interventions. And like the previous speakers I agree with Pakistan, Kuwait, Iraq, Lebanon, and Saudi Arabia. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you, representative of Sudan. Now the representative of Qatar has the floor, followed by Algeria. For those asking for the floor for a second time, please be brief, so that we can get through the entire list of speakers. Qatar, you have the floor.

Qatar

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I would like to thank the representative of the US for his remarks. I would like to go back to the main sticking point. When members during the Drafting Committee mentioned that the issue was not inadvertently made, you replied by saying this is not about mentioning or adding a sentence, this is about reflecting the deliberations in the Plenary. So, this is a development that has been discussed in our deliberations. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you distinguished representative of Qatar. Yes, inadvertently hunger and malnutrition in the Near East and North Africa was certainly discussed, there is no doubt, in the course of the meeting. The floor now goes to Algeria, followed by Nigeria and then Morocco. Algeria you have the floor.

Algeria

Thank you, Chair. I am not going to go back to 20 B, because if I understand correctly the brackets have been removed. However, during the discussions this week, I was in the room and my delegation mentioned the disastrous food situation of the Palestinian people in Gaza and this is not reflected, and we would like to align ourselves with the statement of Kuwait and other delegations. But we would like this to be reflected in the report. Thank you, Chair.

Chairperson

Thank you to the representative of Algeria. Now, the floor goes to Nigeria, followed by Morocco and then Canada.

Nigeria

Thank you, Chairperson. Good afternoon! Excellencies, friends. There's a proverb in my language. If you have a wound and it is trying to heal, there's always this bluish surface of it, but at the same time very itchy. If, because of the itching you close your eyes, you decide to be scratching it, as you scratch it, you'll be enjoying it. And if you are not careful you feel your hand is not good enough, you look for a broken pot and start using it. In the end, you set that healing wound back many months, many weeks.

I've seen war as a child. My father was almost killed in the presence of every member of my family, including myself, when I was just eight and a half. That trauma still comes back to me.

Having said that, I want to thank every one of us here, ranging from my dear friend the Ambassador of Kuwait and everybody in between, and Libya, Libya took the sail, the wind out of my sail. And United States of America help us to tie it all up.

Whether we want to believe it or not, we all have one goal and that is peace in our hearts, peace in our homes, peace in our region, peace that is given only by God Almighty. We have a responsibility. CFS cannot be anything else than what it is.

And on to appeal to us, yes, we, the membership have the leadership. But don't let us forget other constituencies that do agonize in their own different way, and they also want the same success, the same future that we want, not only for themselves, but for humanity.

If we want to end up with the sort of energy and the past hard work that everybody has put in and particularly you, my dear friend, Gabriel, I feel for you because you came into office probably at the toughest time of the world crisis, everything falling on each other, including nature, doing its own bit.

I just want to say this, we are a family, whether we want to believe it or not. Recently a very close friend of mine, highly placed individual from another continent said that, Yaya, I now know that you are my brother, because they've just done my gene analysis. I may be your closest relative. Not fake.

So, my appeal, please is that we all have put in sweat, we put in pains, let us all enjoy the joy of hard work and hope and future. Let our milk of love flow. While there is need to solve this problem, is probably not us here. Security Council is there in New York. A lot of hard work is going on behind the scenes and I do know, he who made us all that know that we cannot cut off the region that inadvertently was omitted cannot be erased. Let us know that it was a mistake of the head, not of the heart.

And there should be forgiveness at the end of this, my dear friends and colleagues. I want to sleep. If you don't want to sleep, I invite you to sleep because there's health in sleeping.

My dear Chair, incoming Chair, congratulations. The land, the ground seemed to be shaky. But I can assure you all of us will stabilize it. Because we are all in the same boat and we must just make sure we don't topple it. I want to thank you most sincerely and we're all blessed. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you to the representative of Nigeria, dear Yaya. And now the representative of Morocco has the floor.

Morocco

Thank you, Chair. First and foremost, I would like to once again congratulate the Ambassador from South Africa on her election, Her Excellency Ms. Nosipho. And we would also like to reiterate the availability of the delegation of Morocco to work together and collaborate with Madam the Ambassador throughout her mandate in order to ensure the excellent work of our Committee under her chairmanship.

I would also like to welcome the work and commend the work that you have done, Chair, through your chairmanship of the Committee.

My delegation aligns itself with the statements made by Iraq, Qatar, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia concerning paragraph 20 B. So, we believe that the Near East needs to be reflected. My delegation hopes that the Near East will be reflected in this paragraph so that the text is well balanced and in line with the contents of the consultations of the Drafting Committee.

Chairperson

Thank you very much indeed distinguished representative of Morocco. The floor now goes to the representative of Canada.

Canada

Thank you, Chair. I never know if it's easy or hard to come after Nigeria with his wisdom and wise words for us all. But maybe just to try to build on that and some of the other interventions made. So far, Canada really has appreciated the constructive spirit of the Committee this week that has seen us proceed with a number of very important decisions, as you've mentioned, with the approval of the data and gender Guidelines as well as the MYPoW. We've had discussions on a range of topics that have enriched our thinking on finding innovative solutions to improve food security and nutrition. And we saw the election by acclamation of the new chair, the esteemed Ambassador of South Africa.

And Canada would not want to see this important work, which is of benefit to us all, jeopardized by proposals to revisit the approach on reporting, as agreed by the Bureau. Many of us in the room will recall the challenging process of CFS 50, which extended into an additional session because we couldn't find agreement. And in an effort to improve that process on all our behalves, the Bureau and colleagues have worked on and agreed to a different approach that led to a categorization of agenda items, negotiated draft decisions that were shared with all members ahead of the plenary. And we believe that this approach has effectively refocused our attention on the substantive discussion and debate of ideas rather than on the negotiation of the report language. This dialogue is truly the value of CFS, and we've appreciated the opportunity to have those exchanges rather than be bogged down in report language.

We continue to support the Bureau agreed approach, and do not seek to have the addition of additional text at this stage, beyond accepting the two bracketed items that were flagged by the Chair of the Drafting Committee. We believe our diverse positions have already been fully captured in the verbatim and there's opportunities for broader political considerations to await the forthcoming UN Security Council debate.

So, let's seek to sustain the positive momentum of this week that we've very much appreciated under your leadership and the positive collaboration of all colleagues here in the room. And let's avoid a drawn-out debate. It's 5 o'clock on Friday, let's move forward. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you to the esteemed representative of Canada. Now the floor goes to Argentina, followed by Senegal and Yemen.

Argentina

Thank you, Chairman, for giving me the floor. I will try to be brief. I have three concerns, Mr. Chairman.

Firstly, I get the feeling that a problem of an administrative nature is becoming a political problem. Leaving out the reference to the Near East and North Africa is unacceptable. And I will repeat that. It's unacceptable. And I believe that in a highly sensitive context such as this, it's even more unacceptable. And so, I would call on all of my colleagues to accept the apology from the Chairperson and his good faith for having sent to the Drafting Committee this text without the reference to the Near East and North Africa, to stop questioning this issue. As I say, an administrative issue is becoming political. And I say this in total frankness and humility that it will be totally unacceptable, and we all know it's unacceptable. So, the only option open to us is to try to understand that a mistake has been made and in good faith we have to understand that and solve it.

Secondly, the members of the Drafting Committee, of which Argentina is a part, never, never intended to exclude any region. I don't want to and nor can I accept that there are any doubts whatsoever about the intentions of the members. We were part and parcel of that drafting Committee, we were there, and no one can question our defense of inclusivity, no one. One delegation, my delegation, before the point raised by Egypt, proposed that this term "the Near East" should be included in square brackets. Why? So that it could be dealt with by plenary and so that the plenary could then remove the brackets. So, let's finish with the doubts about intentions, please. It's absolutely crucial that the CFS has to stand together, that we are united, to be able to continue working and moving forward.

Secondly, I would like to say that our colleagues in New York right now are in an extraordinary sitting of the UN assembly about the situation in Gaza and I would like us to have the possibility of understanding that maybe by including the question of the Middle East and North Africa – I think it was my dear colleague from Algeria and others who said this – we could actually make headway and approve the report. And we know exactly what is being negotiated now to see if there is consensus and if there has been a resolution at the United Nations just now, where our experts in New York are in full negotiation just now.

Now, with these comments, Chairman, and having explained the intentions, I would like to ask you. I don't want to impose this on anyone, I just want to ask that all colleagues should sow goodwill and remove the brackets, so that we can move forward, and we can all leave with the idea that we have approved this report in this meeting of the CFS. Thank you very much indeed.

Chairperson

Thank you very much indeed, the distinguished representative of Argentina. Senegal has the floor. To be followed by the representative of Egypt. I think he wanted to reply. Senegal has the floor.

Senegal

Thank you very much, Chair. I am taking the floor to remind you that Senegal is located between different worlds, different cultures. We are in the sort of crossroads. And we are here today, because to some extent the Drafting Committee did not fully do its work, because if they had done their work properly, we would have already adopted the text. So, Mr. Chair, I know that the world is divided, you know that the

world in divided, everyone knows that we are living in a divided world. We have come here despite our divisions; we have worked with our divisions, and we have gone home with our divisions. The document, which we will adopt will not be unanimous. What we need to achieve is a consensus. Some will be in favor; some will be against. But, at some point, we need to move to making a decision, because we are here to adopt the document. And whatever the contents of the document, it won't be acceptable for everybody. But it is in our interest, for all of the contents, because we have adopted a lot of issues here at CFS. So, let's move forward, let's work in the spirit of consensus and move on to other things.

Chairperson

Thank you to the distinguished representative of Senegal. I'd like to ask the representative of Egypt if you'd like to use your right of reply.

Egypt

Thank you, Mr. Chair, for giving me the floor. I think we, from the beginning, we had two points to tackle. One of them is paragraph 20, and I think I can see that there is a consensus in the room about the insertion of the Near East.

So, let's focus on what the distinguished Ambassador from Kuwait has raised regarding the conclusion of agenda item III. And as much as we appreciate what many delegates here in the room, including Canada, the United States, a lot of the Near East countries mentioned about how productive and how positive the spirit of the discussion has been over the past week, we, in the same spirit, we are trying to reflect the discussions and the interest of several groups, several countries, not only in the Near East group regarding what has been raised by the Ambassador of Kuwait, and endorsed by several other countries or delegations regarding the conclusions of agenda item III.

And in this regard, we have proposed, we have proposed the language that has been approved by several delegations, and that we would like, for the benefit of the time, we would like to share with the Plenary, so that maybe, if the Plenary is accepting this language, this could help us move forward and adopt the report, and I would like conclude by recording what you have mentioned, Mister Chair, and what I have on behalf of the Near East mentioned several times yesterday in the Drafting Committee, that it's not up to the Drafting Committee, but it's up to the Plenary to decide on how to adopt the report. Thank you, Mr. Chair. If you, if you allow me to read the language or I'm at your disposal. Thank you.

Chairperson

No, you have the right to reply. So yes, I think we can maybe move to the other point at a later stage. The representative of Yemen now has the floor. South Africa and then Tunisia.

Yemen

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, thank you for giving me this opportunity. I would like to thank you for your efforts at the helm of the CFS. I thank you for your work and efforts. I would like to congratulate Her Excellency, the Ambassador from South Africa, on her election. I assure her that we will support her during the next biennium.

Regarding our deliberations, we do support the positions of various countries, probably the majority of countries like Kuwait, Lebanon, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and other countries, especially when it comes to removing the brackets in paragraph 20 B. I am surprised why we have added those brackets in this paragraph. What was the work of the Drafting Committee and why it has worked so late without resolving the issue? I would like to remind everyone that CFS in October 2015 developed a paper on food security and nutrition in protracted crises. This is a very important paper or document that has been developed and perused. This document has been developed by the CFS. It is one of its products. It addressed food insecurity and malnutrition as dangerous aspects of protracted crises, impacting

livelihoods and living standards. The drivers include conflict, occupation, terrorism, man-made crises. I would like to remind you of what is going on in Gaza today. This is an on-going conflict. We need to tackle it. As mentioned by this paper, we need to respect human rights and we need to enforce human rights and the right to food, as this is mentioned by the Geneva convention. This requires providing access to food to all populations under conflict or facing protracted crises. The Rome Declaration in 1996 prevents from unilateral measures that run counter to the human rights and it mentions the need to avoid using food as a weapon against any group or segment of population. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you, distinguished delegate from Yemen. Now the floor for South Africa, followed by Tunisia.

South Africa

Chairperson, thank you very much for giving us a chance. Allow me first to appreciate the hard work of the Drafting Committee, the Chairperson, and their entire team for pursuing this hard work until early hours of this morning. Your sacrifice is appreciated.

Our delegation aligns ourselves, Chair, with the majority of the members that para 20 B brackets be removed, and that the correct region, including North Africa, be included. We submit.

Chairperson

Thank you to the distinguished representative of South Africa. The representative of Tunisia now has the floor.

Tunisia

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I would like to congratulate the Ambassador of South Africa on her election at the helm of the CFS. I would like to thank you personally for your efforts during your tenure as the Chair of the CFS. Tunisia supports the suggestions of Kuwait, Egypt, Pakistan, Qatar, Algeria, Yemen, Lebanon, Libya, and other countries regarding the necessity to avoid using food as a weapon during conflicts. I would like to thank the US representative, who mentioned the need to live in peace and to strife for peace across all organizations. This is an opportunity to us for further cooperation and joint action. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you to the representative of Tunisia. The floor now goes to Indonesia, followed by New Zealand.

