



COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

Fifty-first Session

"Making a Difference in Food Security and Nutrition"

Rome, Italy, 23-27 October and 25 November 2023

REPORT

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

1. The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) held its Fifty-first Session from 23 to 27 October and on 25 November 2023. The session was convened in hybrid modality. The session was attended by delegates from 130 Members of the Committee, 10 non-Member States of the Committee, and representatives from:

19 United Nations Agencies and Bodies;

226 Civil society organizations¹;

37 International agricultural research organizations;

3 International and regional financial institutions;

141 Private sector associations and private philanthropic foundations²; and

41 Observers.

2. 1 Vice-President, 10 Ministers, 13 Vice-Ministers and 3 State Secretaries registered. The full list of Members, Participants and Observers will be available as document CFS 2023/51/Inf.5 at:

<https://www.fao.org/about/meetings/cfs/cfs51/list-of-documents/en/>

3. The report contains the following appendices: Appendix A – Agenda of the Session; Appendix B – Membership of the Committee; Appendix C – List of Documents; Appendix D –

¹ Civil Society's participation was facilitated by the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples Mechanism (CSIPM). This figure includes 216 civil society organizations (CSOs) under the umbrella of the CSIPM.

² This figure includes 135 companies under the umbrella of the Private Sector Mechanism (PSM).

Explanation of position by Canada; Appendix E - CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition; Appendix F – Explanation of position by Indonesia, Algeria, Cameroon, Kuwait, Malaysia, the Russian Federation, the Sudan and Senegal on the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition; Appendix G – Explanation of position by the Russian Federation on the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition; Appendix H - Explanation of position by Egypt on the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition; Appendix I – Statement by the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples Mechanism on the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition; Appendix J – Statement by the Holy See (Observer) on the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition; Appendix K – CFS Policy Recommendations on Strengthening Collection and Use of Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Data and Related Analysis Tools to Improve Decision-Making in Support of the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security; Appendix L - CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) 2024-2027; Appendix M – Result sheet of the vote on the proposal to suspend the 30 day deadline for nomination of candidates for the election of the Chairperson; Appendix N – Result sheet of the secret ballot to elect the two CFS Bureau Alternate members for the Europe region; Appendix O – Result sheet of the vote to adjourn the meeting.

4. The Committee was informed that the European Union (EU) was participating in accordance with paragraphs 8 and 9 of Article II of the FAO Constitution.
5. The session was opened by the Chairperson of the Committee, Mr Gabriel Ferrero y de Loma-Osorio (Spain).
6. The Committee adopted the Provisional Agenda and Timetable.
7. The Committee appointed a Drafting Committee composed of Argentina, Brazil, China, Egypt, Gabon, Indonesia, Japan³, New Zealand³, the Russian Federation⁴, Spain³, the Sudan, Uganda and the United States of America³ as well as Mr Siragi Wakaabu (Uganda) as Chair of the Drafting Committee.
8. The session was recorded as agreed by the Members.

II. HIGH-LEVEL OPENING CEREMONY

9. Opening statements were delivered by: Mr António Guterres, United Nations Secretary General; H.E. Paula Narváez Ojeda, President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC); H.E. Dennis Francis, President of the United Nations General Assembly; Dr Qu Dongyu, Director General, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); Mr Alvaro Lario, President, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); Ms Cindy McCain, Executive Director, World Food Programme (WFP); Mr Bernard Lehman, Chairperson of the Steering Committee, High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE-FSN); and Mr Gabriel Ferrero y de Loma-Osorio, Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). The statements and video recordings are available at <https://www.fao.org/about/meetings/cfs/cfs51/list-of-documents/en/> and

³ The United States of America, the European Union and Member States of the European Union which are members of the Committee, the United Kingdom, Norway, Japan, Australia, Canada and New Zealand disassociate themselves from the appointment of the Russian Federation as a member of the Drafting Committee.

⁴ The Russian Federation disassociates itself from the appointment of Japan, New Zealand, Spain and the United States of America as members of the Drafting Committee.

<https://www.fao.org/cfs/plenary/cfs51/statements/en/>

III. STRENGTHENING COORDINATED POLICY RESPONSES TO THE FOOD CRISIS –THE STATE OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE WORLD 2023⁵

10. The Committee heard a presentation delivered by Mr Máximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist (FAO); a keynote intervention delivered by Mr Michael Fakhri, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food; followed by statements by Members, Participants and Observers.

11. 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.

The full transcript of the session is included on the CFS website:

<https://www.fao.org/cfs/plenary/cfs51/sessions/en/>

IV. GLOBAL “INTERLINKAGES” DIALOGUES

12. The Committee heard contributions from a panel moderated by Dr. David Nabarro, which was composed of: H.E. Paula Narváez, President of ECOSOC; Ms Fatema Aref Almulla, Director of the Partnerships and Special Projects Department (the United Arab Emirates); Mr David Cooper, Secretary a.i. of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); H.E. Giovanna Valverde, Ambassador of Costa Rica to Kenya, UNEP and UN HABITAT; Mr Stefanos Fotiou, Director of UNFSS Coordination Hub and Director of SDG Office of FAO; and H.E. Ibrahim Mayaki, Former Prime Minister of Niger and African Union Special Envoy for Food Systems. This was followed by statements from Members, Participants and Observers.

The full transcript of the session, including its process, is available on the CFS website.

V. EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS AND PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY: ENDORSEMENT AND UPTAKE OF THE CFS VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN’S AND GIRLS’ EMPOWERMENT (GEWE) IN THE CONTEXT OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

13. The Committee considered documents CFS 2023/51/3 “Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition” and CFS 2023/51/4/Rev.1 “Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition – Draft Decision”, as presented by the CFS Chair, Ambassador Gabriel Ferrero y de Loma-Orsorio (Spain), Ms Berioska Morrison Gonzalez (the Dominican Republic), co-facilitator of the CFS OEWG on Gender Equality and Women’s and

⁵ An Explanation of position on this Item is contained in Appendix D.

Girls' Empowerment in 2023, Ms Tanja Grén (Finland) and Tomas Duncan Jurado (Panama), Co-chairs in 2022.

14. The Committee:

- a. endorsed CFS 2023/51/3 “Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition”, as a key intergovernmentally-agreed global policy framework in support of country-led efforts towards achieving food security and nutrition, taking note of their voluntary and non-binding nature;
- b. expressed its deepest appreciation for the work of the OEWG on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment and commended the effective leadership of the Chair and the Co-facilitator of the OEWG as well as of previous Co-chairs of this OEWG;
- c. welcomed the keynote interventions by Ms Luz Haro Guanga, Executive Secretary of the Network of Rural Women of Latin America and the Caribbean (REDLAC), and H.E. Ms. Paula Narváez Ojeda, President of ECOSOC and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations on how achieving gender equality and women’s and girls’ empowerment (GEWE) contributes to the progressive realization of the right to food in the context of national food security, and of human rights;
- d. urged Members to utilize the Voluntary Guidelines within their policies, strategies, programs and regulatory frameworks, and to share progress and experiences with the Committee in line with the standard monitoring practice of the Committee;
- e. encouraged all CFS stakeholders to support and promote at all levels, within their constituencies and in collaboration with other relevant initiatives and platforms, the dissemination, use, and application of the Voluntary Guidelines to support the development, enhancement and implementation of coordinated and multisectoral national policies, laws, programmes investment plans and innovative partnerships to tackle the root causes of gender inequalities and foster greater policy coherence among GEWE and food security and nutrition agendas, and mutually reinforcing policy measures;
- f. commended countries that have voluntarily pledged to deploy the Voluntary Guidelines in their own national policy and/or legislative circumstances, in conjunction with commitments related to the 2030 Agenda, and encouraged other countries to take similar steps to actively utilize this CFS policy agreement as a tool for national-level, multistakeholder action to address all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls, which negatively impact food security and nutrition for themselves and for their families, households, communities and countries, as well as related social, economic and sustainability issues;
- g. decided to transmit the Voluntary Guidelines to the Governing Bodies of FAO, WFP and IFAD for their further consideration regarding supporting their utilization at country level, in line with country requests and pursuant to Rule XXXIII, paragraph 17, of the General Rules of the Organization and Rule X, paragraph 1, of the CFS Rules of Procedure, and in accordance with paragraph 22 of the CFS Reform Document;
- h. decided to request the United Nations General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, to consider and ensure the wide dissemination of the Voluntary Guidelines on GEWE to all relevant UN Organizations and Agencies, including the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), consistent with Rule XXXIII, paragraph 15, of the General Rules of the Organization, Rule X, paragraph 4, of the CFS Rules of Procedure, and paragraph 21 of the CFS Reform Document;
- i. agreed to include the Voluntary Guidelines in the CFS Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (CFS GSF).