Indonesia

Thank you, Chair. First of all, at the outset, I would like to congratulate the State Ambassador of South Africa for her election and the Bureau and rest assured that she will have the full support of Indonesia.

Secondly, I will be frank Chair, I'm the not an eloquent speaker. I am confused. What are we doing right now? I mean, it's late. It's Friday evening. I have a flight to catch tomorrow morning. And I think you have said earlier that there is an agreement in this room, consensus to remove the brackets. As such, I would like to suggest that we move on from this part, and then address the second biggest elephant in the room in this regard, like to hear what our colleague from Egypt has to say. That way, we can finally move on, and, you know, hopefully finalize and record what we have achieved throughout this week. Thank you, Chair.

Chairperson

Thank you to the representative of Indonesia. The floor goes to New Zealand, followed by Cuba. And I will then close this round of speakers with this list of speakers. Those who are on it will get the floor certainly.

New Zealand

Thank you, Chair, and we would like to agree with a number of the comments that have been made this afternoon, and also with our colleagues from Indonesia that let's move on and let's get this piece of work completed. This is a really important committee, and we've had incredibly successful discussions and rich dialogues and statements made by so many in this room and online. And all of these statements are on the verbatim actually available to all.

We will not talk about Para 20. We think that's a given, but in terms of opening up agenda item III, we're really concerned that if we start to look at text, so many others will want to include texts that were in their statements, and we will have a tragedy unfolding, and we will not complete the work of this Committee. It is not an appropriate thing for this really important committee to get to the end of tonight without finalizing the report and not finalizing its work. So please, Chair, we ask that this Committee endorse the work of the Drafting Committee and adopt the report as it is with the inclusion of the Middle East and Para 20. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you, New Zealand. The floor now goes to Cuba, followed by Kuwait and Egypt.

Cuba

Yes, thank you, Chairman. Now I think that we've discussed some really substantive issue here in this Committee such as the Right to Food. Now, from what I've heard, we've already settled the question of paragraph 20. We've heard from other delegations that have been talking about substantive issues in the debate. Now in other sessions of the Committee, things have been added. Now, I would ask that we hear immediately from Egypt about their proposal, so see if we can save some time and finish as soon as possible.

Chairperson

Thank you very much indeed, the representative of Cuba. The list is now closed, as I said. Let me repeat that once again. Kuwait has the floor, followed by Egypt.

Kuwait

Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I don't know where to start, because it's becoming like you said a little bit dragging on. We suggested that item number 10 will be reopened and summarized and provided a paragraph by representative of Egypt. Now, with due respect for the gentleman from the United States, and respectfully with the representative of European Union, what's the fear, why you are blocking something you didn't even hear? First listen to it, maybe you will agree with it. Maybe it's something common. Maybe it's something you will be happy with it. Listen to it first, and then tell me your opinion, but from the offset you will say, no, I will not approve.

No, let's not block this report. You are given the idea that you will block the report before you listen to anything. It does not work here that way. At least, listen, negotiate. Tell me this is not agreeable. Tell me this is too much. This is extra. We can, we can negotiate. We are here negotiating something that we all can be happy. I think the disaster is, if we don't point out this issue, not if we open it. On the contrary.

Problem is, we need to listen to each other. Don't come and tell me no from the offset. Please listen to it first, and then give me your opinion. Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, and then, please, if you can give the floor to Egypt so he can propose our statement. Thank you.

Chairperson

Yes, the next speaker. I am going to read out the list, as it's closed now and everyone's on the same page. Anyway, Egypt has the floor next. And I would ask the United States, if you would like a right of reply, because you were referred to. If not, we will continue with UK, Cameroon, Australia, Venezuela. And that would conclude the first list of speakers. And then we'll see if any of the non-members would like to speak. Egypt you have the floor. Potentially followed by the United States, otherwise UK. Egypt.

Egypt

Thank you, Mr. Chair. We go directly to the proposed language from our delegation that was also discussed and approved by several other delegations from our regional group and other regional groups.

So, the paragraph reads as follows:

"The committee" Will it be shown on the screen, Mr. Chair?

Chairperson

Not yet. Please, if we can read it first?

Egypt

I mean, okay, no problem. Well,

"the Committee stressed the need to refrain from using food and water as a weapon of war and conflict areas, expressed the need for reliable, sustained, sufficient and unhindered access of essential goods and services to civilians throughout the Gaza strip, included, but not limited to water, food and energy. And stressed the role of FAO, IFAD and WFP in coordination and collaboration with other United Nations agencies, international financial institutions and relevant bodies to assess and address within its mandates the consequences of the conflict on food security and agriculture in Gaza and the occupied Palestinian territories".

That's the end of the paragraph, and I would like to highlight here, Mr. Chair, that when we are working on drafting this paragraph, we wanted to make sure that it's consistent with the basic text of the CFS. It's consistent, consistent with what the Secretary General of the UN has called for, specifically, when we're talking about the delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza. It's also inconsistent with what the RBAs have called for. Specifically, I refer to the WFP and the chair, the Executive Director of the WFP, Her Excellency Ambassador Cindy McCain, who called as well for the unhindered access of humanitarian aid to Gaza. And, just to highlight, because I understand this could be a concern for everyone, as we can see from the language, this has nothing to do with any political connotation. We are talking specifically to the technical mandate of CFS, food security, Committee on Food Security mandate is to focus on the access of the physical, social, and economic access to food to everyone all the time. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairperson

Thank you, Egypt. I would like to ask the United States if they would now like to take the floor.

United States of America

Chair, I first want to thank our colleague from Egypt for explaining so clearly what it is that he has laid out today. And I definitely want to say that we're not afraid of having these discussions. In fact, everybody has been having these discussions. And I think all of us, or at least most of us, have expressed our deep concern for the humanitarian situation in Gaza, for the grave impact on the civilian population, especially the disproportionate effect on children. We've underlined the need for rapid, full, safe, unhindered, humanitarian access. We've urged all parties to fully respect and comply with obligations under international law, including international human rights and humanitarian law. We've called for all measures specifically to include humanitarian pauses to allow the full, rapid, safe, and unhindered humanitarian access consistent with international humanitarian law for United Nations humanitarian agencies, and their implementing partners, the International Committee of the Red Cross and other impartial humanitarian organizations, such as the RBAs.

We all agree on that. We've all discussed this. The United States put forward a Security Council resolution with this language. Our colleagues are discussing this right now in New York, as was noted by Argentina, an extraordinary session of the UN General Assembly.

And I don't think we should get ahead of them. They're having this discussion. They're pushing this forward, and they're pushing it forward from our leadership levels, at the highest levels that we have with our ambassadors to the United Nations in New York, from our presidents and our prime ministers and our kings and our queens. They're putting this information forward. And that's how we will hold people accountable and make sure that food, that water, that the needs and the humanitarian needs that the people in Gaza and the people in the rest of the world get.

And so, Chair, I am a little bit confused, because as a Bureau, we decided on a way forward on this point number III, that it would be type D, only information to speakers in the transcript of this session. I understand, through conversations with several colleagues, that the point that they're making is that things have changed since the Bureau met. I understand that as well. But we also agreed on this earlier this week when we had this discussion here in the Plenary. And you explained, Mr. Chair, exactly what this outcome would look like. And you asked if it was acceptable to everyone. We all said yes. We accepted that through acclamation at the time.

And so, while the content that has been proposed, for the most part, is something that we would stand behind saying publicly in numerous fora, it's not something that we think should hold up the acceptance of these conclusions today. So, with that, I would just add that the United States is not currently in a position to be able to join consensus on addition of substantive text to this document beyond what was agreed in the Drafting Committee and was agreed by this Plenary earlier in the week. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you to the representative of the United States. I now give the floor to the representative of the UK, followed by Australia, Cameroon, and Venezuela.

United Kingdom

Thank you, Mr. Chair. The UK would also like to thank the Chair of the Drafting Committee and the members for submitting the report to us today for the Plenary to endorse. And it's clear that we have agreement on removing those square brackets. So, thank you for that. I think, as the US has just outlined, we have all agreed on the work of the Bureau in terms of setting out the procedure for the CFS report this year. And ensuring that we were able to allocate the time to significant substantive debate throughout the week and to have a report that didn't go into the detail of that rich debate, which would be very difficult to capture, but to provide us with the outline and then to the links of the individual interventions that were made.

We have that report before us, and we thank you for that. It is in line with the agreement reached through our Bureau members, and indeed endorsed by this plenary. We would very much favor the adoption of that report on bloc, whilst recognizing the issues raised by other members, on which, of course, we agree

on the need to respond urgently to the humanitarian situation and to facilitate access. But this CFS report captures ultimately the variety and range and richness of the debate and opening that at this stage will not do justice to that. Because if we do open it, I am sure, as others have said, there will be other suggestions that come forward, and we therefore then run the risk of not being able to conclude this session.

That would not be in line with the spirit of this week's discussions, where we have had substantive debate, real agreement on coming together in unity, to endorse really important guidelines on gender, on data, coming together in that debate, electing by acclamation our new chair and looking to move forward together in what clearly are difficult times, which I think, as a number have said during the course of the week, underlines the importance more than ever of our CFS Forum that is unique, that does bring together Member States across all regions, but also, together with other stakeholders, our civil society partners, our private sector partners, and so on. So it is that unique forum and we do want to have a report that that concludes this session and reflects the positive spirit so that we can build on that in moving forward. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you very much indeed to the representative of the UK. The floor now goes to Australia followed by Cameroon.

Australia

Thank you very much, Chair, and good evening, colleagues. It's always a bit of luck who you go after in these sessions, cause you raise your flag, and you don't know where you are in the order but I'm lucky to have a neat segue here from esteemed colleagues from the US and UK, who have just raised many of my points very eloquently.

So, without entering into the merit of the text proposal, on principle, we respect the decision made by the Bureau on which each of one of us is represented by our elected regional group members. Our understanding is that the Bureau agreed on a new process for the preparation of the report that preserves the depth, the breadth, and the integrity of our statements under item III by providing a link to the full transcript. So, regarding paragraph 10, Australia would not be in a position to see text added. Our priority is to reach consensus this evening and adopt the report en bloc as it came to us from the Drafting Committee, with the important inclusion of the reference to the Near East in paragraph 20 B. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you very much indeed to the distinguished representative of Australia. Venezuela now has the floor. I can give the floor to a few more people because we are getting into the heart of this now and I want to get a feeling for the floor. So, Israel has asked for the floor. And I think they were followed by Lebanon and Saudi Arabia. And I will now give the floor to the distinguished representative of Cameroon.

Cameroon

Chair, thank you very much. This is another day, and we are adopting the report because this is the time of the adoption of the report. Let me at the outset really sincerely congratulate our brother Wakaabu for chairing very well the Drafting Committee.

But, Chair, now that it's time for us to adopt the report, I wish really, first of all, to pay tribute to some stakeholders. The first would be the RBAs, because I want to pay tribute to those people because we adopted the report, and they are not part of the system at all. So, the RBAs they are there listening, they cannot participate. But we acknowledge their presence and they do well to listen to us.

The PSM, which is also a good stakeholder, and I agree that their annual event, a high-level dinner is more than a plenary. And we want to associate ourselves to appreciate what they are doing during the high-level dinner, to discuss issues that are discussed here in the plenary.

And the CSIPM. Well, since the reform of the CFS I have been observing some of these stakeholders, and they're there, CSIPM has been. I want to recognize their resilience, because most of the time some of their points are not really taken into consideration, but they are still there. And enjoying the discussions with us, and contributing, continuing to contribute a lot.

Now, having paid tribute to those, let me, Chair, say one thing. I know that the law of Karma is valid every time and people may understand why I mentioned the law of Karma here. If you start something today, make sure that it will come back to you in a way or in another form. I don't want to be laboring too much, people understand.

Now the big issue that we have here. Since I've been listening to the discussions from the very beginning, it reminds me of one novel that I studied from a Nigerian author, Chinua Achebe, *Things fall apart. Things fall apart* is a very interesting novel that was, I had it I think that's 1976 or 75 in the high school. The main character of that novel was named Okonko. Chinua Achebe is of late memory now. Okonko was a warrior, a wrestler, and he had to cope with so many difficult things in his community and he had to resolve some of the issues that he was facing. And that's what we are trying to do here. We are we all, we have a real character here to try to cope with all the differences that we have.

I think that's one thing that the lessons that we have to learn today. We have before us, we are adopting the report, we have before us proposals that are tabled. One is already agreed. I don't think it's still contentious. But another one has been put forward by, I don't know whether it's one regional group or it's a region. But that's what we need to do now, is to listen, because if we say we are not going to join the consensus. It's wrong to say so at the first go, is really wrong, because we are in a negotiating arena here. I know that you want to cut me short. But I have not spoken since the beginning of this thing. People have taken the floor three, four, five times. This is my first time to take the floor. Yes, yes, I know, I know, Chair, so let me finish, and then please don't stop me. So, what I want to say here is that in a negotiation cycle you listen to everybody. That's what I was taught since I've been here. If you don't listen, you can't achieve anything. So, we have heard what Egypt has proposed.

My suggestion is two things. Either we take a break and listen to and try to see, go around in the corridors, and try to discuss the proposal of Egypt. Or we put it, we paste it and see if people can look at it and address it directly. I thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you very much indeed to the distinguished delegate of Cameroon. I would just like to point out that basically if you don't take the floor on one point of the agenda, you don't accumulate it for other items. Anyway, we've noted your suggestions. We'll take them into account, as with all the suggestions made. We continue now with those who have asked for the floor in the first round. And then I will try to summarize the situation. The floor now goes to Venezuela, followed by Israel, Oman, and Lebanon.

Venezuela? Can you push the button twice, to see. Then maybe you should use the next microphone. If you could use the microphone next to you, please.

Well maybe we can come back to you afterwards in that case. Could I ask the services please, if they could check the microphone for the delegate of Venezuela, please. I will now give the floor to the delegate of Oman and then Lebanon. No, I do apologize, Israel first, followed by Oman. Apologies, I left out Isarel. Isarel has the floor now, followed by Oman.

Israel

Thank you, Chair. I have to say that I'm a little bit confused. Agenda item number III, paragraph 10 is about strengthening coordinated policy responses to the food crisis, the State of the Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023. This report was released in July, and now my distinct distinguished delegate

from Egypt is asking to add to the report the situation in Gaza, which is currently happening, and I think we should follow the agenda item. Also, I don't want to repeat everything that I said here before, but I think I really believe that there is no place for politicizing this Committee, this agenda item. The CFS is not the right place for it. As dear colleague said before, they are discussing the situation right now in New York. And we can't accept the suggested text. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you very much indeed to the representative of Israel. Now, for those who haven't spoken yet, I am being rather flexible in the list, because we closed it beforehand. But I have, apart from Venezuela, who is going to have the floor next, we have Oman, Switzerland, and the Arab League, who is an observer. So, Venezuela has the floor. Is it working now? Yes, so Venezuela has the floor.

Venezuela

I hope you can hear me, including the interpreters. Thank you for giving me the floor once again, Chairman. It's an injustice saying that, as we have done in other occasions. It's not right to render invisible for whatever reason something which has been said by any delegation. We can't agree with that. Worse is the fact that the name of a whole region should be left out or should be changed. I would like to also conclude this point and I will be very grateful if we could say that it's a region of the Near East and North Africa and that could be included.

And I'd like to move to the next point then. And that is that we have a proposal made by the distinguished delegate of Egypt, accompanied by a large number of delegates from the region, who have expressed their desire to listen to that proposal and then debate it. Now to be consistent, as we have said in the past, and this is not going to be the exceptions. What was said by the representative of Egypt does to some extent reflect what was said by a very large number of delegations, what we said in the debates, including the delegation of Venezuela.

And what I am going to ask and without people thinking we are applying a different role, because we have always said that we shouldn't open a debate, which had been close after sufficient debate. But we are talking about asking for equal treatment here. We have been calling for tolerance, respect, magnanimity. To include references to other issues we didn't agree with in the past. It would be just to ask that the same treatment be applied to something that really happened, it's a fact, and the situation in Gaza was mentioned from various different aspects, from the first day. So, I think that what was asked by Egypt needs to be reflected in the same way in the report of this Committee and others as well – to save time I am not going to mention them, but other situations as well, it's happened as well. So, I would be grateful Chairman, if we could also know very clearly what we are talking about, the text proposed by Egypt should be put up on the screen or should be circulated, so that we can all see it. Thank you very much indeed, Chairman.

Chairperson

Thank you to the representative of Venezuela. The text proposed by Egypt is of course going to be put up on the screen. But it's up to the Chairman to determine when and how and how we deal with the agenda, who takes the floor. Before Egypt asked for this to be put up on the screen, various delegations had asked for the floor. So, please respect the responsibility of the Chairman. We need to get to the end of the list of speakers, which was established before that proposal was made and the request was made to put it on the screen. Of course, it will be presented. But please allow me to decide what is the fairest treatment for the people who have asked for the floor and to decide when this is going to be presented. So, please don't worry, it will be presented. It was requested by a member of the Committee. And once, as I've said, we got through the list of speakers, it will be presented, that will include the three observers, who have also asked to speak. I hope that will calm anyone, who is worried about this. Of course, the text is going to be put up on the screen. But it will be done when the Chairman decides it's the right moment.

So, apologies to Oman for having interrupted you beforehand. But you do have the floor now, Oman. And I think afterwards it was Lebanon and then I am trying to give the floor, before other delegations, to delegations who haven't taken the floor beforehand any people who want to speak as a right of reply. So, Oman now has the floor.

Oman

Mr. Chair, the Sultanate of Oman strongly supports the text suggested by Egypt. This was a very short statement, but to the point.

Chairperson

Thank you very much for your brevity. I now give the floor to Lebanon.

Lebanon

Thank you, Mr. Chair and thank you one more time for giving me the floor. Mr. Chair, I would like to take the floor on two issues. First of all, I would like to say something as part of a clarification and then I would like to speak about the suggestion of Egypt. Now let us start about the issue having to do with the Near East region. We as a group from the Near East never doubted the intentions of anybody and our sole concern is the food security in the Near East region. We were rather surprised by the reaction. It was absolutely normal to talk about the lack of food security in the region. We assumed this matter would be sorted very quickly.

Now to my second point about the suggestion from Egypt. We believe that this organization, this Committee more specifically, is an international platform. It is here to build bridges between people so as to achieve objectives that have to do with food security for mankind. There should be no discrimination between any political groups, any parties, any stakeholders, which is why it is important for all of us to make sure that food security is a right to everyone, to everyone across the globe. Therefore, having listened to a number of colleagues and having listened to the responses to Egypt, we feel that at some point there was nothing that stood against the proposal of Egypt and therefore we stand with the proposal of Egypt.

Chairperson

I thank the distinguished representative of Lebanon. The list of delegations that still haven't taken the floor is as follows: Switzerland, as a member of the Committee, and the three observers to whom I will then give the floor, the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Palestine, the League of Arab States, and as a participating mechanism, the Civil Society Mechanism. Now I give the floor, to close this first round. Unless anybody wants to exercise a right to reply, asking for the floor for the second or third time, I now give the floor to Switzerland.

Switzerland

Thank you, Mr. Chair. Switzerland was quite pleased with the flow of this week. The Committee could discuss content and agree on quite difficult issues and that shows the strength of the CFS.

As a Bureau member, Switzerland would like to remind what happens in the Bureau meetings. And we have not only been discussing how to draft a report once, I think it was almost four times we discussed in the Bureau meeting how to address the agenda item III. And it was, finally, it was a consensus that we found, and I think also there it was a delicate balance we found on how to address item III in order that there will be the reference to the homepage of CFS. On Monday, this question again was addressed, and it was agreed again that the draft, the report, will be written in that sense.

We believe, it was also mentioned by other colleagues, we cannot resolve the issue here in Rome. Our colleagues in New York are discussing the issues, and I hope they will come to an agreement there. And in that sense, we would support the adoption of the report on block with removing the brackets in paragraph 20 B. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairperson

I thank the representative of Switzerland. I now give the floor to the observers who have asked for the floor. I begin with the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food. Michael, you have the floor.

Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food

Thank you, Chair. As everyone here knows, I'm one of the strongest champions of the CFS. I truly believe in the potential of this Committee to fulfill the Right to Food for all people. My main goal here today is to ensure that we get to a final report so that we can get to work and put the MYPoW into action and tackle the food crisis.

When discussing this year's final report, I think it is important to take stock of what has happened since last year, since CFS 50. I will therefore read from last year's final report, paragraph 10 d. And I'm quoting now: "The committee underlined that geopolitical instability and increasing conflicts undermine food security and nutrition and have negative impact on agrifood systems and emphasize the role of the CFS within the areas of its competence in monitoring, analyzing the impacts of crises and conflicts with a special emphasis on the impact of war in Ukraine on global food security and agri-food systems under the mandate of CFS, economic downturns, climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic and other shocks and crises." That's the end of paragraph 10 d from last year's final report. I'm sorry to report that Russia's war of aggression and illegal occupation of Ukraine is still ongoing. That war continues to undermine food security in Ukraine, in Europe and other countries in the world.

Along the same lines, I'll share with you what I said, when I briefed the Security Council over a year ago, when discussing conflict and food security. What I told the Security Council was, "because of the nature of our current global economy and the divided world we live in, all conflicts create global shocks on food systems". Today one cannot say that one conflict has global implications, and another does not.

As a reminder in my opening statement, I raised the alarm in the strongest possible terms in international law. That's why I asked for the CFS to reaffirm Security Council resolution 2417, where the Security Council, strongly condemned starving of civilians and unlawfully denying humanitarian access as warfare tactics. I have to say I am very disappointed that the CFS did not take up my suggestion.

Let me explain why I'm disappointed, why, the CFS is not taking up the request I made on Monday. To understand my disappointment, what I'm going to do is I'm going to share with you what the UN High Commissioner of Human Rights said today. It's in the title of my job is to report. And what I'll add is, the statement made today by the UN High Commission of Human Rights is consistent with what the Secretary General has recently said. So now I'm quoting the High Commissioner: "For almost three weeks now, Palestinian civilians in Gaza have endured relentless bombing by Israel from air, land, and sea. Thousands killed, lying dead amongst destroyed residential buildings, mosques, and bakeries. We receive harrowing testimonies of entire families killed by air strikes on their homes, including the families of our own staff members, of parents - I can't read this part - of parents writing children's names on their arms to identify their future remains, of the terrifying, sleepless nights people are spending in the open air, as air strikes continue overhead. We mourn the loss of 57 UN colleagues and so many more civilians, who are clearly, disproportionately impacted. Despite its repeated orders to residents of Northern Gaza to move to the South, suggesting it is safe, Israeli forces strikes on two Southern governances of Middle Gaza have intensified in recent days. Meanwhile heavy strikes on Northern communities, including in Gaza City, continue. Nowhere is safe in Gaza.

Compelling people to evacuate in these circumstances, including to places such as the "Israeli designated area" of Moasi, and while under a complete torture, siege". Please, please, please, Chair, I was referencing this, at least giving me a bit more time. There's a lot at stake today. I'm just reporting the

statement, and I'll conclude this is the part that has to do with food. First, let me just continue, "Israel's use of explosive weapons with wide area effects of densely populated areas has caused extensive damage to civilian infrastructure and loss of civilian lives by all appearances is difficult to reconcile with international humanitarian law. Collective punishment is occurring through the choking off of water, food, fuel, and electricity". I'll cut it short there, there's more. Of course.

I'm disappointed that no one has taken up my request, and that the context of my remarks were not discussed anytime this week. Nevertheless, I appreciate that some countries have decided to go ahead in the spirit of compromise and commitment to the CFS. The proposed compromise by Kuwait is that the final report reflect the majority sentiments that were raised in the CFS. Egypt has proposed language that offers a way forward. Admittedly, I don't think the proposed language is enough. Language matters. What I'm seeing firsthand at the General Assembly and the Security Council and at the Human Rights Council is that the space for political solutions to enable peace are shrinking. I wish the proposed language made that space even wider. Nevertheless, I'm willing to live with this proposed compromise from Egypt and Kuwait. With the proposed language, the CFS can still be one place that keeps political options open everywhere in the world, opening the paths towards peace and not war. Thank you.

Chairperson

I have to say that I am really sorry that I had to interrupt the speaker, I always am, but the time that is allocated to each speaker isn't decided by me alone. So, I am very sorry, Special Rapporteur that I had to interrupt you, but you had gone to almost double the speaking time given to a member, so I do apologize once again, in the same way that I would apologize to anyone that I would have to interrupt.

I now move on; I give the floor to Palestine as an Observer and the League of Arab States and then the Civil Society Mechanism.

Palestine

Good evening. I would like to thank the Special Rapporteur of the United Nations. The Special Rapporteur indeed has summarized everything that I wanted to say and everything that I ought to say. Thank you very much, Sir. And I would like to apologize to the people present, because this is the last day of our conference and yet we see that time is dragging on and we cannot reach a solution. However, whenever Palestine is mentioned, I always feel that there is a certain tension. I always feel that there are diverging opinions emerging all of a sudden and I always feel that human rights get to be cast aside and all of a sudden, we start focusing on a few issues, just so that Palestine is set aside.

Let me focus on something that I consider important. International institutions and international organizations, who work on food security and most notably the CFS, the CFS that is an entity here to achieve world food security across the globe, and not just for Palestinians mind you, for the globe, for the entire world population. And today the CFS is unable to talk about Gaza and about Palestine. Today I would like to remind you that hunger and want did not start in Gaza a few days ago. We know that in Gaza food insecurity has been going on for years, years. When we talk about this in specialized committees, I do not understand why all of a sudden everybody cringes, and nobody wants to speak about Palestine. With all due respect to all countries present here, we've mentioned Ukraine a million times and there was never any problem. But whenever we try to mention Palestine all of a sudden everybody is afraid, everybody backtracks, and nobody wants to say anything.