VI. LEVERAGING THE USE OF DATA FOR DRIVING FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION POLICY: ENDORSEMENT AND UPTAKE OF THE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ON STRENGTHENING COLLECTION AND USE OF FSN DATA AND RELATED ANALYSIS TOOLS

15. The Committee considered document CFS 2023/51/5 “CFS Policy Recommendations on Strengthening Collection and Use of Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Data and Related Analysis Tools to Improve Decision-Making in Support of the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security” and CFS 2023/51/6 “CFS Policy Recommendations on Strengthening Collection and Use of Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Data and Related Analysis Tools to Improve Decision-Making in Support of the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security - Draft Decision”, as presented by Mr Anthony Muriithi (Kenya), Rapporteur of the policy convergence process.

16. The Committee:

- a. endorsed document CFS 2023/51/5 “CFS Policy Recommendations on Strengthening Collection and Use of Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Data and Related Analysis Tools to Improve Decision-Making in Support of the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security” as an action-oriented, inter-governmentally-agreed, voluntary and non-binding, global policy framework in support of country-led efforts towards improving food security and nutrition policies and actions;
- b. expressed its deepest appreciation for the effective leadership of the Rapporteur, and commended the work of the HLPE-FSN to prepare the report on “Data collection and analysis tools for food security and nutrition”;
- c. welcomed the keynote intervention by Ms Francesca Perucci, Director of Policy and Partnerships, Open Data Watch, on the importance of leveraging the use of data for driving better and more targeted policies for food security and nutrition;
- d. called on all CFS stakeholders to support and promote the dissemination, use, and application of the Policy Recommendations at all levels within their constituencies, and in collaboration with other relevant initiatives and platforms;
- e. encouraged all stakeholders to share commitments and document lessons learned from using the Policy Recommendations and to share progress and experiences with the Committee in order to assess their continued relevance, effectiveness, and impact – in line with the standard monitoring practice of the Committee - which is based on the principles of participation, transparency, and accountability;
- f. recommended that FAO and the RBAs, in collaboration with other relevant international organizations, continue assisting Members in strengthening their capacity to apply the Policy Recommendations in support of the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security;
- g. decided to transmit the Policy Recommendations to the Governing Bodies of FAO, WFP and IFAD for their further consideration regarding implementation and supporting their utilization at country level, in line with country requests and pursuant to Rule XXXIII, paragraph 17, of the General Rules of the Organization and Rule X, paragraph 1, of the CFS Rules of Procedure, and in accordance with paragraph 22 of the CFS Reform Document;
- h. decided to request the United Nations General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council and the UN Statistical Commission, to consider, ensure and encourage the wide

dissemination and implementation of the Policy Recommendations to all relevant UN Organizations and Agencies, consistent with Rule XXXIII, paragraph 15, of the General Rules of the Organization, Rule X, paragraph 4, of the CFS Rules of Procedure, and paragraph 21 of the CFS Reform Document;

- i. agreed to include the Policy Recommendations in the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (CFS GSF).

VII. CFS STRATEGIC DIRECTION TOWARD 2030: THE MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK (MYPoW) 2024-2027

17. The Committee considered document CFS 2023/51/7 “CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) 2024-2027”, as presented by the CFS Chair.

18. The Committee:

- a. reiterated its concern over the immense challenges to be overcome for achieving Zero Hunger by 2030 with an estimated 691 - 783 million people in the world (around 9.2 percent of the world population) still suffering from hunger;
- b. endorsed the CFS MYPoW for 2024-2027 which, through its cross-cutting focus areas, prioritized thematic workstreams and supporting activities, provides a comprehensive framework to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food and the achievement of SDG 2;
- c. recognized the broad, inclusive nature and strategic vision of the MYPoW process, which aims at eliminating hunger and malnutrition through improved policy convergence/coherence at global level, leading to strengthened actions at national and regional levels, as outlined in Annex B of the CFS implementation report ([CFS 2018/45/3](#));
- d. noted that the implementation of the MYPoW will be contingent on sufficient financial and human resources, taking into consideration a manageable workload, in accordance with document [CFS 2018/45/3](#);
- e. agreed to develop concise, timely and action-oriented policy products;
- f. noted that in 2025 a mid-term review will take place in order to assess and adjust, if necessary, the remaining elements of the MYPoW, complementary to the annual update of the rolling section;
- g. strongly encouraged, in line with CFS 50 deliberations, the three Rome-based Agencies to honour their commitment to share equally the costs of the CFS Secretariat budget, through either cash or in-kind contributions, as a symbol of joint ownership and shared commitment to the Committee via effective Rome-based Agency collaboration;
- h. strongly encouraged, in line with the CFS Reform Document, FAO, IFAD and WFP as well as other CFS stakeholders to provide space for CFS considerations in the agendas of their Governing Bodies and Regional Conferences, as appropriate;
- i. requested the Chair and Secretariat, consistent with the CFS Resource Mobilization and Outreach Strategies, respectively, to continue their efforts to expand and diversify the CFS financing base, including by reaching out to CFS Member States, private foundations, the private sector, and financial institutions;

- j. emphasized the application of the Rome-based Agencies' safeguards against potential conflict of interest regarding CFS funding.

VIII. ADDRESSING MULTIPLE DIMENSIONS OF INEQUALITIES: REDUCING INEQUALITIES FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

19. Mr Bernard Lehmann, Chairperson of the HLPE-FSN Steering Committee, introduced the HLPE-FSN report on "*Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition*". Mr Bhavani Shankar, HLPE-FSN Project Team Leader, presented the main findings and recommendations of the HLPE-FSN report.

20. The Committee:

- a. acknowledged with appreciation the work of the HLPE-FSN to prepare the report on "*Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition*" and the presentations made by Mr Bernard Lehmann and Mr Bhavani Shankar on the main policy relevant evidence included in the report;
- b. recalled the provisions contained in paragraph 21 of the Rolling Section of the CFS MYPoW 2020-2023⁶;
- c. called for the nomination of a Rapporteur of the policy convergence process which, based on the HLPE-FSN report and other relevant available science- and evidence-based sources, will be identifying areas for policy convergence and agreement;
- d. recognized the importance of an inclusive process, open to all interested stakeholders, leading to the preparation of an agreed set of recommendations to be presented to the Committee for endorsement at CFS 52 in October 2024.

IX. PROGRESS REPORT ON FOLLOW-UP TO THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NUTRITION (ICN2), INCLUDING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF ACTION ON NUTRITION

21. The Committee:

- a. welcomed, in the context of the ongoing implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the document "Progress report on follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), including implementation of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition" (CFS 2023/51/Inf.17) presented jointly by FAO and WHO and took note of its findings;
- b. remained deeply concerned about the ongoing food insecurity and malnutrition in different regions of the world and their ongoing negative impact on health and nutrition, especially in Africa, in the Near East and North Africa, in South and West Asia, in the Pacific and in parts of Latin America and the Caribbean, and in this regard underlined the

⁶ Following the launch of the HLPE-FSN report in 2023, the identification of a Rapporteur among CFS Members and a plenary discussion at CFS 51, CFS will conduct a policy convergence process. The process will lead to the development of Policy Recommendations to be presented to the Committee for endorsement at CFS 52.

urgent need for joint efforts at all levels to respond to the situation in a coherent and effective manner;

- c. recognized the work done by different institutions in promoting the use of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition at country level and stressed again their contribution in helping to translate commitments for action made in the ICN2 Rome Declaration on Nutrition in the context of national food systems and nutrition-related policies;
- d. heard a presentation by Mr Phommy Inthichack, Deputy Director General, Department of Planning and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Laos, on activities implemented to promote the use and application of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition at country level;
- e. reiterated its request to be periodically updated by FAO and WHO on further progress in the implementation of ICN2.

X. MONITORING CFS POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ON PRICE VOLATILITY AND FOOD SECURITY AND ON SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

22. The monitoring event on the use and application of the CFS policy recommendations on Price Volatility and Food Security, and on Social Protection for Food Security and Nutrition, was moderated by Mr Maximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) with keynote presentations on the importance of addressing food price volatility challenges and strengthening social protection mechanisms for food security and nutrition by Mr Seth Meyer, Chair of the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS); Mr David Kaatrud, Director Programme, Humanitarian and Development Division (WFP); and H.E. Mohamed Béavogui, Former UN Assistant Secretary General and Director General of African Risk Capacity (ARC).

23. A moderated panel discussion on the use and application of the CFS policy recommendations on Price Volatility and Food Security, and on Social Protection for Food Security and Nutrition was composed of:

- H.E. Domingo F. Panganiban, Senior Undersecretary, Department of Agriculture, the Philippines;
- Mr Renato Domith Godinho, Special Advisor for International Affairs, Ministry for Social Development and Assistance, Family and Fight Against Hunger, Brazil;
- Mr Michael Keller, Chair of the Private Sector Mechanism (PSM);
- Ms Patty Naylor, Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples Mechanism (CSIPM);
- Ms Stefania Lenoci, Head of the Private Sector, Advisory and Implementation Unit, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

The full transcript of the session is included in the CFS website

<https://www.fao.org/cfs/plenary/cfs51/sessions/en/>

XI. OTHER MATTERS

a) Modalities for a Philanthropic Foundations Mechanism for relations with the CFS

24. The Committee acknowledged the document CFS 2023/51/Inf.22 “Proposal for Modalities for a Philanthropic Foundations Mechanism for Relation with the CFS” and expressed appreciation for the constructive involvement by philanthropic foundations in the work of the Committee.

b) Date of the Fifty-second session of CFS

25. The Committee proposed that the Fifty-second session of CFS be held from 21 to 25 October 2024 at FAO Headquarters in Rome, as indicated in the Calendar of the FAO/IFAD/WFP Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2023-2024. The exact dates will be communicated by the FAO Director-General of FAO and the Chairperson of the Committee, in line with Rule VII of the CFS Rules of Procedure.

c) Election of Chair, Bureau members and Alternates

26. The Committee decided, through a vote⁷ by roll call requiring a two-thirds majority, to exceptionally suspend the 30 calendar days requirement established in Rule II, paragraph 4, in order to allow nominations received no later than 7 days before the opening of the 51st Session of CFS, to be considered valid for the election of the CFS Chairperson at this session.

27. The Committee elected Ms Nosipho Nausca-Jean Jezile, Permanent Representative of South Africa to the UN Agencies in Rome, as the Chairperson of CFS.

28. The Committee elected by acclamation the following Members of the CFS Bureau and their Alternates:

i) Members:

- Africa: Burundi and Nigeria;
- Asia: China and India;
- Europe: France and Switzerland;
- Latin America and the Caribbean: Argentina (2023-2024) and Brazil (2023-2024), Cuba (2024-2025) and the Dominican Republic (2024-2025);
- Near East: Egypt and Kuwait;
- North America: the United States of America;
- South-West Pacific: New Zealand.

ii) Alternates:

- Africa: the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mali;
- Asia: Indonesia and Thailand;
- Latin America and the Caribbean: Cuba (2023-2024) and the Dominican Republic (2023-2024), Argentina (2024-2025) and Brazil (2024-2025);
- Near East: Morocco and the Sudan;
- North America: Canada;
- South-West Pacific: Australia.

⁷ Roll call vote with total vote casts: 115; votes in favour: 115; votes against: 0; abstentions: 0. The result sheet is included in Appendix M.

29. The Committee elected through a secret ballot vote the following Alternate Members of the Bureau:

- Europe: Norway and Romania⁸.

d) Adoption of the Final Report

30. The Committee decided, through a vote⁹ by roll call requiring a majority of the vote casts, to adjourn the Plenary Session.

31. The report was adopted on 25 November 2023.

⁸ The result sheet of the vote is included in Appendix N.

⁹ Roll call vote with total vote casts: 78; votes in favour: 48; votes against: 30; abstentions: 6. The result sheet is included in Appendix O.

APPENDIX A – AGENDA OF THE SESSION

An overview of the 51st Plenary Session of CFS

The first two days of the Plenary will be held as a Ministerial Segment, followed by a Senior Level Segment. The Plenary will begin with a high-level opening ceremony and a discussion on strengthening coordinated policy responses to the food crisis, which will consider the latest edition of the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World Report. In continuation, the Plenary will explore global interlinkages with other key moments that relate to global food security and nutrition, including the 2023 United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Summit, UN Food Systems Summit Stocktaking Moment 2023, and the 2024 Summit of the Future as well as the twenty-seventh (COP27) and twenty-eighth (COP28) Conferences of the Parties (COP) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

During its 51st Session, the CFS is set to endorse the following three documents: the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition; Policy Recommendations on Strengthening Collection and Use of Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Data and Related Analysis Tools to Improve Decision-Making in Support of the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security; and the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) 2024-2027. Additionally, the Plenary will include two stocktaking sessions: a presentation on the progress of the follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) as well as a monitoring event on the Policy Recommendations on Price Volatility and Food Security; and on Social Protection for Food Security and Nutrition.

Timekeeping and high-level participation

CFS plenary sessions provide the opportunity for meaningful dialogue and interaction among stakeholders, including the space for delegation heads to present their formal statement to the open plenary session, or submit it in writing if they prefer. Delegates are asked to keep their interventions succinct (three minutes or less unless presented by a Minister or constituency delegation head or on behalf of an entire regional group) and relevant to the item under discussion. Lengthy formal statements are not foreseen, but presentations longer than the apportioned time can be shared electronically with the CFS Secretariat and posted on its public website. A traffic light system will be in place to help delegates stay within the allocated time.

All delegates are requested to email their statements to cfs@fao.org, at least one hour before the session, so they can be shared with the interpreters for interpretation in FAO's six official languages, and to be posted in the Statements section of the [CFS 51](#) web page (in their original language).

In the event that a Member delegation will include senior-level participation such as a Minister, Vice Minister, State Secretary (or equivalent), they should inform the Secretariat in order for that delegation head to be given priority protocol consideration on the Speakers List.

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

- a) Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable (for decision)
- b) Membership of the Committee (for information)
- c) Drafting Committee composition (for decision)

Background documents:

- CFS 2023/51/1/Rev.1 – CFS 51 Provisional Agenda (this document)
- CFS 2023/51/Inf.1/Rev.1 – CFS 51 Provisional Timetable
- CFS 2023/51/Inf.2 – Guide to CFS 51
- CFS 2023/51/Inf.4 – Membership
- CFS 2023/51/2 – Guide to the preparation of the CFS 51 Final Report

MINISTERIAL SEGMENT**II. HIGH-LEVEL OPENING CEREMONY (for information)**

Opening statements by the following, or their delegates (which will be posted on the CFS 51 Session document webpage):

- The UN Secretary-General;
- The Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO);
- The President, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD);
- The Executive Director, World Food Programme (WFP);
- The President of the United Nations General Assembly;
- The President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC);
- The Chairperson of the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE-FSN);
- The CFS Chairperson.

III. STRENGTHENING COORDINATED POLICY RESPONSES TO THE FOOD CRISIS –THE STATE OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE WORLD 2023 (for information and discussion)

- a) Presentation of the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023 Report and debate on coordinated policy responses to the global food crisis.
- b) High-Level Debate on coordinated policy responses to the food crisis and advancing food systems transformation for the achievement of food security and nutrition and the Right to Adequate Food, including inter alia: the importance of stepping up humanitarian responses, supporting smallholders and family farmers, stabilizing food prices and markets, the key role of trade, enhancing nutrition-sensitive social protection systems, and ways to equip countries with required financial resources. The session will be an opportunity to hear the voices of the most affected and delegate statements.

Background documents:

- CFS 2023/51/Inf.15 – The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023 Report

IV. GLOBAL “INTERLINKAGES” DIALOGUES (for information and discussion)

- a) The 2023 UN SDGs Summit and 2024 “Summit of the Future”;
- b) Food and Climate Change: “COP moment - from Sharm el-Sheikh to Dubai”;
- c) COP 15: the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;
- d) UN Food Systems Summit Stocktaking Moment 2023: progress on the National Pathways.

V. EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS AND PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY: ENDORSEMENT AND UPTAKE OF THE CFS VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN’S AND GIRLS’ EMPOWERMENT (GEWE) IN THE CONTEXT OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION (for decision)

The final version of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls Empowerment (GEWE) in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition, resulting from an inclusive multi-stakeholder negotiation process within an Open-Ended Working Group, will be presented for consideration and endorsement by CFS Plenary. The session will also present an opportunity for a discussion of the highlights of the most significant elements of the draft text, and the opportunities presented for advancing and accelerating the uptake and implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines at global, regional, country, and local levels.

Background documents:

- CFS 2023/51/3 – CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls’ Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition
- CFS 2023/51/4 – CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls’ Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition – Draft Decision

VI. LEVERAGING THE USE OF DATA FOR DRIVING FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION POLICY: ENDORSEMENT AND UPTAKE OF THE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ON STRENGTHENING COLLECTION AND USE OF FSN DATA AND RELATED ANALYSIS TOOLS (for decision)

The final version of the CFS Policy Recommendations on Strengthening Collection and Use of Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Data and Related Analysis Tools to Improve Decision-Making in Support of the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security, resulting from an inclusive multi-stakeholder negotiation process within an Open-Ended Working Group, will be presented for consideration and endorsement by CFS Plenary. The session will also represent an opportunity for a discussion on the overall negotiation process, highlights of the most significant elements of the draft text, and the opportunities presented for advancing and accelerating the uptake and implementation of the Policy Recommendations at global, regional, country, and local levels.