We are not, we cannot accept double standards, enough double standards. Human rights are now implemented with double standards. It's not acceptable. I urge you, I beseech you, ladies and gentlemen, if we are here in an organization that is allegedly working for the benefit of mankind, let it be for all of mankind. If Palestinians in Gaza are considered human animals and if they are to die with nobody regretting them and nobody mourning their memories, then that is not acceptable. We cannot be a humanitarian organization with double standards. And if we do have double standards, let this organization be closed. It is not acceptable; it is not acceptable to see children dying every 15 seconds in Gaza. It is not acceptable to see women dying every 15 seconds too. And whenever we speak of Palestine all of a sudden everybody backtracks, nobody wants to talk about it. We stand before history

and history will judge us for our position. Ladies and gentlemen, let us work upon the principles upon which this organization was built. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you very much. I thank the distinguished representative of Palestine. On Palestine, we do speak about it, we have spoken a lot about the issue in this session. It is a fact. And we will continue to talk about it. But we have talked about it during this session without restriction of course. I now give the floor to the League of Arab States, followed by the Civil Society Mechanism.

League of Arab States

Excellencies, I would like to thank the Chairman for presiding over our activities. The League of Arab States would like to reassert that the Right to Food and the right to water should never be used as a weapon when it comes to civilians. As international community, we cannot look the other way, while hunger and death spread in Gaza. This has nothing to do with politicization within this Committee, this is the heart of the work of the CFS, and we need to talk about it in our report. We, as League of Arab States, would like to support the proposal by Egypt. I would furthermore like to join my voice to that of Algeria, who asked about the deteriorating food situation in Gaza. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

Chairperson

I thank the representative of the League of Arab States. I now give the floor to the Civil Society Mechanism.

Civil Society Mechanism

Thank you very much. I'll be speaking Portuguese. Thank you very much, Chair, ladies and gentlemen. I'll be speaking Portuguese as a way of shedding light on our linguistic diversity and giving value to it. I would like to address an issue that concerns us. Namely how much time is left for interpretation so that this plenary can finalize its work in the best possible fashion.

We would also like to take this opportunity to support the proposal made by the distinguished delegation of Egypt that made a proposal in line with the lines of action of action during protracted crises. We analyzed the document, and it does indeed address the content as proposed, namely addressing immediate humanitarian needs, enhancing the resilience of livelihoods. Principle 2 talks about focusing on nutrition needs. Principle 3 talks about reaching affected populations. Principle 4 talks about protecting people affected by protracted crises and those who face the risk of falling in food insecurity. Principle 7, and there are elements of this in Egypt's proposal too, talks about strengthening participation, coordination, and accountability as well as stakeholder commitment. And Principle 8 talks about promoting effective funding. We therefore see great consistency between the Framework for Action and the proposal made.

This is a way to lend value to this Committee, its products and also to strengthen the Committee. We also echo the arguments put forward by the Rapporteur on the Right to Food on the importance of shedding light on the human right to food, so as to enhance access to a differentiated, adequate food in line with our diverse cultures.

Last, Chair, ladies and gentlemen, we appeal to the different sensitivities in the room so that we can finalize this plenary session in a successful fashion. We have heard throughout the week, many of you speak of the urgency of taking decisions, concrete decisions, in the CFS and also the importance of approving the next MYPoW. It is therefore necessary that we all come together, all the delegations, all the participants and everyone who is on Zoom, that we all come together to finalize this session in a successful way. Thank you very much.

Chairperson

Thank you very much, Civil Society Mechanism.

[no interpretation available]

Is the interpretation working? The system is new or virtually new, so there might be some birthing problems. Can you not hear me? Can you hear me? You can. Ok, very good. In that case, we'll move on.

I was saying that we finished this first round. I closed the list of speakers, but now we finished the first round of all of those speakers, who wished to make a statement. Some states exercised their right to reply. But some countries, I'd like to ask those who want to take the floor, making use of their right to reply. That's a right of course. If that is not why they are asking for the floor, may I now remind you where we are at now and analyze the situation, so that we can then proceed with the next phase? And the list of the next requests for the floor. We'll move on that way.

I've seen the distinguished delegate of Kuwait has raised their hand, asking to take the floor, I think. This has to be a right to reply. Is this a right to reply to a member state, to another member? If not, I understand that Qatar also wants to speak. Kuwait, Qatar, I don't see any other requests to exercise the right to reply. Kuwait, you have the floor.

Kuwait

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. Yes, of course. First of all, the Bureau does not supersede the Plenary. We all went through this, and we understand, the final word is with the Plenary. This is to respond to some of the members who are saying we agreed, and we agreed in the Plenary, the Plenary, sorry the Bureau. Whatever you agreed in the Bureau does not have to be implemented here before all members. A member has a right to speak their voice, and this is important to understand.

Now some also the members saying, we should wait for the UN resolution tomorrow. What? And then we wait, and then, if it passes, we will come back here and then put it in the report. Is that what we want? We should give a chance for the UN resolution that will pass. Then we will put it included in the report. We will reference it in the report. This is what we are asking for? Cameron, we hear you. Yes, we hear you, but our seeds are not politics. We are talking about a humanitarian issue here. We are not talking about politics like it was before. So, this is another thing to point out. The politics has been taken upon us for the past, I don't know two years, and we raise this issue. Not to include it, not to include it, please, please. But no. So now the difference is like the ambassador of Palestine, said, is Palestine. And Ambassador, we will not leave your name out of this report, I assure you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairperson

I thank the distinguished representative of Kuwait. But I'm not entirely sure that that was a right of reply. I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of Qatar. But please make a right of reply. It must be a direct reference to your country, to Qatar.

Qatar

Thank you, Chair. Yes, it is a right of reply that I would like to resort to. I believe that I have heard many people, many participants in this hall saying that we should not rush. And I've heard many people say, let us wait to see what happens in New York and let us wait to see what comes out of New York. And obviously these are military and political issues to be dealt with in the right place and New York is the right place. And I have heard many people say, let us wait for New York to speak. And let us wait for what they say to come out. But shouldn't it be the opposite? Shouldn't we in the CFS give a hint to New York? Shouldn't CFS tell them in New York that we are pioneers, that we are the ones taking the reins of things? Shouldn't we be talking about what is happening in the Near East, the reality of what is happening in the Near East? Should we wait for New York to just tell us what happens? I believe, Mr. Chair, that this is not acceptable in a way. We need to do better.

Chairperson

Thank you very much for your statement, but again, I don't think it was a reply to anyone. I think it was rather a proposal. Therefore, if I may, that brings us to the end of the round of rights of reply.

Firstly, I can confirm that we do have interpretation available for quite some time ahead, at least until midnight. That's the maximum that's feasible. I hope that we'll finish before that. I'm sure that we'll finish before that. But we will have interpretation of course.

Secondly, now that we've heard all of the members who asked for the floor on time for the first time. And we've also had some rights of reply.

Now, if I may, I would like to summarize where we are right now and propose what the next steps might be. I believe, and I am glad that the proposal to accept paragraph 10 with the inclusion of the Near East and North Africa has not only been accepted of course, but also recognized by all the members of the Committee as an unacceptable omission. I have taken responsibility personally for that omission. Second, there is a proposal that we include a text under agenda item III, which was introduced verbally by one of the members. And I still do not see that there is a consensus around whether or not to include that text, from all the interventions I've heard. That is what I've seen. Many in the Committee, at least those who have spoken, support the inclusion. But there are also many in the Committee, who at least for the time being do not feel prepared to accept new text. That is the situation for the time being as far as I can tell from up here.

Next, I would like to ask the Secretariat, given that they already have it prepared, that they show us Egypt's proposal. I think they do have it ready. Thank you very much for your work, Secretariat, because we do understand that it's not immediate when the text is read out, given that it's a little bit lengthy, it doesn't happen automatically. Here it is up on the screen. If I am not mistaken, this is the text that was proposed verbally by Egypt.

Now, for biological reasons too, that we take a short break, I think we should take a 15-minute break to begin with 15 minutes in and we will come back to the room and resume the session. If we should need longer than that due to the process and related needs, then I will let you know. Thank you to all the delegations for expressing your views. We will try to move forward, and we will manage. We will find a compromise, a consensus-based solution rather, that will accommodate all the sensitivities. Of course, it is heated, it has been a heated debate, because the situation calls for it. However, I have no doubt that we will find a solution in the coming hours that will accommodate everyone's different sensitivities. With those comments, let's take a 15-minute break and at 06:45, let's resume our session back here. Thank you.

Evening session, 18:00 – 21:00

Chairperson

Thank you very much for your forbearance, everyone. As some delegates suggested, we do need to take breaks every once in a while. That was a little longer than expected, but it was necessary, to push the conversation along, so that we can then resume our conversation and explore where we're at and above all, what options we might have. What I've seen without a doubt is the will to successfully end a Plenary, which has seen the respect for dialogue and all points of view and consensus prevail, almost throughout. And I believe that that will flow. I would again like to open the floor. I'll open the floor for anyone wishing to take the floor. We already have a text proposal up on the screen, provided by a member. I would like to know what your views are and what possibilities you might see in terms of reactions to this proposal.

The floor is open. I recognize three different requests, from Algeria, Syrian Arab Republic, Spain on behalf of the EU, to be followed by Jordan on Zoom. The distinguished representative of Algeria has the floor.

Algeria

Thank you, Chair. My delegation feels that we are not veering off or away from the CFS's mandate and seeking to achieve the Right to Food, which is why we support Egypt's proposal. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you very much, Algeria. Syria has the floor, followed by Spain. Syria.

Syrian Arab Republic

Thank you, Chair, for giving me the floor. First of all, I would like to salute you, to salute you for that role that you have placed during the past two years. You have indeed led our activities. I would furthermore like to congratulate South Africa, who will be your successor.

Mr. Chair, peace is not in words, peace is done by work. Peace is not about being angry. Peace is not about getting weapons. Peace is not about clashing with one another. If we would like to talk about politics. Well, Syria every day is under shelling, Syria is every day under attack. Mr. Chair, I am not going to talk about what countries are doing what. I am not here to name names and I am not going to talk about the lack of food security in Syria.

However, I would like to get back to what Kuwait said and I would like to get back to the Egyptian proposal. I believe that these two interventions are part and parcel of the mandate of this Committee, which is why we strongly support the proposal by Egypt. We furthermore consider that the Egyptian proposal is the minimum acceptable proposal, we can agree to, especially considering the level of destruction in Gaza. Women and children are being killed; infrastructures are destroyed. We are not asking in this proposal for a ceasefire, we are not asking for political statements, we are asking for something basic, the right to food, the right to water, the right to fuel. Imagine if it were your children instead of those Palestinian children dying, what would you have felt. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you. Next, Spain has the floor, on behalf of the EU.

Spain

Thank you, Chairman for giving me the floor. On behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States, I wish to convey that the countries I represent are not in a position to take a stance on the text proposed today. We need to consult our capitals on this text. Based on rule 12, paragraph 24, we would like for this session to be suspended and that we look for a new date, so that we can conduct this vote. Thank you, Chair.

Chairperson

Thank you very much, distinguished delegate of Spain, speaking on behalf of the EU. Could you please give me a minute so that I can consult the rules. Thank you.

Legal Office, you have the floor.

Legal Counsel

That Spain on behalf of the EU requested adjournment or suspension of the debate, or of the meeting. If the request was for suspension or adjournment of the meeting, and here I understand that that is the case - of course, I stand to be corrected, but taking into account that the delegate had mentioned the need for

obtaining guidance - if it is a matter of adjournment or suspension of the meeting, I would refer you to paragraph 21 of Rule 12 of the general rules of the organization. And this states and here I quote: "during the discussion of any matter, a delegate or representative may move the suspension or adjournment of the meeting. Such a motion shall not be debated but shall be immediately put to the vote. The chairperson may limit the time to be allowed to the speaker moving the suspension or adjournment of the meeting" and finally, it states, "at any meeting, the same delegate or representative may not move the suspension or adjournment of the meeting more than once during the discussion of any one matter". Thus, once proposed, you Chair are required by the rules of the organization to put this immediately to a vote without debate. Here, I would also add, and I have to admit we have been looking into and exploring the distinction between suspension and adjournment. And in the practice of this organization, suspension means indefinite suspension. Adjournment is used to specify that discussion would be resumed at a future meeting of the session. I hope that is of assistance. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you, Legal Office, thank you, Legal Counsel. It is my understanding that we need to put this motion to a vote, immediately. I believe the proposal was for a suspension. Could I please ask that the proposal be reconfirmed given that there are two different implications, according to the Legal Office. Spain could you please confirm what the proposal was specifically.

Spain

Thank you, Chair, for giving me the floor. I would like to thank the Legal Counsel for giving those clarifications. Of course, what Spain is requesting on behalf of the EU and its 27 Member States is adjournment. Because we need time to consult with our capitals on the proposed text. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you very much for that clarification. The translation into other languages was also very clear. Adjournment. And therefore, we take note of that and put your proposal to a vote, with no possibility of discussing this. We will vote on this adjournment. We will therefore proceed to a vote.

Egypt, I am afraid we cannot continue the debate, legally speaking, I'm afraid. Could I please ask the Legal Office to confirm. Legal Office could I please ask you for confirmation.