Background documents:

- CFS 2023/51/5 – CFS Policy Recommendations on Strengthening Collection and Use of Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Data and Related Analysis Tools to Improve Decision-Making

in Support of the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security

- CFS 2023/51/6 – CFS Policy Recommendations on Strengthening Collection and Use of Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Data and Related Analysis Tools to Improve Decision-Making in Support of the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security– Draft Decision

SENIOR LEVEL SEGMENT

VII. CFS STRATEGIC DIRECTION TOWARD 2030: THE MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK (MYPoW) 2024-2027 (for decision)

The Committee will endorse and launch its strategic Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) for 2024-2027 which defines its objectives, expected outcomes, ways to achieve them, and their relevance to the SDGs.

Background documents:

- CFS 2023/51/7 – CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) 2024-2027
- CFS 2023/51/8 – CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) 2024-2027 – Draft Decision
- CFS 2023/51/Inf.16 – CFS Annual Progress Report 2023

VIII. ADDRESSING MULTIPLE DIMENSIONS OF INEQUALITIES: REDUCING INEQUALITIES FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION (for discussion)

- a) Presentation of the HLPE-FSN Report on Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition;
- b) CFS stakeholders will be given the opportunity to provide feedback and inputs on the content of the report in view of the CFS policy convergence process on Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition.

Background documents:

- CFS 2023/51/9 – Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition – Draft Conclusions
- CFS 2023/51/Inf.17 – HLPE-FSN Report (2023) on Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition

IX. PROGRESS REPORT ON FOLLOW-UP TO THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NUTRITION (ICN2), INCLUDING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF ACTION ON NUTRITION (for information and discussion)

The fourth progress report on follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) will be presented by FAO and WHO.

Background documents:

- CFS 2023/51/10 – Progress report on follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), including Implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition – Draft Conclusions
- CFS 2023/51/Inf.18 – Progress report on follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), including Implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition

X. MONITORING CFS POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ON PRICE VOLATILITY AND FOOD SECURITY AND ON SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION (for discussion)

The Committee will discuss the use and application of the following CFS policy recommendations, consistent with the Terms of Reference to Share Experiences and Good Practices in Applying CFS Decisions, endorsed at CFS 43 (CFS 2016/43/7):

- a) Price Volatility and Food Security (2011);
- b) Social Protection for Food Security and Nutrition (2012).

Background documents:

- CFS 2023/51/Inf.19 – Monitoring CFS Policy Recommendations on Price Volatility and Food Security and on Social Protection for Food Security and Nutrition: Secretariat's analysis of the contributions received
- CFS 2023/51/Inf.20 – CFS Policy Recommendations on Price Volatility and Food Security, endorsed at CFS 37 in 2011
- CFS 2023/51/Inf.21 – CFS Policy Recommendations on Social Protection for Food Security and Nutrition, endorsed at CFS 39 in 2012

XI. OTHER MATTERS

- a) Modalities for a Philanthropic Foundations Mechanism for relations with the CFS (for information)
- b) Date of the Fifty-second Session of CFS (for decision)
- c) Election of Chair, Bureau members and Alternates (for decision)
- d) Adoption of the Final Report (for decision)

Background documents:

- CFS 2023/51/Inf.22 - Proposal for modalities for a Philanthropic Foundations Mechanism for relations with the CFS
- CFS 2023/51/Inf.23– Election of the CFS Chairperson

APPENDIX B – MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

- Afghanistan
- Algeria
- Angola
- Argentina
- Australia
- Austria
- Azerbaijan
- Bahamas
- Bangladesh
- Belarus
- Belgium
- Belize
- Brazil
- Bulgaria
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cabo Verde
- Cameroon
- Canada
- Chad
- Chile
- China
- Colombia
- Congo
- Costa Rica
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Croatia
- Cuba
- Cyprus
- Czechia
- Democratic People's Republic of Korea
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Denmark
- Gabon
- Georgia
- Germany
- Ghana
- Greece
- Guatemala
- Guinea
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Hungary
- Iceland
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran (Islamic Republic of)
- Iraq
- Ireland
- Israel
- Italy
- Japan
- Jordan
- Kenya
- Kiribati
- Kuwait
- Latvia
- Lebanon
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Libya
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Madagascar
- Malaysia
- Maldives
- Mali
- North Macedonia
- Norway
- Oman
- Pakistan
- Panama
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Philippines
- Poland
- Portugal
- Qatar
- Republic of Korea
- Republic of Moldova
- Romania
- Russian Federation
- Saint Lucia
- San Marino
- Saudi Arabia
- Senegal
- Singapore
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Solomon Islands
- South Africa
- Spain
- Sri Lanka
- Sudan
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Thailand
- Togo
- Tonga
- Tunisia
- Türkiye
- Uganda

-
- Djibouti
 - Dominican Republic
 - Ecuador
 - Egypt
 - El Salvador
 - Equatorial Guinea
 - Eritrea
 - Estonia
 - Eswatini
 - Ethiopia
 - European Union
(Member Organization)
 - Finland
 - France
 - Malta
 - Mauritania
 - Mauritius
 - Mexico
 - Monaco
 - Morocco
 - Mozambique
 - Myanmar
 - Namibia
 - Netherlands
 - New Zealand
 - Nicaragua
 - Niger
 - Nigeria
 - Ukraine
 - United Arab Emirates
 - United Kingdom of Great
Britain and Northern
Ireland
 - United Republic of
Tanzania
 - United States of America
 - Uruguay
 - Uzbekistan
 - Venezuela (Bolivarian
Republic of)
 - Yemen
 - Zambia
 - Zimbabwe

APPENDIX C – LIST OF DOCUMENTS

| Symbol | Title | AGENDA ITEM |
|----------------------------|---|----------------|
| CFS 2023/51/1/Rev.2 | CFS 51 Provisional Agenda | I |
| CFS 2023/51/2/Rev.1 | Guide to the preparation of the CFS 51 Final Report | I |
| CFS 2023/51/3 | CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls’ Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition | V |
| CFS 2023/51/4/Rev.1 | CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls’ Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition – Draft Decision | V |
| CFS 2023/51/5 | CFS Policy Recommendations on Strengthening Collection and Use of Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Data and Related Analysis Tools to Improve Decision-Making in Support of the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security | VI |
| CFS 2023/51/6 | CFS Policy Recommendations on Strengthening Collection and Use of Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Data and Related Analysis Tools to Improve Decision-Making in Support of the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security– Draft Decision | VI |
| CFS 2023/51/7 | CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) 2024-2027 | VII |
| CFS 2023/51/8 | CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) 2024-2027 – Draft Decision | VII |
| CFS 2023/51/9 | Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition – Draft Conclusions | VIII |
| CFS 2023/51/10 | Progress report on follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), including Implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition – Draft Conclusions | IX |
| CFS 2023/51/Inf.1/Rev.1 | CFS Provisional Timetable | I |
| CFS 2023/51/Inf.2 CFS | Guide to CFS 51 | I |
| 2023/51/Inf.3/Rev.1 | List of Documents | |
| CFS 2023/51/Inf.4 | Membership | I |
| CFS 2023/51/Inf.5 | List of Delegates | |
| CFS 2023/51/Inf.6 | Declaration of Competence submitted by the European Union | |
| CFS 2023/51/Inf.7 | Statement by the United Nations Secretary-General | II |

| | | |
|--------------------|--|------|
| CFS 2023/51/Inf.8 | Statement by the CFS Chairperson | II |
| CFS 2023/51/Inf.9 | Statement by the President of the United Nations General Assembly | II |
| CFS 2023/51/Inf.10 | Statement by the President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) | II |
| CFS 2023/51/Inf.11 | Statement by the Director-General, FAO | II |
| CFS 2023/51/Inf.12 | Statement by the President of IFAD | II |
| CFS 2023/51/Inf.13 | Statement by the Executive Director, WFP | II |
| CFS 2023/51/Inf.14 | Statement by the Chair of the Steering Committee of the High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE-FSN) | II |
| CFS 2023/51/Inf.15 | The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023 Report | III |
| CFS 2023/51/Inf.16 | CFS Annual Progress Report 2023 | VII |
| CFS 2023/51/Inf.17 | HLPE-FSN Report (2023) on Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition | VIII |
| CFS 2023/51/Inf.18 | Progress report on follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), including Implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition | IX |
| CFS 2023/51/Inf.19 | Monitoring CFS Policy Recommendations on Price Volatility and Food Security and on Social Protection for Food Security and Nutrition: Secretariat's analysis of the contributions received | X |
| CFS 2023/51/Inf.20 | CFS Policy Recommendations on Price Volatility and Food Security, endorsed at CFS 37 in 2011 | X |
| CFS 2023/51/Inf.21 | CFS Policy Recommendations on Social Protection for Food Security and Nutrition, endorsed at CFS 39 in 2012 | X |
| CFS 2023/51/Inf.22 | Proposal for modalities for a Philanthropic Foundations Mechanism for relations with the CFS | XI |
| CFS 2023/51/Inf.23 | Election of the CFS Chairperson | XI |

APPENDIX D – EXPLANATION OF POSITION BY CANADA ON THE FINAL REPORT TEXT ON ITEM III

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 contexts 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.