Legal Counsel

Thank you. I understand there's a query as to whether a point of order can be made. Yes, and here I would refer to, and this is an interesting question, paragraph 20 of the same rule, rule 12. Where it says, "during the discussion of any matter, a delegate or representative may rise to a point of order, and the point of order shall be immediately decided by the chairperson". The question, of course, arises as to whether this point of order can be made when you have already got the proposal to have an adjournment of the meeting or suspension of the meeting.

Chairperson

My I deduce therefore that we should interpret that word "immediately" as prevailing? Alright then. I am in the hands of the Legal Office and the rules of the moment.

Legal Counsel

The rules specify that once the proposal has been made to adjourn the meeting, that that must be immediately put to a vote. It doesn't allow for any discussion any further discussion.

Chairperson

In that case, despite the fact that I regret not being able to give anyone requesting it the floor. I have just been told by the Legal Office that a point of order cannot be taken once a vote has been requested. Had that not been the case I would have of course loved to give you the floor. Could you please confirm, Legal Counsel, whether or not I can take a point of order before the vote.

Legal Counsel

If the decision, if there has been a clear request to move to suspend the meeting, and I think that would be, as I said, sorry, to adjourn the meeting, that shall be immediately put to a vote. If you determine that there has been a clear request, in accordance with paragraph 21 to move for adjournment of the meeting that shall be immediately put to a vote. If a member considers that that request, for example, was not apparent, then they would raise a point of order. But if you consider Chair, that there has been a clear proposal to adjourn this meeting, then you shall immediately put it to a vote.

Chairperson

Thank you very much, Donata. I believe there was a clear request. I would like to confirm that with the proponent.

Spain

Thank you very much, Chair. I can repeat my request, Chair, made by Spain on behalf of the EU and its 27 Member States to adjourn the session we are currently in. Our 27 countries, whom I represent, need time to consult with their capitals on the proposed text. Thank you very much.

Chairperson

I believe there is a clear request for us to adjourn the session. We need to put this to a vote immediately. After a vote, of course, if of course the vote is in favor, the session will be adjourned.

Please go ahead.

Legal Counsel

My apologies, Chair, and my apologies in fact to the members. I have been rereading, in fact, I was refocusing too much on paragraphs 21 and 22 and omitted to read the chapeau of paragraph 24. And the chapeau of paragraph 24, sets out the following "motions shall have precedence in the following order, over all other proposals or motions before the meeting, except a point of order". My sincere apologies.

Chairperson

That does change things, that really does. That does change the interpretation of it. In that case, whoever raises a point of order can be given the floor. Egypt, I believe that you wished to raise a point of order.

Thank you for that clarification, Legal Counsel.

Egypt

Mr. Chair, give me the right to speak, but the technician doesn't want me to speak. Thank you, madam Legal Counsel, for offering me the chance to speak. Hopefully not for the last time tonight. But our point of

order is actually a question to his Excellency, said Chair, and you may also consult the Legal Counsel here. If we have a motion to vote on the paragraph here, because we have seen consensus on this paragraph, maybe not consensus, but we have a lot of support for it, does this make the motion to vote on the paragraph is - that's a question. That's if we can speak. I think just to reiterate, Mr. Chair, that we fully respect everyone in this room, and we expect to have our voices heard and respected as well. That's a question I'm not saying this is the request I'm just, this is a question if we would like to request to have a voting on this paragraph. Our understanding, does that precede the voting to adjourn the meeting or not? Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you, Mina. That's a question for legal. But before I give the floor to legal, the United States, you raised also a point of order I understood? Ok, that's fine. Then Legal, please, if you can clarify.

Legal Counsel

Thank you and my apologies once again to the distinguished delegates. But here again I would refer you to this very important chapeau to paragraph 24, where it says, "the following motions shall have precedence in the following order over all other proposals or motions". This would, I believe, include textual proposals if the proposal to adjourn or suspend the meeting would, in fact, take precedence over the consideration of the paragraph. The vote would have to take place before. And depending upon, of course, the outcome of that vote would then determine whether or not you could move forward with suspension. In the past, I would note that matters have moved, say, directly to a vote on a paragraph where there has been general consent in the room not to proceed through a series of votes. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you very much, I think that explanation was very clear. I am sorry Cameroon. Unless it's a point of order. Is it a point of order? Please go ahead then.

Cameroon

Chair, thank you to accept that we can raise a point of order. This session was supposed to last five days and I want to be corrected by the legal counsel, if you adjourn it, what is the consequences? What are the consequences, I mean? Is it still five days, or it goes beyond five days. And now we have two chairs. What will happen? So, these are things that we need to iron out before we go to accept whether we adjourn or what? Because now it's going beyond the five days search for the meeting. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you very much. There are some questions that I believe we can answer. And I would of course like the Legal Office to answer them.

Legal Counsel

Thank you very much. My understanding is that the distinguished representative of Cameroon is asking for clarification as to the implications, at least from a legal or procedural perspective, of adjournment of the meeting. Noting that adjournment would mean resumption at another date. You'll be aware that this has happened in the past. Meetings, while foreseen or forecast, to take, say, five days have on occasion been adjourned, bringing with that its own challenges. But nevertheless, that may happen. However, in accordance with the rules of procedure of this Committee, the adjournment, say for the purpose of seeking agreement on the final report, does have a number of consequences. Thus, for example, if one

turns to rule 2, paragraph 2 of the rules of procedure of the CFS, this establishes that the chair's term of office shall expire at the end of the Committee meeting, where the election of a new chairperson is held.

This would normally mean that the chair, the elected chair, would take office upon only after the completion of this current session and thus, if this was suspended or adjourned, the meeting would continue. It is an adjournment of a meeting. The meeting would continue. The meeting would not have come to an end, and thus the newly elected chair would not take office until after the conclusion of this meeting. With that there is a possibility, of course, of then equally having a delay or postponement in the appointment of the advisory body as well. Essentially adjournment of the meeting puts back a number of actions that flow automatically from the end of a session. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you very much for all those clarifications, those very precise clarifications, Legal Counsel. I would like to thank the elections official for promptly joining us. Let us begin the voting procedure. Thank you very much.

Elections Official

Thank you. Chairperson. Good evening, delegates. As for senior rule 11 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee voting takes place in accordance with the provisions of rule 12 of the general rules of the organization, of FAO. In order to proceed to a vote, rule 12 paragraph 2 requires that we first ascertain the quorum of at least the majority of the member nations of the Committee, which is 70.

We will now establish the number of members present using the electronic voting system. Each delegation of a member is requested to press their touch screens. That is the ribbon on the touchscreen that says, present in all languages. The electronic voting system can then verify the number of delegations present in the plenary. So, if you will please press the ribbon that says, present in all languages.

Please press the button that says, Present on your touchscreen.

To clarify, we are also ascertaining the presence of members online.

Please bear with us. Thank you. I will be back with you shortly. We are making sure that we capture all the online delegations. Thank you.

Thank you for bearing with us. As you can see, we have 67 delegations present here in the plenary. In addition to that, we have a further nine delegations present online. That means that we have more than 70, and we have reached the quorum, and we can proceed to the vote.

Chairperson

I'm sorry, Mina, but I mean the procedure, the procedure has already started. Point of order if Legal authorized. But it needs to, yes, but it needs to be a point of order, please. Is he authorized?

Yes, proceed.

No, it's not working. So, then you need to take the other one. Mina, if you don't mind taking the other one, he seems to not be working. No, the system is not working. So, audio visuals, please, if you can.

Egypt

Thank you. Sorry to take the floor again, but just want to make sure that we are going through the legal procedures quite correct. I would like to get the advice of the Legal Counsel regarding the voting. The virtual quorum. Is that how that counts in reference to the rules of procedures of the CFS. Thank you.

Legal Counsel

Thank you. The rules of the CFS. Well, my understanding, and here I may need some time to do some additional research, but it's my understanding that at this session it was agreed that there would be a hybrid voting. And on that basis, this is why there was then a check online and in the room. However, I have to say, I don't have the documents in front of me, as you're aware. In other bodies, FAO bodies there have been these arrangements, where, at the beginning of the session, it was recommended and agreed to proceed on the basis of a hybrid vote, but I will check if there seems to be any difficulty. Of course, I will immediately revert to thank you.

Chairperson

Yes, thank you to Donata, but I don't, I mean just to clarify. This is a hybrid meeting. We have voted already during this session. There has been no question on the procedure. It is valid. We did it that last year. So, I think this is something that is solidified. As a chairperson, this is what I recognized.

Point of order?

Kuwait

Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, we voted here, but there was quorum here in the room. So now we are asking about, how do you count online are present and not the kid taking the microphone? So, we need to confirm that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairperson

Please proceed.

Legal Counsel

Thank you very much. As you say, it's my understanding that there was an arrangement to have a hybrid meeting there. You may wish to ask the elections officer to describe the procedure for a hybrid meeting, and that may provide clarity as to. Because, as you're aware, the formal rules, which were adopted for none of the bodies of the FAO address the hybrid modality. These have been agreed on an ongoing basis since the pandemic, but maybe it would give members some confidence if they, if they could hear from the Elections Officer through you, Chair, I would suggest that.

Chairperson

Yes absolutely, Iliya you have the floor.

Elections Officer

Yes, indeed. We have had a similar scenario at the last Conference although it did not play out. The approach taken by the Secretariat, there were two in essence, two votes. There was a secret ballot, physical vote here in the Plenary for the election of the Director General, and subsequently for the election of Council members. There was a further vote, which was a hybrid vote, as also the Conference was a hybrid meeting for the budget. The approach that we took was that the quorum would be determined on the basis of the voting population. That meant that for the physical vote that the quorum would be taken in Plenary, because necessarily the secret ballot vote was a physical vote, and people necessarily had to be present here in the whole. But that was not the case for the budget vote.

Now, I do need to add that that was an approach that we took as a secretariat. There was an inherent logic in that approach. At the same time, we were not really called to implement that approach, because

we did have immediately sufficient numbers in the room. And the point of how many online members there were was moot. That is different in this case. It is an unprecedented in that sense scenario.

Egypt

Same thing. Oh, yes, now, thank you, Mr. Chair. But just to make sure that we are making this legally correct. I think we would have better spend this time discussing the paragraph. But, anyway, since there is a motion to adjourn the meeting. Then let's do the right thing as well. At least, how can we? We can now, because we have closed doors. We can guarantee that the quorum maintains until the end of election. How can you guarantee that virtually because anyone can leave the meeting without making a notice. When we had the election before in this CFS meeting that was only in person. It was secret ballot voting, but simply. Now, as we speak, if you check online, you might have the number changed. A couple of people left the room. Then the number changed. So, I'm still asking for. Because what we received from the Legal Counsel is an understanding, and this is not the rules, we are asking about the rules. I understand that we agreed that this meeting is a hybrid format, but this for a meeting for the leveraging statements. But how can we guarantee that whoever is voting is voting on behalf of this country because we don't have this to validate. Also, how can we guarantee that we have the quorum until the end of the voting process? We want to guarantee that the quorum in person is there, and then we can ask virtually to vote. But the quorum in my understanding from a legal perspective should be in person, and we should refer to specific rules of procedures. We should not refer to specific understanding or the procedure of the second parade. We should refer to the rules of procedures of CFS. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairperson

Look what? What is not. Sorry. By the way, I can't give you the floor. I'm sorry to the mechanisms you're not allowed now to take the floor. But please make sure that this is a point the order.

Indonesia

Thank you. Chair. I would like to ask the Secretariat to refer to rules number 12 on suspension of rules. It says here that 24 hours notice of the proposal for the suspension has been given. So, there is that 12 hours requirement such not just maybe waive if no members object. May we ask clarification on that rule to the legal. Since we have heard from some members regarding the quorum and everything. So, our understanding are some objections regarding that. So, can we please ask the Secretariat for clarification on that point? Thank you.

Legal Counsel

With respect to the suspension of rules in this instance, my understanding that what is at issue is not the suspension of the rules, but the application of one of the rules to suspend the meeting and that doesn't require the 24 hours' notice. As noted, that in fact should be put forward immediately to a vote.

There's a separate question, vis-a-vis quorum. And here I note that the document prior to the meeting did reflect that the meeting would be in hybrid modality. This is CFS 2023/51/inf2, in which it says, in the context of logistics, the CFS Plenary is held in hybrid format and side events in either hybrid format or for in-person participation. Hosting, it says the CFS 51 will be organized in a hybrid format with selected high-level speakers. Does not this inf document does not distinguish between, say, the decision making during the Plenary or the rest of the conduct of the Plenary. It simply states that it will be in hybrid format. I would note that these, of course, here, there is a desire, or rather the question, of specificity hasn't necessarily come up in, say, in other sessions or meetings.

As regards quorum, typically the quorum, yes, is ascertained just before voting starts. There is, say, no requirement as such to keep everybody in the room during the vote, is to ascertain whether the vote can take place. And indeed, you may recall that there had been some other situations in which, notwithstanding there having been a quorum, members did not necessarily then vote, while they

participated in the establishment of a quorum. So those are seen as two separate actions. I wanted just to share these thoughts with you. I have to say we are in uncharted territory. Shall we say here? I can refer you to the rules, but and my colleague, the elections officer, can refer you to the practice that has developed in this organization for the last few years. Thank you.

Chairperson

Yes, Elections Officer, please, if you can take the floor.