APPENDIX E - CFS VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

PART 1 - INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background and rationale

1. Gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment (GEWGE) is fundamental to human rights and integral to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)¹⁰. Ensuring gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment is critical to the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) mandate of ending hunger and ensuring food security and nutrition for all. GEWGE is critical to the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security. GEWGE is also essential to achieving all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Goal 5.
2. In order to transform this mandate into reality, at its 46th Session in October 2019, the CFS endorsed a policy process that will result in Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girl's Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition (referred to as the "Guidelines" in this document).
3. The importance of GEWGE for sustainable development was acknowledged by the international community through the adoption of gender equality as a stand-alone goal in the 2030 Agenda (SDG5).
4. Currently, the global food system produces enough food to feed every person on the planet. However, due to a range of challenges, an increasing number of people in both rural and urban areas are failing to realize their right to adequate food as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living and meet their daily food and nutritional needs. Discrimination and inequalities worsen food insecurity and various forms of malnutrition¹¹, particularly for women and girls. Food insecurity, which had grown in 2020 under the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic, worsened even further in 2021, exacerbating gender inequality and disproportionately affecting women and girls¹², in particular among Indigenous Peoples, local communities, migrants, displaced persons and refugees, older women, and persons with disabilities. In this challenging global context, addressing gender inequality and achieving the realization of women's and girls' rights is urgent and more important than ever to achieve food security and nutrition for all.
5. A growing body of evidence demonstrates the mutually reinforcing links between GEWGE and food security and nutrition. Supporting the rights and empowerment of all women and girls, particularly those in vulnerable situations, is also one of the most effective ways to improve food security and nutrition outcomes for all - women themselves, their family, community and society - and to lower infant mortality, reduce child malnutrition and prevent non communicable diseases. These are central to break intergenerational cycles of malnutrition, with special attention to the nutritional needs of children under two years of age, and of women, including during pregnancy and breastfeeding, and of girls throughout their life course.
6. GEWGE are essential to poverty reduction, economic growth, social wellbeing, access to and management of natural resources, climate change adaptation and mitigation and ecosystem and biodiversity protection, conservation, and sustainable use. Achievement of gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment is positively correlated with increased productivity and

¹⁰ Universal Declaration of Human Rights, preamble and Article 1.

¹¹ Malnutrition includes undernutrition (child stunting and wasting, and vitamin and mineral deficiencies) as well as overweight and obesity. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022 (SOFI 2022) - Repurposing food and agricultural policies to make healthy diets more affordable, FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO.

¹² SOFI 2022.

improved efficiency in many sectors – including in agriculture¹³ in a context where small-scale and family farming is increasingly feminized – whereas inequality and discrimination in access to, and control over, resources continue to undermine economic development, leading to below-potential economic outcomes¹⁴. Women, including Indigenous women, and women from local communities, play active roles as agents in food systems as farmers, producers, peasants, family farmers, fisherfolks and pastoralists, processors, traders, wage workers, smallholders and entrepreneurs throughout food systems and value chains, and as consumers and providers for their families.

7. Despite progress made over decades, women and girls, particularly those in vulnerable situations, continue to face violence and discrimination, and inequality across the world, manifested through multiple challenges. These include barriers to decision-making processes; unequal access to, and control over, key productive resources, assets, technologies, education and financial services, and economic opportunities; unequal access to social protection; unbalanced and unrecognized responsibilities in terms of unpaid care and domestic work; limited access to essential health-care services, including universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services. These all contribute to food insecurity and malnutrition, negatively impacting various pillars of food security: availability, access, utilization and stability, creating barriers to food system inclusiveness, innovation and sustainability and limiting women’s agency and preventing them from benefitting equally. Part 3 explores these challenges and offers strategic entry points for change.

1.2. Objectives of the guidelines

8. The core objective of the Guidelines is to support Member States, development partners¹⁵ and other stakeholders to advance gender equality, women’s and girls’ rights, empowerment and leadership, as part of their efforts to eradicate hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition, towards the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.
9. The Guidelines will provide concrete policy guidance based on good practices and lessons learnt on gender mainstreaming¹⁶, gender-responsive public policies, programmes and innovative solutions. They aim to address the root causes of gender inequalities, including by promoting impactful gender-responsive and gender-sensitive approaches improving legal and policy frameworks, institutional arrangements, national plans and programmes, and promoting innovative partnerships and increased investments in human and financial resources that are conducive to promoting GEWGE, as applicable.
10. The Guidelines aim to foster greater policy coherence among GEWGE and food security and nutrition agendas, and promote mutually reinforcing policy measures. Generating and disseminating evidence on the diverse situations and experiences of women and girls, men and boys and recognizing their differentiated opportunities, constraints and outcomes in the context of food security and nutrition help to transform discriminatory social norms, raise awareness, and support appropriate responses including targeted policies and programs.
11. The Guidelines will contribute to accelerating action by all stakeholders at all levels, including farmers’ and women’s organizations, to achieve the CFS mandate and the goals of the 2030 Agenda, as part of the United Nations Decade of Action for Sustainable Development (2020-2030). Given the important roles that women and girls play in agriculture and food systems, family farming as well as in household food security and nutrition, the Guidelines will also

¹³ Agriculture includes crops, forestry, fisheries, livestock, and aquaculture. UNGA Resolution A/RES/74/242. Paragraph 20.

¹⁴ [The cost of the gender gap in agricultural productivity](#), UN Women, World Bank Group, UNEP and UNDP, 2015.

¹⁵ Development partners include, among others, UN System Organizations, International Financial Institutions, and other organizations that provide development assistance.

¹⁶ Gender mainstreaming is defined in the ECOSOC agreed conclusions 1997/2.

contribute to the implementation of the Action Plans of the UN Decades of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025), on Water for Sustainable Development (2018-2028), on Family Farming (2019-2028), and Ecosystems Restoration (2021-2030).

1.3. Nature of the voluntary guidelines and their intended users

12. The Guidelines are voluntary and non-binding.
13. The Guidelines are intended to be interpreted and applied consistently with existing obligations under national and international law, with due regard to voluntary commitments under applicable international and regional instruments. Nothing in the Guidelines should be read as limiting or undermining any legal obligations or commitments to which States may be subject under international law, including the UDHR and other international human rights instruments.
14. The Guidelines are intended to be interpreted and applied in accordance with national legal systems and their institutions. They should be implemented within countries and at regional and global levels, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities.
15. The Guidelines are complementary to and support national, regional and international initiatives which aim at addressing all forms of discrimination against women and girls, which negatively impact food security and nutrition for themselves and for their families, households, communities and countries. In particular, CFS guidance builds upon, integrates and complements existing multilaterally agreed upon instruments adopted on this topic within the context of the UN system.
16. The Guidelines are intended for all stakeholders that are involved in addressing food security and nutrition, gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment and leadership. They primarily address governments at all levels to help design and implement public policies, as their primary objective is to strengthen coherence between and across public sector policies at local, national, regional and global levels. They are also of added value to other actors involved in policy discussions and policy implementation processes. These actors include:
 - a) Governments;
 - b) Intergovernmental and regional organizations, including UN agencies and bodies;
 - c) International and local civil society organizations, including women's, women's rights', farmers' and small-scale food producers', landless, pastoralists', peasants', fisher-folks', migrant workers', and consumers' organizations, professional associations, trade unions including domestic, rural and agricultural workers, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities;
 - d) Private sector, including micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSME) and large companies;
 - e) Research organizations and educational institutions including universities;
 - f) Development and humanitarian agencies, development partners, and international, regional and local financial institutions;
 - g) Philanthropic foundations.

PART 2 - CORE PRINCIPLES THAT UNDERPIN THE GUIDELINES

17. The Guidelines are intended to be applied, consistent with the following instruments as far as each of these instruments are relevant and applicable and as far as they have been agreed, acknowledged and/or endorsed by respective Member States:
 - 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015);
 - ECOSOC – AC 1997/2 – Mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations System;

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights – adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1948;
 - International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
 - International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
 - Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), including the General Recommendation 34;
 - Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD);
 - Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC);
 - Convention against Torture and other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT);
 - UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), 13 September 2007;
 - UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas, 17 December 2018 (UNDRIP);
 - UNGA Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, 28 July 1951;
 - UNGA Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 13 December 2006;
 - UNGA Resolution 76/140: Improvement of the situation of women and girls in rural areas, 16 December 2021;
 - Agreed Conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women
 - ILO Conventions 100, 111, 156, 169, 183, and 190;
 - ILO Resolution concerning Gender Equality at the Heart of Decent Work, 17 June 2009;
 - ILO Resolution concerning the Promotion of Gender Equality, Pay Equity and Maternity Protection, 8 December 2008;
 - Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 2417;
 - Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 1995, and the outcome documents of their review conferences;
 - International Conference on Population and Development, 1994, the ICPD Programme of Action and its review conferences;
 - United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);
 - UN Decade of Action for Nutrition 2016-2025;
 - UN Decade for Family Farming 2019-2028;
 - Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development;
 - UNGA Resolution 217/77.
18. The Guidelines are intended to build upon and contribute to the work of other international bodies, and related guidance contained in other policy products, including:
- CFS Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security (2004);
 - CFS Voluntary Guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security (2012);
 - CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (2015);
 - CFS Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (2015);
 - Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication, 2015;
 - CFS Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (2017);
 - CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (2021);
 - All endorsed CFS policy recommendations.

The core principles that underpin the Guidelines are:

19. **Commitment to human rights and the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.** Achieving GEWGE contributes to the realization of human rights, which are indivisible and interdependent. The Guidelines are consistent with, and

- draw upon, international and regional instruments, including the SDGs that address human rights.
20. **Non-discrimination:** No one should be subjected to any form of discrimination under law and policies as well as in practice. It is one of the primary responsibilities of States to ensure that all persons are able to enjoy all human rights regardless of their sex, while acknowledging differences between them and taking specific temporary special measures aimed at accelerating de facto equality as appropriate.
 21. **Empowerment of all women and girls.** The Guidelines rest integrally on supporting the empowerment of all women and girls, recognizing them as rights-holders, agents of change and leaders. They build on the positive relationship between women's and girls' empowerment and achieving food security and nutrition. They recommend actions to promote women's and girls' agency and autonomy, individually and collectively, participating actively and meaningfully in decision-making to control their own lives and to strengthen strategic choices affecting their lives and livelihoods as well as their communities and societies.
 22. **Tackling structural barriers to gender equality.** The Guidelines promote the application of innovative gender equality approaches that challenge and tackle both the symptoms– including women's restricted access to land, financial services and other productive resources - and the structural causes of gender inequality, including discriminatory laws, policies, social norms, attitudes, harmful customary practices and gender stereotypes, for sustainable food systems for all in respect of cultures, and local and national laws. This requires the collective engagement of all, including men and boys, as well as local and traditional authorities, recognizing and respecting leadership of women and girls, to strengthen joint responsibility and commitment for successful transformation of unequal power relations between men and women.
 23. **Country ownership.** The Guidelines are to be implemented taking into account each country's development priorities and specific context. They are intended to be interpreted and applied in accordance with national legal systems and their institutions as well as legal obligations under international law applicable to the country, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities.
 24. **Strengthening policy, legal and institutional coherence.** The Guidelines contribute to improving and strengthening policy, legal, and institutional frameworks that promote coherence in mainstreaming GEWGE on aspects related to food security and nutrition. This will help to enhance synergies, avoid duplication, mitigate risks and prevent unintended or contradictory effects from one policy or legal area to another.
 25. **Context-specific gender analysis and approaches.** Effective efforts to achieve change must be based on an understanding of the specific nature of the problem in a particular society. The Guidelines therefore promote inclusive and participatory context-specific gender analysis and actions - avoiding generalizations and stereotypes - that take into account all women's and girls' lived experiences, context at local, national, regional levels and their impact on gender relations, roles and norms in accordance with national legal systems and their institutions.
 26. **Multidimensional approaches.** The Guidelines recognize that women and girls often experience multiple forms of discriminations simultaneously based on, inter alia¹⁷, race, colour, sex, age, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, disability or other status which affect their food security and nutrition outcomes. The Guidelines promote a multidimensional and integrated approach that address these interrelated and mutually reinforcing characteristics. Notably, women and girls of local communities, and of Indigenous Peoples, women and girls with disabilities, as well as older women are often

¹⁷ Other examples of bases of discrimination are contained in CFS Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security.

particularly marginalized and disadvantaged also in the context of food security and nutrition.

27. **Gender mainstreaming combined with targeted actions.** Alongside fostering transformative approaches, the Guidelines support mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and interventions while recognizing that achieving gender equality requires complementing gender mainstreaming with targeted interventions that focus on women and girls.
28. **Evidence-based approach.** The Guidelines are based on and promote the use of sound evidence that enables informed decision-making and the development of evidence-based monitoring and evaluation systems and effective responses and policies. They promote the collection, analysis and use of sex- and age-disaggregated data and gender statistics, and other variables to produce accurate and context-specific gender analysis.
29. **Inclusiveness and participation in policy- and law-making processes.** The Guidelines foster policies, legal frameworks and practices that promote the full, equal and meaningful participation of all women and girls, including those in vulnerable situations¹⁸, Indigenous women, local communities, as well as women-led organizations, including women's rights organizations and social movements, while respecting plurality in the development and implementation of policies and laws.
30. **Multi-stakeholder-collaboration and partnership.** The Guidelines recognize the importance of promoting effective multi-stakeholder collaboration and partnerships and engaging with all stakeholders and leaders as allies in processes to advance GEWGE in the context of food security and nutrition. Effective partnerships with all actors require transparent rules of engagement and accountability, including safeguards for the identification and management of potential conflicts of interest.

¹⁸ Women in vulnerable situations most often include, among others, pregnant and lactating women, women of reproductive age and adolescent girls, women caregivers, women in armed conflicts, the elderly, women with disabilities, Indigenous women, women migrants, women refugees, displaced women.

PART 3 - ISSUES, CHALLENGES, POLICIES AND STRATEGIC APPROACHES

3.1. Cross-cutting recommendations

31. Governments are urged to:
- (i) **Strengthen the implementation of existing obligations under national and international law**, including human rights law, with due regard to voluntary commitments under applicable international and regional instruments.
 - (ii) **Implement, strengthen or introduce legislation promoting non-discrimination and gender equality.**
 - (iii) **Ensure equal access to justice and legal assistance so that all women and girls have their rights protected, including the progressive realization of the right to adequate food** in the context of national food security, and on issues related to property, in particular land tenure, in rural and urban areas, inheritance and financial services.
 - (iv) **Ensure, where possible, that targeted health and universal social protection measures¹⁹ are in place to support all those in need, particularly women and girls especially during emergencies, shocks and protracted crises²⁰.**
 - (v) **Promote gender mainstreaming across different relevant sectors**, including agriculture and food sectors at all governmental levels as this supports women's and girls' participation and empowerment and creates impetus to address inequality across a range of connected issues.
32. Governments, with the support of all relevant stakeholders including civil society, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, private sector and development partners, are urged to:
- (i) **Design and implement gender-responsive or gender-sensitive public policies and programmes based on country-specific and country-owned gender assessments** guided by inclusive and participatory approaches taking into account different national contexts, necessities, capacities, and levels of development.
 - (ii) **Promote the full engagement of men and boys as agents and beneficiaries of change and as strategic partners and allies** in addressing the structural barriers to gender equality, and as actors and participants in processes and strategies, especially those led by women. Considering cultures, and local and national laws, their active involvement is essential for successful transformation of unequal power relations and discriminatory social systems, institutions, structures and norms. Promote and give more visibility to positive participation of men and boys.
 - (iii) **Address gender discriminatory socio-cultural norms at all levels of the food system** that perpetuate gender inequality in the context of food security and nutrition, including engagement with all stakeholders and relevant leaders as allies in change processes. In order to achieve gender equality, transformation needs to go from individual to systemic change and across informal to formal spheres of life. Ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and men in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of food security and nutrition programmes and policies.
 - (iv) **Regularly collect, analyze and use data disaggregated by sex, age, disability and other variables** related to all forms of discrimination as well as gender-sensitive statistics

¹⁹ UNGA Resolution [A/RES/74/2](#), 10 October 2019 on Universal Health Coverage. ILO [Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 \(No. 202\)](#).

²⁰ CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (2015).

and indicators, including reflecting women's and men's current and traditional Indigenous and local knowledge, with the free, prior and informed consent, as applicable, in accordance with the prevailing laws and regulations including data protection and rights to privacy.

- (v) **Promote sustainable food systems that are gender equal** and, as appropriate, support local, regional and national enterprises in production, processing, consumption and distribution of food, and the production of affordable nutritious food that meets food preferences, as nationally applicable, and that contributes to healthy diets through sustainable food systems. Build the capacity of micro, small and medium scale enterprises (MSMEs) to promote sustainable production by enabling the roles of women as MSMEs entrepreneurs in respect of local and national laws and institutions.
- (vi) **Ensure adequate financial, technical and human resources**, supported by political commitment and public policies that promote an enabling environment to generate social, economic and cultural changes with specific policies, programmes and institutions that address the symptoms and root causes of gender inequalities. Measures to support gender-sensitive or gender-responsive budgeting should be put in place and implemented where possible.
- (vii) **Undertake strategic and comprehensive communications on gender mainstreaming** and a gender perspective in national agriculture and food systems including investment opportunities²¹, where appropriate and applicable.