Elections Officer

Thank you. Looking into the record of the Conference, there is, in fact, a record about this approach in document C2023/12, paragraph 42. This describes the approach in the method of taking a quorum for the budget vote, and that would include the online participants at that point. There is also a clear distinction between other elections and votes during the Conference that the quorum would be taken at that point only on the basis of the physical presence in the plenary hall different from the budget vote. I can only give this to you by way of reference for your information.

Chairperson

Sorry, before giving you the floor and to the CSIPM, I mean, you can't take the floor. Procedurally, I can't give you the floor. Unfortunately, we are now in the middle of a process, and it can only be done with points of order, and you cannot raise a point of order. I'm sure about that. I apologize. I can't do anything else.

Please go ahead.

Egypt

Mr. Chair, just to follow up to our question. I think we have, we have seen on the screen all the in-person presence of the quorum, but we don't know who's attending visually, so we would like to know who are the six countries that are attending virtually, and if they are attending until now, or any of them has left, because otherwise, maybe we don't have a quorum. Thank you.

Chairperson

Yes. Now we will actually please, I will ask the Elections Officer, once clarified, if you can please confirm, confirm who is, which members are present virtually, and will proceed to the vote.

It is a roll call vote by the way.

Elections Officer

Thank you, Chair. The following members are participating virtually and are online. When we took the quorum, Columbia, Estonia, Gabon, Guatemala, Kenya, Latvia, Malta, Nicaragua, Oman, and Georgia.

Costa Rica

And Costa Rica

Elections Officer

Thank you, Costa Rica. I further get information right now from the Secretary that Belarus and El Salvador also online.

With that number, we would have a quorum of more than 70 people, both here in Plenary and online, and in accordance with earlier practice, at least in the organization, we could proceed to a vote.

Chairperson

Yes, so please proceed.

Elections Officer

Thank you, Chair. We will now conduct a roll call vote in accordance with paragraph 7 of rule 12 of the general rules of the organization. The vote of each member participating in the roll call vote will be reflected in the record of the meeting. For the motion to be adopted. A majority of the votes cast is required. Votes cast includes affirmative and negative votes, but does not include abstentions, and this is set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of rule 12 of the general rules of the organization.

Once voting begins, members of the Committee will be called in English alphabetical order. The name of the first member to be called to vote will be designated by a lot drawn by the chairperson of the Committee. Delegates who cast their vote virtually should unmute themselves and turn on their camera when called to vote. They should also ensure that they have switched to the language channel in which they wish to speak.

Delegates voting here in the plenary hall, please turn on your microphones when called to vote. The voting delegate should reply "yes" if they wish to vote in favor of the motion to adjourn, "no" if they wish to vote against the motion to adjourn and abstention, if they wish to abstain.

If technical issues arise which prevent the person casting the vote from being clearly seen and or heard, and no response is provided, the vote will progress to the next member. At the conclusion of the first round of calls, the names of members whose delegates or representatives failed to answer will be called again to provide an opportunity for those members to cast a vote.

Participants are kindly requested not to raise their hand or ask for the floor for any reason during the voting, except if to raise a point of order in connection with the conduct of the voting.

I will now ask the chairperson to draw a lot to determine the first member to vote.

Cote d'Ivoire.

The Committee member designated to cast the first vote is Cote d'Ivoire. We will now proceed to vote on the motion as indicated by the chairperson, calling out the names of CFS members and ask for their votes either yes, no, or abstention.

Cote d'Ivoire? Cote d'Ivoire?

Moving on to Croatia.

Yes.

Croatia votes yes.

Cuba?

No.

Cuba votes no.

Cyprus? Cyprus?

Yes.

Cyprus votes yes.

Moving to Czechia.

Yes.

Czechia votes yes.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Democratic People's Republic of Korea?

Moving on to Denmark.

Yes.

Denmark votes yes.

Dominican Republic.

Yes.

Dominican Republic votes yes.

Ecuador.

No.

Ecuador votes no

Egypt.

No.

Egypt votes no.

El Salvador. El Salvador?

Moving on to Equatorial Guinea. Equatorial Guinea?

Moving on to Eritrea. Eritrea?

Moving on to Estonia.

Yes.

Estonia votes yes.

Eswatini. Eswatini?

Moving on to Ethiopia. Ethiopia.?

Moving on to Finland.

Yes.

Finland votes yes.

France.

Yes.

France votes yes.

Gabon. Gabon?

Yes.

Gabon votes yes.

Georgia.

Yes.

Georgia votes yes.

Germany.

Yes.

Germany votes yes.

Ghana. Ghana?

Moving on to Greece. Greece?

Moving on to Guatemala.

Yes

Guatemala votes yes.

Guinea. Guinea?

Moving on to Haiti. Haiti?

Moving on to Honduras. Honduras?

Moving on to Hungary.

Yes.

Hungary votes yes.

Iceland.

Yes.

Iceland votes yes.

India. India?

Moving on to Indonesia.

No.

Indonesia votes no.

Iran.

No.

Iran votes no .

Iraq.

No.

Iraq votes no.

Ireland.

yes.

Ireland votes Yes.

Israel.

Yes.

Israel votes yes.

Italy.

Yes.

Italy votes yes.

Japan.

Yes.

Japan votes yes.

Jordan.

No.

Jordan votes no.

Kenya. Kenya?

Moving on to Kuwait.

No.

Kuwait votes no.

Latvia.

Yes.

Latvia votes yes.

Lebanon.

No.

Lebanon votes no.

Lesotho. Lesotho?

Moving on to Liberia. Liberia?

Moving on to Libya.

No.

Libya votes no.

Lithuania.

Yes.

Lithuania votes yes.

Luxembourg.

Yes.

Luxembourg votes yes.

Madagascar. Madagascar?

Moving on to Malaysia.

No.

Malaysia votes no.

Mali.

No.

Mali votes no.

Malta.

Yes.

Malta votes yes.

Mauritania. Mauritania?

Moving on to Mexico.

Mexico abstains.

Mexico abstains.

Monaco.

Yes.

Monaco votes yes.

Morocco.

No.

Morocco votes no.

Mozambique. Mozambique?

Moving on to Namibia. Namibia?

Moving on to Netherlands.

Yes.

Netherlands votes yes.

New Zealand.

Yes.

New Zealand votes yes.

Nicaragua.

No.

Nicaragua votes no.

Niger. Niger?

Moving on to Nigeria. Nigeria?

Moving on to Norway.

Yes.

Norway votes yes.

Oman.

No.

Oman votes no.

Pakistan.

No.

Pakistan votes no.

Panama.

Yes.

Panama votes yes.

Paraguay. Paraguay?

Moving on to Peru.

Yes.

Peru votes yes.

Philippines.

Yes.

Philippines votes yes.

Poland.

Yes.

Poland votes yes.

Portugal.

Yes.

Portugal votes yes.

Qatar.

No.

Qatar votes no.

Republic of Korea. Republic of Korea?

Moving on to Republic of Moldova. Republic of Moldova?

Moving on to Romania.

Yes.

Romania votes yes.

Russian Federation.

No.

Russian Federation votes no.

Saint Lucia. St. Lucia?

Moving on to San Marino. San Marino?

Moving on to Saudi Arabia.

No.

Saudi Arabia votes no.

Senegal.

The Senegal votes no.

Senegal votes no.

Singapore. Singapore?

Moving on to Slovakia.

Yes.

Slovakia votes yes.

Slovenia. Slovenia?

Moving on to South Africa.

No.

South Africa votes no.

Spain.

Spain votes yes.

Spain votes yes.

Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka?

Moving on to Sudan.

No.

Sudan votes no.

Sweden.

Yes.

Sweden votes yes.

Switzerland.

Yes.

Switzerland votes yes.

Thailand.

Yes.

Thailand votes yes.

Tunisia. Again, please, Tunisia.

No.

Tunisia votes no.

Türkiye. Türkiye?

Moving on to Uganda

Uganda votes absentia.

Uganda votes abstention.

Ukraine. Ukraine?

Moving on to United Kingdom.

Yes.

United Kingdom votes yes.

Tanzania. Tanzania?

Moving on to United States of America.

Yes.

United States of America votes yes.

Uruguay. Uruguay?

Moving on to Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan?

Venezuela.

Venezuela votes no.

Venezuela votes no.

Yemen.

No.

Yemen votes no.

Zambia. Zambia?

Moving on to Zimbabwe.

Abstention.

Zimbabwe votes abstention.

Afghanistan. Afghanistan?

Moving on to Algeria.

No.

Algeria votes no.

Angola.

No.

Angola votes no.

Argentina.

Yes.

Argentina votes yes.

Australia.

Yes.

Australia votes yes.

Austria. Austria?

Moving on to Bahamas. Bahamas?

Moving on to Bangladesh. Bangladesh?

Moving on to Belarus.

No.

Belarus votes no.

Belgium.

Yes.

Belgium votes yes.

Brazil

Abstention.

Brazil votes abstention.

Bulgaria.

Yes.

Bulgaria votes yes.

Burkina Faso. Burkina Faso?

Moving on to Burundi

Abstention.

Burundi votes abstention.

Cabo Verde. Cabo Verde?

Moving on to Cameroon.

No.

Cameroon votes no.

Canada.

Yes.

Canada votes yes.

Chad. Chad?

Moving on to Chile.

Yes.

Chile votes yes.

China.

No.

China votes no.

Colombia.

Yes.

Colombia votes yes.

Congo. Congo?

Moving on to Costa Rica.

Yes.

Costa Rica votes yes.

Thank you. I will now call those members that did not respond the first time around for a second time. Again, starting with Cote d'Ivoire, which had been drawn by lot by the chairperson.

Cote d'Ivoire. Cote d'Ivoire?

Moving on to Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Democratic People's Republic of Korea?

Moving on to El Salvador.

We abstain.

Abstention for El Salvador.

Moving on to Equatorial Guinea. Equatorial Guinea?

Moving on to Eritrea. Eritrea?

Moving on to Eswatini. Eswatini?

Moving on to Ethiopia. Ethiopia?

Moving on to Ghana. Ghana?

Moving on to Greece. Greece?

Moving on to Guinea. Guinea?

Moving on to Haiti. Haiti?

Moving on to Honduras. Honduras?

Moving on to India. India?

Moving on to Kenya. Kenya?

Moving on to Lesotho. Lesotho?

Moving on to Liberia. Liberia?

Moving on to Madagascar. Madagascar?

Moving on to Mauritania. Mauritania?

Moving on to Mozambique. Mozambique?

Moving on to Namibia. Namibia?

Moving on to Niger. Niger?

Moving on to Nigeria. Nigeria?

Moving on to Paraguay. Paraguay?

Moving on to Republic of Korea.

The Republic of Korea votes yes.

Republic of Korea votes yes.

Republic of Moldova. Republic of Moldova?

Moving on to St. Lucia. St. Lucia?

Moving on to San Marino. San Marino?

Moving on to Singapore. Singapore?

Moving on to Slovenia. Slovenia?

Moving on to Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka?

Moving on to Türkiye. Türkiye?

Moving on to Ukraine. Ukraine?

Moving to Tanzania. Tanzania?

Moving on to Uruguay. Uruguay?

Moving on to Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan?

Moving on to Zambia. Zambia?

Moving to Afghanistan. Afghanistan?

Moving on to Austria. Austria?

Moving on to Bahamas. Bahamas?

Moving on to Bangladesh. Bangladesh?

Moving on to Burkina Faso. Burkina Faso?

Moving on to Cabo Verde. Cabo Verde?

Moving on to Chad. Chad?

Moving on to Congo. Congo?

Thank you, delegates. Bear with us for a few moments while we process the result. We will have it and the chairperson will inform you.

Chairperson

Thank you very much indeed Elections Officer and thank you colleagues. Also, Donata, for all your support. Now I will proceed to read the results of the vote. Please note they start the following total number of votes 84, number of votes cast 78, majority required 40, abstentions 6, votes in favor 48, votes against 30.

Therefore, the proposal has been adopted. And subsequently, I need to suspend, sorry to adjourn, to adjourn the session immediately. If I am correct, if not, there are requests from the floor, if I need to adjourn immediately, of course we will do that, otherwise we will proceed in an informal dialogue afterwards.

Donata, please, if you can clarify.

Legal Counsel

Thank you. The decision has been taken to adjourn, and therefore your formal session is adjourned. Thank you.

Chairperson

So, you have been informed the session is formally adjourned, and I would very much like if you, if you don't mind, although the session is formally, I repeat, adjourned, would very much like to ask you if you would be so kind to stay for a bit more time.

25 November, morning session, 10:00 – 13:00

Chairperson

Excellencies, ambassadors, permanent representatives, Members and participants of the Committee, observers, very good morning. A very sunny and nice morning and good morning to all of you. Welcome to the 51st session of the Committee.

As you'll all recall on the 27th of October the meeting was adjourned, and we are meeting again today with the aim of concluding deliberations and adopting the final report of the plenary session. Before starting and giving the floor to the Secretary for operational questions, I would like to recall that the meeting is in hybrid format, so we thank you for your understanding, sometimes it can take a little bit of time to ensure participation both in the room and the people who are joining us virtually on the platform. Who of course I would also like to extend a warm welcome to. I'd like to thank you very warmly for joining us here on a Saturday. I am very sorry about that. We are very grateful that you've managed to make time in your very busy agendas. There was no other option available other than this Saturday 25th of November, bearing in mind the majority request of the Committee to hold this session before the FAO Council, which is upcoming.