3.2. Women's and girls' food security and nutrition

3.2.1. Issues and challenges

Unequal access to and distribution of nutritious and healthy food

33. Worldwide, the prevalence of food insecurity and malnutrition is higher for women than for men. The gender gap in food insecurity persists even after controlling for other socio-economic factors, such as education or income, household decision-making, distribution of food and workload, as well as lack of access to health services and of control over resources. Women play a critical role in household food security and are often responsible for food consumption within the family. They tend to prioritize the needs of other household members, especially in time of scarcity, and reduce their own food intake, which is detrimental to their own nutritional status. As a result, women and girls may eat a lower quantity and/or lower quality food, exposing them to greater risk of hunger and malnutrition. Therefore, there is the need to confront the underlined gender discrimination in tackling food insecurity²².

Women's and girls' specific nutritional needs throughout the life course

34. Women's and girls' nutritional needs vary depending on their life course and women's labour activities. Gender discriminatory norms prevailing in many communities and societies, combined with poverty, often prevent women and girls from accessing, demanding and consuming healthy diets and put them at risk of different forms of malnutrition that are partly shaped by gender (e.g. many women have high risks of anemia), which in turn are risk factors that put women and girls at risk for other diseases. Malnutrition in girlhood and motherhood can lead to complications later in life, in particular throughout pregnancy of women and young women, especially during labor and delivery.
35. Women and young women have additional nutritional needs, in quantity and quality, when pregnant or breastfeeding and when they engage in physically demanding work such as farm labour. Their nutritional status during pre-pregnancy, pregnancy, and breastfeeding, impacts the

²¹ FAO's Strategic Framework 2022-31, endorsed by Conference in June 2021.

²² [FAO Data snapshot - Using sex-disaggregated data to better understand gender gaps in agriculture](#)"

nutritional status, cognitive and physical development of their child.

Empowerment of all women and girls for improved food security and nutrition for all

36. There is evidence²³ that women's and girls' empowerment is a pathway to improved nutrition and wellbeing for the entire household, in both rural and urban areas, and also evidence of positive links between women's empowerment and child and maternal health.
37. While some aspects of the decisions on food production, procurement, and preparation of food may be controlled by women, in many societies some of the key decisions are predominantly men-dominated due to social norms and structural inequality. Women should be in a position to make decisions over their own nutrition and be able to contribute to the improvement of their families' nutrition.
38. Conventional approaches to nutrition education tend to reinforce existing gender roles, focusing on women's roles as mothers and caregivers of young children and often ignoring boys and men in nutrition education programmes. Nutrition education should support gender-responsive approaches that challenge harmful gender norms.

3.2.2. Policies and strategic approaches

39. Governments, with the support of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, private sector and development partners, should:
 - (i) **Design and implement policies and inter-sectoral programmes that acknowledge women and girls' specific nutritional needs linked to their life course and circumstances (e.g. widows, divorced women and single mothers).** These should recognize and contribute to improve the nutritional status of women and girls throughout the life course. Targeted measures for those that are in the most nutritionally vulnerable situations, for example pregnant and lactating women (particularly during the first 1000 days for mother and child) should be a priority.
 - (ii) **Promote a coordinated and integrated policy approach to effectively reducing gender inequality, supporting the empowerment of women and girls and improving their nutritional status in urban and rural settings.** Multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder collaboration and coordination are essential for achieving desired results. Sectoral programmes, such as health, education, science, innovation, economic, agriculture, food safety and accessibility, energy, environment, water and sanitation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and social protection should incorporate and respond to gender equality in the context of food insecurity and malnutrition.
 - (iii) **Complement existing proven programmes by promoting, designing, or adapting gender-responsive programmes that facilitate the provision of nutritious and adequate food in the context of national food security,** especially in contexts of scarcity, addressing health-related dietary needs, cultural patterns and contexts, food preferences and dietary customs.
 - (iv) **Promote and ensure adequate, culturally relevant, inclusive, quality education on healthy diets and nutrition for women, men, girls and boys** to strengthen their ability to make informed choices over their own and their household's nutrition.
 - (v) **Support targeted gender-responsive research in the context of food security and nutrition, co-creation of knowledge and extension and advisory services (EAS)** to enable women to access and produce affordable and nutritious food.

²³ SOFI 2021: e.g. p. 93 and p.104.

3.3. Women's and girls' full, equal and meaningful participation, voice and leadership in policy- and decision-making at all levels

3.3.1. Issues and Challenges

40. Participation of women in high-level decision-making bodies on food security and nutrition in public and private spheres remains low in many countries. Promoting women's full, equal, effective and meaningful participation and leadership is vital to advancing food security and nutrition for themselves, their household and society, enabling them to influence policies, strategies and investment plans and to take into account their specific knowledge, interest, needs and priorities.
41. At the community level, in both urban and rural settings, participation in food production, processing, wholesale, retail, trade, including through meaningful participation in community, and business associations can be affected by unequal power relations, gender roles and social norms, and discriminatory practices. Challenges may be more pronounced for rural women, women from local communities, and for Indigenous women, due to inadequate access to essential and social support services and the lack of opportunities to be represented in decision-making functions, as well as the persistence of historical and structural unequal power relations, and views about women's and men's traditional roles in society.
42. Women's decision-making power relating to household spending is associated with healthy diets and better nutrition, education, health, and in general wellbeing outcomes for themselves and for other household members²⁴.
43. All forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls represent serious barriers to women's leadership and full participation in public and community life.

3.3.2. Policies and strategic approaches

44. Governments should:
 - (i) **Consider promoting, developing, adapting and implementing** new and existing **affirmative action measures as appropriate**, such as gender parity in decision-making processes and positions at all levels and in all spheres related to agriculture, food security and nutrition to promote and strengthen women's equal representation in leadership and managerial positions, including in public and private sectors, and ensuring gender equality in access to inclusive, quality education and participation in relevant organizations.
 - (ii) **Promote the full, equal, effective inclusive and meaningful participation and engagement of all women and girls and their organizations** in the process of policy design, implementation, oversight and programmatic decisions for food security, nutrition, agriculture and food systems, as applicable. A wide range of measures will be needed to effectively support women's leadership and women's and girls' empowerment, such as training and capacity building including South-South and Triangular Cooperation.
 - (iii) **Empower young women as the next generation of leaders**. This means promoting and funding leadership training for women and girls, and ensuring they complete secondary education and supporting their entry to tertiary education in order to be able to participate in decision-making at all levels.
 - (iv) **Strengthen women's leadership and women's – and women's rights' – organizations**, including Indigenous women's and rural women's organization, such as by institutionalizing and funding awards systems for the recognition of women leaders and

²⁴ [Is women's empowerment a pathway to improving child nutrition outcomes in a nutrition-sensitive agriculture program?](#), IFPRI, 2019.

women's organizations.

45. Governments, with the support of all relevant stakeholders including civil society, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, private sector and development partners, should:
- (i) **Strengthen the role of relevant women's and women's rights' organizations, and women's collective action in the context of food security and nutrition**, recognizing the importance of self-association and the role of relevant civil society and social movements to promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in decision-making at all levels of agriculture and food systems. Analyze constraints – prior to funding – faced by women in self-organizing (e.g. unequal domestic responsibilities, other context specific constraints arising from social norms and discrimination) and address them as applicable. Support may include direct funding for women's empowerment organizations, so they take leadership roles in decision-making process at local, national, regional and international levels, including women from Indigenous Peoples, and local communities' women, as appropriate.
 - (ii) **Address all forms of discrimination against women and girls, and particularly discriminatory gender norms, biases and attitudes, including among men leaders** through awareness raising, training and introduction of gender policies and action plans. Set examples of women's leadership in all areas including in civil service, government, scientific research, technological development, academia, businesses and local communities, among other areas. Strongly encourage the full, equal and meaningful participation of all women and their leadership in all these processes.

3.4. Women's economic and social empowerment in the context of sustainable agriculture and food systems

3.4.1. Women's access to the labor market and decent work

3.4.1.1. Issues and challenges

46. Access to secure and decent work in conditions of dignity and safety is vital to human welfare and well-being and is a key contributor to food security and nutrition. Women are more likely than men to be engaged in informal and insecure jobs, including in agriculture and food systems, with less access to social protection. They are often subject to a gender pay and wage gap, earning less than men for equal pay for equal work, or work of equal value, and are vulnerable to discrimination, occupational segregation, and unsafe and unhealthy working conditions, exploitation, and all forms of violence and harassment in the workplace, particularly against those working in agriculture and food systems. This is due to multiple factors that women and girls face, including discrimination, gender stereotypes, horizontal and vertical segregation of the labor market, unequal distribution of paid work and unpaid care work, lower levels of education, lack of knowledge of their rights as employees and lack of enforcement of these rights.
47. Women and young women in agriculture are affected by the lack of adequate health and safety measures. Agricultural work performed without proper training, without access to clean and safe drinking water, to toilets, to protective clothing and equipment can expose agricultural workers to accrued risks.
48. Gender-biased social norms, discriminatory laws and practices and other structural barriers often limit women's participation in workers' and producers' organizations and in organized labour institutions such as trade unions.
49. Migrants, particularly women and girls, migrant workers, asylum seekers, refugees, displaced persons, and stateless persons, particularly women and girls, are more vulnerable to severe

labour exploitation and other forms of abuse. These women and girls often experience situations of vulnerability due to gender-based discrimination, trafficking, and all forms of violence and discrimination.