So, before starting, I'd like to give the floor to the Secretariat, Mr. Hemrich, you have the floor Sir.

Secretary

Thank you. A very warm welcome to all of you. As of this morning, the number of Member States registered for this session is 130. This means that we have a working quorum of 66 Member States. The European Union is participating in this meeting in accordance with paragraph 8 and 9 of article 2 of the FAO Constitutions. And I also wanted to repeat just a few tips for delegates attending virtually. We would like to ask not to use built in computer microphones or conference call microphones, but to use a USB headset or earphones with an integrated microphone. To ask for those intervening virtually to have their video on to take the floor. And if they make a video statement or read a statement to send it also to FAO-interpretation@fao.org prior to delivery. I also wanted to remind you that this is a hybrid session, it is being recorded and also webcasted. Over to you.

Chairperson

Thank you very much Secretary, thank you Günter. So, now is the time for us to continue the debate that began last month in October. As you'll also recall, during the session, on Friday the 27th of October, a proposal of wording was presented by the Egyptian delegation on Item III of the agenda, in the report. And at the request of the Spanish delegation, representing the European Union, to enable consultations with the capitals and following a decision of the plenary by vote, the session was adjourned, and we are continuing that today.

Distinguished delegates, in the last four weeks, you have held consultations and some intensive negotiations, which have led to the drafting of the current version of the paragraph proposed by Egypt, which was communicated yesterday and circulated amongst all members, participants and observers by the Secretariat in the afternoon. I would now like to ask the Secretariat please to put the proposed text on the screen for the consideration of the Plenary session. And I will propose its adoption to the Committee.

Secretariat, can we please see the text. So, you can now see on your individual screens, not on the large screen. Ah now we can see it on the large screen as well. Now, if I may, I am now going to read out the text.

The Committee stressed the need to refrain from using food and water as weapons of war in conflict areas, expressed the need for reliable, sustained, sufficient and unhindered access of essential goods and services to civilians throughout the Gaza Strip, and in other conflict areas, including but not limited to water, food, medical supplies, and energy, and stressed the role of FAO, IFAD and WFP, in coordination and collaboration with other United Nations agencies, international financial institutions and relevant bodies, to assess and address, within their respective mandates, the impact of the conflict on food security, nutrition, and agriculture in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in the Gaza Strip.

And end of the paragraph.

Distinguished delegates, before opening the floor, I can conclude that the text has been presented. And can I accept, has it been accepted by consent?

Applause

The text has been adopted then. With the adoption of this paragraph, the full text of the final report is agreed with the inclusion of this paragraph in Item III of the agenda.

I would now like to give the floor to any delegation, who wishes to take it. If not, we'll have a brief break of the time necessary so that the translation team can translate this paragraph into all of the languages and also to give us the time needed for the Secretariat to draw up the final report.

I see some requests for the floor. I do have that on the screen. Now, there is requests from the floor, starting with the delegation of Yemen, Canada, Brazil, Kuwait, United States and Palestine as Observer. Yemen, distinguished delegate, you have the floor.

Is it a point of order?

Yemen

I pressed my button by mistake.

Chairperson

A point of order requested by the United States. United States, you have the floor.

United States of America

Just to clarify, you did say that we had adopted the entire report by consensus. So, the rest is just a formality at this point. Is that accurate? I just want to clarify what you are saying.

Chairperson

Yes. Although, time is always left for factual checking of the translation, once the final text of the entire report has been prepared. But yes, the text of the final report is now closed. Thank you, United States. I now give the floor to the distinguished delegate of Canada, followed by Brazil and Kuwait. Canada.

Canada

Thank you, Chair and good morning, colleagues. Canada has joined consensus on this text. We share the concerns about the difficult situation that currently exists in the Gaza Strip for Palestinian civilians. We note nonetheless, that the mandate of the CFS should be focused broadly on the food security and nutrition needs across all situations of armed conflict and emphasize the need for all parties to fulfill their obligations under international humanitarian law, including non state actors. Canada is concerned about impacts on food security in a range of other context from Haiti to Sudan, from Yemen to Ukraine, as recognized in the Global SOFI report. We request our explanation of position be noted for the record. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you, distinguished delegate of Canada. That is recorded in the verbatim notes. Ambassador of Brazil, good morning, you have the floor.

Brazil

Good morning, thank you. Good morning, all. First of all, I would like to thank those that have been trying over the past weeks to achieve a consensus wording. They have in the best tradition of multilateralism expressed their flexibility in order to achieve consensus. I am proud of being part of that Plenary in this moment. Brazil would nonetheless like to register that it would have preferred that the paragraph sticks to multilaterally agreed language and as such Brazil avails itself of the opportunity to remember that rule 53 of Geneva Conventions explicitly prohibits using, and I quote "starvation as a method of warfare" end of quoting. Nonetheless, as I said, Brazil proudly associates itself with consensus. The text fully apprehends the spirit and the importance of the moment within the mandate of the organization. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you very much, distinguished representative of Brazil. I now give the floor to the distinguished Ambassador of Kuwait, followed by Palestine. And we have a new request, Indonesia. Ambassador, you have the floor.

Kuwait

Thank you, I thank you, Chair. Good morning to all of you, first of all. We would like to address our thanks to all those who contributed to this important consensus. We would like to thank Egypt for its efforts, the USA in addition to Her Excellency the Ambassador of Palestine for her flexibility as well with us and for accepting some of the amendments to this paragraph. We hope that this cooperation will be our opportunity in fact to move ahead towards the Council, to the board, and also to have the same consensus then, regarding the matter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson

Thank you very much as always distinguished representative, Ambassador of Kuwait. I now give the floor as Observer, Palestine, followed by a new request from Indonesia and then Egypt.

Palestine

[Speaking in Arabic]

Chairperson

Sorry, technical problem with the interpretation. If you can just give us a second. If you could start from the beginning, please.

Palestine

Yes, good morning to all of you. Allow me to thank you one by one and each state a part for accepting the paragraph relating to Palestine. Indeed, this is actually a source of joy to me and I hope that this will be a beginning and we will not stick to this paragraph. Because, believe me, the situation in Palestine is catastrophic. It is tragic indeed. And I believe that you have been able to witness actually the state of devastation and destruction in the Gaza strip after the ceasefire that was reached after four days, while hoping that it will be a permanent stop of the massacres that are taking place of the occupant. And we would like to invite you also to address very swiftly all the needs in Gaza. As you know that all the assistance reached Gaza are extremely limited and this is why we all request you all to respond very swiftly and to provide everything needed for all our families in the Gaza strip.

I have another plea as well. Kindly consider also the West Bank as well as East-Jerusalem. Consider them. Because there are very blatant violations by the occupying forces. Allow me in this context to express my thanks to the state of Kuwait, to the Arab Republic of Egypt as well as all those who participated with me in elaborating this paragraph. I would like also to thank the state of Qatar and Egypt for all their efforts in order to reach this calm and we hope that this ceasefire will not last only four days, but it will be the end of the attacks against our people in Gaza. Once again, I thank you all. Thanks a lot.

Chairperson

Thank you very much, distinguished Ambassador of Palestine. I now give the floor to the delegation of Indonesia, followed by Egypt. Indonesia.

Indonesia

Good morning and thank you. Indonesia is happy to join the consensus. Even though the decision we have adopted today does not reflect the situation in Gaza and the occupied Palestinian territory. Even with the glimpse of hope, we are still far from peace and recovery or even food for 2.3 million people currently starving. The decision does not even call for international community to create conditions conducive to dialogue and diplomatic means to improve food security and nutrition in the Gaza strip and the occupied Palestinian territories. In this conflict, at least CFS has again in its mandate and contribution to ensure the security and nutrition for all as its slogan. We must continue towards a solution in achieving food security and zero hunger. Only through dialogue and the spirit of cooperation. Indonesia always will stand ready to support. And we call on the international community to support the struggle of the Palestinian people.

Chairperson

Thank you very much, distinguished representative of Indonesia. To close the list of requests, I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of Egypt.

Egypt

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson and good morning, everyone. I would like, at this moment, to congratulate everyone for adopting this paragraph so quickly. We understand that this wouldn't have happened without a lot of work, cooperation, and a lot of consultations among the respective delegations of CFS. And as my dear colleague from Kuwait has mentioned, we need to thank a lot of colleagues for showing flexibility to move forward. We would like to highlight that this is another manifestation that breaking consensus is an

easy job, but building consensus and reaching consensus is more challenging, but more rewarding. We understand, as the dear colleague from Indonesia has mentioned, that the text is not corresponding to what we would like to see and we understand that this is the position of several other delegation, same as the dear Ambassador of Brazil has mentioned. However, that's another manifestation for how multilateral fora should work and how delegations should work together to reach consensus. Thank you once again to all the delegations, who supported us to reach consensus: Kuwait, Palestine, the EU delegation, United States, Brazil, and several other delegations. Thank you once again, Mr. Chair and congratulations everyone.

Chairperson

Thank you very much, distinguished representative of the Republic of Egypt. I now give the floor to the representative of the United States. No? It's still on my list for some reason. I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of China.

China

Thank you, Chair. China supports the adopted paragraph. We thank all parties for their efforts for consensus. Since the beginning of the conflict, China actively supports negotiations for a ceasefire. As the Chair of the Security Council of this month, China contributes to the resolution 2712 for peace reinstalled in the region.

China also made efforts to alleviate the situation, the humanitarian situation in the Gaza strip. And through the Palestinian authority, we have provided 2 million US Dollars of humanitarian aid. Through Egypt, we have provided 50 million RMB in terms of food, medicine, and other humanitarian relief, especially on 21st of November, the President Xi Jinping at the BRICS Summit and on the ceasefire of Palestine, he made a speech, which contributed to the resolution of the problem. He has provided guidance and orientation. We are happy to see that, with the efforts of all parties, at present there is a ceasefire between the two parties. China is of the view that the urgent need for the time being is to maintain the normal life of the people in the region.

We encourage FAO to leverage its leadership in agriculture and related affairs in the world and to communicated fully with all stakeholders and carry out evaluation of agriculture and food and also to provide humanitarian assistance, technical support to guarantee the food security and the livelihoods of the people in the field. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you very much, distinguished representative of China. And, yes, I now give the floor to Spain in representative of the European Union. Spain, you have the floor.

Spain

Thank you very much, Chair. It's an honor for me to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. We welcome the adoption of the report and would like to state the following position. We are seriously concerned about the worsening of the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. We welcome the agreement to release 50 hostages in Gaza and to extend the break in the conflict. We continue requesting Hamas to unconditionally release all hostages immediately. The humanitarian break should be used to provide all urgent aid possible to civilians, who are enduring this devastating conflict in Gaza.

The European Union and its Member States will do all possible as it has over the course of the year, will provide 600 million Euros, of which 360 million have been provided since the 7th of October. The European Union is still committed to humanitarian breaks, end hostilities and fighting and the establishment of humanitarian corridors, including via greater capacity in the border crossing and through a specific maritime route, so that humanitarian aid can reach the population of Gaza safely. In keeping

with the conclusions of the European Council of the 20th of October, the statement of the high representative of the 12th of November made on behalf of the European Union, we again reiterate the right of Israel to defend itself. In keeping with international law and international humanitarian law, the European Union and its Member States will continue working closely with international partners, UN agencies and with countries in the region to provide a sustained flow of aid and to facilitate access to food, water, medical aid, fuel, and refuge. Thank you, Chair.

Chairperson

Thank you, distinguished representative of Spain. And we now conclude the requests for the floor. That was the last statement. And so now, at this point, I would propose a short break, as I said earlier, so that we can make sure that the paragraph is available in all languages as well as the final report in full. Before that break I give the floor to the distinguished representative of the US, who has just requested.

United States of America

Thank you. I know none of us want to be here on a Saturday and we were all ready to conclude this much earlier. I would propose, if it's all right with the other Members, that in this one case - everyone has had this language, that is very close to this language for nearly a month, the very small changes that have been made in order to bring it to consensus today – I would propose that we just bring it to a close, accept this, move on, leave, go home, enjoy our Saturdays and move on to CFS 52, if that's possible. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you very much. I thank the distinguished representative of the United States. It's possible, if the Plenary had decided it that way. And if a delegation wants to have the final version in all of the different languages. But before I give this to the consideration of the Plenary, I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Iraq, who has also asked for the floor. You have the floor.

Iraq

Thank you, Mr. Chair. We would like on behalf of the Near East region, that we chair, to thank Egypt and the state of Kuwait. We thank all the members who contributed to reaching this important consensus. We hope that the ceasefire will lead to a just and permanent solution without bombarding civilians. We hope that water, fuel, and food will be provided to Gazans as soon as possible. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you very much. I thank the distinguished representative of Iraq. If I may, I am just going to confirm with the Secretariat what will happen on the basis of the proposal from the United States. One moment please.

Ok, so, in the meantime there is a request for the floor by Cameroon, followed by the Civil Society Mechanism and Indonesia. Cameroon you have the floor.

Cameroon

Mr. Chair, thank you. And let me extend all our gratitude to all of the Members here, who have first sacrificed their Saturday to be here and also have collectively adopted this paragraph on Item III. Chair, I have a lot of sympathy for what our colleague from the US said and his proposal. But for the sake of consistency, because CFS 50 we adjourned it because we wanted to adopt the report in all languages. So, for the sake of consistency, if we want to align ourselves with the policy of multilingualism in this organization, I would really suggest to our colleague of the US to be patient a little bit, to give us the

opportunity to have the report and this text in all languages. I know everything was negotiated in English, but we need to have the text in all UN languages. I thank you.

Chairperson

I thank the distinguished representative of Cameroon. I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of civil society, followed by Mexico.

We can't hear you, sorry Mariam, we can't hear you. Yes, now you are heard, please go ahead.

Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples Mechanism (CSIPM)

Thank you very much, Chair, for giving us the floor. This is Meriam Mohammed, I am from Lebanon and I am a CC Member of the CSIPM. I facilitate for the West Asia region on behalf of the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty.

For the past few weeks, while language was being discussed and words changed for the purpose of reaching consensus and compromise, the reality on the ground in Palestine was not changing at all. Conflict and agreed language could not change the fact that it is occupation and genocide on the grounds of reality. What is being committed by the Israeli occupation is indiscriminate massacre and bombing of hospitals, schools, refugee camps, women, children and infants and elderly. Conflict areas and agreed language could not change that it is occupied areas on the grounds of reality, including Gaza and the rest of occupied Palestine. While language was and still is being discussed, our people in Palestine are still being ethnically cleansed in the most brutal and horrific forms, as well as starved and thirsted.

The CSIPM is engaged now in this reconvened Plenary session with motivation rooted in hope. We are glad and hopeful that the CFS 51 can formally conclude today and that the CFS is strengthened through this debate, reenforcing the role of the Plenary to provide guidance and actionable recommendations towards achieving a world free from hunger, food insecurity, malnutrition, double standards and the selective protection of human rights. We were going to advocate for the CFS51 final report to include language that denounces the Israeli occupation's use of food and water as weapons of war against Palestinians, underscores the importance for reliable, consistent, ample and unobstructed provision of vital necessities to civilians across the Gaza strip, including but not limited to, food and water, sanitation, medical resources, energy and access to productive resources, highlights the critical role of FAO, IFAD, WFP and UNRW in evaluating and mitigating the conflict's impact on food security and agriculture in occupied Palestine, advocates for an immediate ceasefire, which shall also contribute to facilitating the delivery of essential aid for the population in Gaza, acknowledges that the Israeli occupation's use of starvation tactics against 2.3 million Palestinians is a severe breach of international treaties and humanitarian law, demands that the Israeli occupation be held accountable and responsible against humanity and requests that the CFS Chair immediately forward these conclusions to the UN Secretary General and the relevant UN agencies.

There can't be no justification for the lethal and collective punishment and genocide against Palestinians and any population. For weeks UN experts have sounded the alarm about the risk of genocide. Through this war, genocide is the greatest of crimes under international law and the CFS has the obligation to urgently work towards preventing this atrocity and further escalation. We believe it would have been very important that the Committee had incorporated these points into the final report, pursuant to the visions of the CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises and especially in accordance with Principle 1, meet immediate humanitarian needs and build resilient livelihoods, Principle 2, reach affected populations, Principle 4, protect those affected or at risk from protracted crises and finally, Principle 9, contribute to peacebuilding through food security and nutrition.

We would like to finally stress that all what is being committed in occupied Palestine and the weaponization of food is for the purpose of ethnic cleansing and a new Nakba of Palestinians, which we strongly condemn and refuse. We also cannot understand, where we have reached a point, where asking for the end of genocide and a war has become controversial. To us in our principles in the civil society this will never be or become the case. Thank you very much for giving me the time.

Chairperson

Thank you. Thank you very much distinguished representative of the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples Mechanism. I see that there is a further intervention requested from the floor. No, right? Ok, that's a mistake. So then, I now give the floor to the distinguished delegate of Mexico, followed by Indonesia and the United States. Mexico, distinguished delegate, you have the floor.

Mexico

Thank you very much, Chair. Thank you for calling this session this morning, this Saturday. Mexico would like to echo what's been said by other delegations, namely that today is a good day for multilateralism. It's good to meet in this room with the spirit of consensus. Mexico supports the request that we continue supporting multilingualism within the United Nations system. That's why we are also ready to wait for the text to be translated into all of the official languages. Thank you very much, Chair.

Chairperson

Thank you very much. I thank the distinguished representative of Mexico. I now give the floor to Indonesia.

Indonesia

Thank you, Chair. And I apologize for taking the floor once again. I am taking the floor to support both my Cameroonian colleague and my US colleague. It is my understanding that the whole document has already been translated. Is that correct? And we are only waiting for the one paragraph. Is that correct? Right. And so, I think if, I mean, I am sure that when we adopted it the text already went to translation so in the half hour that we have been speaking perhaps it has already been translated and we don't need to adjourn. And so, we wait for that multilateral and we can, without adjournment, if you can check and if it's already done, then we can close the CFS 51 and move on to CFS 52 and move on to our weekend. That is my statement. Thank you so much for the floor.

Chairperson

Thank you very much Indonesia. The work is on-going certainly, certainly yes. The United States of America, you have the floor.

United States of America

Thank you, Chair. First of all, I can absolutely agree with what our friend from Cameroon and others have said. I was simply trying to move us along faster, but I understand what he is saying, and I agree a 100%.

I do want to just say that I am a little disappointed that the conversation in the room has taken the turn that it has taken. I think, you know, we were ready to move forward with the language today based on the fact that we had moved it into a place that was clearly within the mandate of this organization and keep it in a way that kept things moving positively, toward a good direction, as our colleague from Egypt had said and hopefully allow us to continue to have such positive and useful conversations as we move forward in other organizations and in other venues. The language by one of the participants today was extraordinarily politically charged, talking about genocide, ethnic cleansing, crimes against humanity, placing blame on an individual country. But I was really disappointed that those same people were unable to utter the word of Hamas, or the name of Hamas, and note that it was an attack by them that killed 1,200 plus Israeli civilians, women and children, babies, old people, continuing attacks against civilians that we all want to see end and against Israeli civilians as well as against others who have been spoken

about today. So, I really hope that we don't try to turn the CFS into the Security Council or the General Assembly. I am ready to end this today and I know that everyone else is as well. But I think avoiding highly politicized language in a venue like this can help us move forward in a direction that actually does reach the goals of this organization and reach the goals of the United Nations. Thank you.

Chairperson

I thank the distinguished delegate of the United States and with that last comment and keeping the positive dynamic about the good news for multilateralism of having reached this agreement. I as Chair would also like to reiterate as I have said time and again, this Committee cannot substitute for or replace or duplicate or imitate the deliberations of the Security Council or of the General Assembly of the United Nations. I think that all delegations have mentioned this over the past two years at least since I have been chairing the meetings of this Committee. And with that in mind, if you agree, I think that we still need some time, but not much time.

Now that this round of comments has been closed, I think we'll need a maximum of 30 minutes to be ready in all of the different languages, for the translations to be ready and also so that that paragraph is included in the final report and so we can see it. As the distinguished representative of Indonesia said, it is available online on the website and has been since the end or has been since the session was adjourned in October. It's just that we have to confirm that this last version is the correct one and I think that in 15 minutes or so, perhaps 30 minutes, we'll be able to end all of the various procedures. With the various language versions in front of us, we'll be able to end the session. With your indulgence then, let's take a break for 15 minutes and I will let you know when the text is ready. Thank you very much.

Chairperson

Please take your seats. Thank you very much for your patience. Sorry for the delay. I'll now give the floor to the Secretary to describe in absolute clarity the access to the report in all languages.

Secretary

Thank you very much. So, the language versions have been uploaded on the CFS 51 website. So, if you got to CFS 51 and you go to draft report, you will see the buttons for the six languages. When you click and you have recently clicked, it could be that you still load the old report. In order to get the new report, you may wish after the URL to put a '?' and a number, like number 1, and then you get the new version.

Chairperson

I thank the Secretary. We have some minutes that we can allow you, so you can access the report. If you have any problems with the webpage, please raise your hand and the Secretariat will help you access the document. And then in a few minutes, when you've had time to quickly look at the document, we will move on to its adoption.

Are we ready? Can we proceed or are there any delegations that need some more time? Egypt, you have the floor.

Egypt

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson and I think we need some more time, because I think we have some comments on the Arab translation of the paragraph. So, if you give us a couple of minutes to consult with the dear colleagues from the Arab group for the Arab translation that would be appreciated. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you, Egypt.

Egypt? Egypt, sorry. Just to remind that if it's just on the Arabic translation issue, as it has been done always, it's just an email you can send to the Secretariat, then it will be corrected and uploaded again. If it's only on the Arabic version.

Egypt

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, for this clarification. I think we have in fact, it's about the Arabic language, it's nothing substantial, it's an Arab editorial comment, two comments actually for this paragraph and that's why we may, as you suggested, send them to the Secretariat for updating on the website. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairperson

Thank you, Egypt. France.

France

Thank you, Chair. Just to state that we also have some comments on the French version and the way that the verb "address" has been translated, we think it's imprecise in our opinion. We'll send that to Secretariat.

Chairperson

Thank you, thank you very much, France. So please send it, as soon as possible, both France and Egypt and then will be corrected and posted as soon as possible, early next week.

So, before proceeding to the adoption, let me thank again the distinguished representative from Uganda, Mr. Sidai Wakaabu, he was the Chair, he is the Chair of the Drafting Committee, for his excellent job. He is online I understand, so thank you once again on behalf of the Plenary of the Committee for preparing and facilitating the last version of the draft report. And now with this, may I propose the adoption of the report by this Plenary.

Applause

Chairperson

Thank you very much, distinguished delegates. Before concluding this session, it is my duty and my pleasure to ask if the Vice Chair of this Committee, Anthony Murithi, can join me here to simulate the handover to the distinguished Ambassador of South Africa. My friend, could you please also join us here at the podium.

And in the meantime, I would simply like to reiterate my thanks, as is my duty and my pleasure to all of those who have been involved in the happy ending of this Plenary session, the interpreters, the translation team, the messengers, all of the teams who are working here at FAO to make it possible to hold this plenary, all of the Secretariat of course, represented by the interim Secretary Günter Hemrich, thank you to all of you for all of your work. And the stewards and the team of the representatives, the delegation of the European Union of course, all of the support they have given us. I'd like to also give very special thanks to the Bureau and the Advisory Group, who during the last two years have given us their commitment, their dedication and leadership in leading this Committee over the last two years and to all of you of course delegates.

Dear friends, with the adoption of this report I'd like to recall that although that we had to have debates on this late and we focused those debates on this dramatic situation in Gaza. The adoption of the report does bring into full effect the Policy Recommendations on Use of Data in Agriculture and for Food Security, the New Multi-Year Programme 2024-2027, which this Committee will steer over the next four years and of course the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' empowerment in the context of food security, which in addition for me this day is particularly important as we are celebrating the Day of Violence Against Women to combat that.

Ambassador, Anthony, thank you very much. And Ambassador, dear Ambassador, right now the Committee will conclude the session and leave it in your hands, thank you very much for everything. And before concluding, if you would like to announce the first steps of your Presidency, before concluding this session, dear Ambassador, would you like to take the floor to perhaps announce the first meeting of your new Bureau?

Nosipho Nausca-Jean Jezile, Ambassador of South Africa to the United Nations Agencies

Well thank you, thank you, Chairperson and in succeeding you, I really appreciate this opportunity. It is an honor and privilege for me taking over, succeeding Gabriel as the new chairperson for CFS and I count on you as Members of CFS to what CFS is meant to be and to continue to deliver the results that are expected and in particular in the context of the new MYPoW. In adopting the report, you have also given me a mandate, with the Secretariat and I would like to give you the assurance that we'll do our best to facilitate the programme of work. And at this point I would like to also announce, and I thought that this would be done by the Secretariat, our request to meet soon in terms of the new Bureau to then agree on the programme of work and also appoint the vice chairperson of the CFS. So, the dates are already provided and I would like to hand over to the Secretariat. Thank you.

Secretary

Thank you very much. Just to continue with a few more details on this announcement. We propose that the next and first Bureau meeting of the new season will be held on Thursday, the 30th of November, in the afternoon. The Secretariat will send out, this afternoon, an invitation and just a pre-look of the agenda. I think what's usually on the first agenda of the Bureau is the election of a vice chair. It's also about confirmation of the Advisory Group and eventual adjustment, if the Bureau wishes to do so. We will also have an opportunity to reflect on CFS 51, to exchange views in terms of what happened, how it happened, what we can learn from it. And finally, there may also be an opportunity this year to have a first encounter with the new Steering Committee of the High-Level Panel of Experts. So that is in the pipeline for next week and then we will also try to fill very rapidly our calendar for the new season.

Chairperson

Thank you so much, thank you Secretary, dear Ambassador, and upcoming Chair of the Committee. I then bid you farewell; I am going back to my capital tomorrow. We'll still be doing the handover for the next few weeks until Christmas, but of course I am at your availability as the Ambassador of this Committee for anything you wish, my country and me are at your availability.

So, 51st session of the Committee on World Food Security of the United Nations is hereby closed.