3.4.1.2. *Policies and strategic approaches*

50. Governments are urged to:
- (i) **Ensure there is a strong legal framework in place**, establishing protection for internationally recognized workers' rights and principles of work and safeguarding key principles, such as equal pay for equal work or work of equal value and safe working conditions, including the zero tolerance of harassment, **and proactive enforcement of the laws.**
 - (ii) **Encourage the collection, analysis, and use of sex- and age-disaggregated data and gender statistics** including from Indigenous Peoples on the informal sector including work and living conditions in agriculture.
51. Governments, with the support of all relevant stakeholders including civil society, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, private sector and development partners, should:
- (i) **Take steps to ensure GEWGE and respect for human and labour rights within** the workplace, including to consider ratification of related ILO Conventions.
 - (ii) **Promote decent work in public and private sectors**, including through respect of workers' rights, including the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work²⁵, social dialogue and other measures including access to social protection systems.
 - (iii) **Adopt specific public policies, programmes and strategies to increase women's access to farm and non-farm employment and to entrepreneurship opportunities and farm ownership in the agriculture sector**, including technical and vocational education and training and skills development, suitable labour intermediation services, as well as increased public and private gender-sensitive investments that consider women's specific needs and priorities.
 - (iv) **Support women's transition from informal to formal economy, while undertaking efforts to reduce** labour market segregation. **Recognize and protect the labour rights of women** working in the formal and informal economy **and enable their roles as entrepreneurs.**
 - (v) **Introduce and strengthen gender-responsive public policies and programmes across sectors with a transformative approach, including in agriculture and food value chains to address the gender wage gap and** to promote decent work. These can include safer and labour-saving technologies and practices across agricultural sub-sectors, adoption of occupational safety and health measures, access to social protection, adequate living wages that are not discriminatory, and measures to reconcile paid work and unpaid care work responsibilities, such as flexible working arrangements for women and men and the provision of high-quality, accessible, affordable and inclusive childcare.

²⁵ [ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-up, adopted by the International Labour Conference at its Eighty-sixth Session, Geneva, 18 June 1998.](#)

3.4.2. Women's involvement in agriculture and food systems as producers and entrepreneurs

3.4.2.1. *Issues and Challenges*

52. Women face inequality and discrimination in many dimensions of food systems. They face unequal access to and control of resources of all kinds – water, land, capital, knowledge and traditional knowledge and technology. Investments are often directed at supporting food systems, which are dominated by men for a variety of reasons, including discriminatory gender norms and gender stereotypes, discrimination in women's access to resources and the unequal burden of care and domestic responsibilities. Gender inequality in food systems limits women's and girls' – especially Indigenous women's – access to resources, affecting productivity and their ability to manage risks; women's participation and voice in producers' groups; and women's access to, as well as time and energy for remunerated activities, constraining their contribution to their family's income and the households' food security and nutrition. The collection of sex and age disaggregated data and gender statistics on women and girls in agriculture and food systems would help to better address these inequalities and discrimination.
53. Women are actively engaged across agriculture and food systems as producers and entrepreneurs. They contribute to agriculture and food systems as well as to food security and nutrition not only with their labour but also with their knowledge of agricultural practices and biodiversity, in particular by local communities, and Indigenous Peoples. They play a central role in natural resource management and food production, processing, conservation, and marketing²⁶. However, these roles are too often unpaid and unrecognized and are often not protected by labour laws because the majority of work in small-scale food production and processing where women tend to engage is undertaken in the informal economy. Women engaged in agriculture face constraints to full, equal and meaningful participation in value chains, agriculture and food systems.
54. Women's ability to participate in food systems is constrained by unequal property rights; a gender imbalance in education, particularly in higher and technical education; lack of role models; lack of women working in organizations that support businesses, particularly in decision-making roles; lack of confidence to expand their business due to the lack of support from within their family or community; and time poverty because of unequal distribution of domestic and care work. Women's access to physical and other necessary complementary resources and services for their full participation in value chains and food systems is also determined by their inclusion in networks and their social capital. Producer groups, agricultural extension agents, transportation and other services, are often more accessible to men than women. Often service providers do not engage women as clients and fail to consider and address the differentiated needs and priorities of women and men.

3.4.2.2. *Policies and strategic approaches*

55. Governments should:
- (i) **Facilitate the participation of women in investments in food systems as agents and actors**, including in agriculture and territorial markets, in collaboration with other actors such as private enterprises, through cooperatives and producer organizations.
 - (ii) **Promote investments in technologies, rural infrastructure, transport and specific activities** (across food systems and along value chains) that support women producers including young women producers and entrepreneurs and strengthen women's capacities to use and adopt technologies, including information and communication technologies (ICTs), and other methods that reduce their work burden and strengthen their productive

²⁶ [United Nations Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028. Global Action Plan. Rome. Action Plan Pillar 3 - FAO and IFAD, 2019.](#)

and income generating capacities/roles.

- (iii) **Promote the collection, analysis and use of sex and age disaggregated data, and gender statistics in food systems**, including from Indigenous Peoples and local communities, with free, prior and informed consent, as applicable, in order to have accurate understanding of existing gender gaps, norms and roles. Designing effective public policies and programmes for women's and girls' empowerment requires context-specific gender analysis with quality data.
56. Governments, with the support of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, private sector and development partners, are encouraged to:
- (i) **Address negative social norms and gender stereotypes** that condition women's involvement in agricultural investments, food systems and access to local, regional and global markets, to facilitate women's equal participation in and control over the various components of the value chains and agriculture and food systems as well as their control over the benefits from their engagement and to empower women to exercise this control.
 - (ii) **Establish and implement strategies in food security and nutrition aimed at fulfilling the rights and strengthening capacities of women and girls for successfully engaging in food systems and in the various components of the value chains**, including for the labour market.
 - (iii) **Facilitate women's and young women's equal, full, effective and meaningful participation in social and economic networks**, including formal and informal producers' organizations and cooperatives, with recognition and support to local traditional financial systems as well as regional and multilateral financing, and attention to effective participation and leadership of women when in mixed networks. These networks can contribute to real change towards financial autonomy of women.
 - (iv) **Support analyses of agriculture and food systems and value chains** focusing on from production, processing packaging, storage, transportation, distribution processes and retail to end-user from a gender perspective. These analyses should take into account implications of all forms of discrimination against women and girls.
 - (v) **Promote cross-sectoral policy coherence and policy dialogue** towards resilient and productive employment and decent work of women in food systems, in particular among agriculture, employment, social protection, climate adaptation and mitigation, youth and gender related policies.
 - (vi) **Foster recognition of and support for the knowledge and capacities of Indigenous Peoples as well as their meaningful inclusion and economic empowerment** in food processing, conservation, use of natural resources, and land tenure systems, with their free, prior and informed consent, as applicable.
 - (vii) **Support women's equal access to opportunities across food systems** by strengthening their agency and building their collective power facilitating their access to resources and service provision including training, enhancing their business capacities, mindsets and skills, and supporting their effective engagement with agribusiness, food systems' and other agricultural and value chains' actors.

3.4.3. Access to financial services and social capital

3.4.3.1. Issues and Challenges

57. Lack of financial capital and financial inclusion are significant constraints to women's entrepreneurial activities and engagement all along the food system and value chains, from investment in land to agrifood businesses. Structural constraints to women's access to financial

services such as credit and insurance are often based on restricted access to assets, including land and property, that could be used as collateral for loans; family indebtedness; limited knowledge and training of financial services; restricted availability of appropriate loan products for women-led micro, small, medium businesses and smallholders; statutory and customary laws that are discriminatory and/or do not respond adequately to women's needs and priorities; and negative social norms that prevent women from developing and growing their enterprises and productivity. At the same time, fair and equitable access to financial services is a prerequisite for overall societal economic security and prosperity.

3.4.3.2. *Policies and Strategic Approaches*

58. Governments, with the support of all relevant stakeholders including civil society, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, private sector and development partners, should:
- (i) **Address legal barriers, gender norms and gender biases for women's financial inclusion in agriculture and food systems.** For example, improve women's access to credit and bank accounts, saving schemes, solidarity funds and cooperatives and agricultural insurance, including through **specific financial programmes for women involved in all aspects of value chains individually or collectively**, with more flexible collateral requirements, minimal documentary requirements, alternative data to assess credit worthiness, and customized disbursement schedules that fit women's crop and cash flow needs.
 - (ii) **Analyze risks and opportunities to increase women's income and savings**, including through revision of policies of micro-credit and other financial providers, and to advance programmes to increase women's savings. This analysis should consider evidence of harassment, debt traps, and other challenges faced by women especially from weaker socio-economic backgrounds and opportunities for credit provision at equitable interest rates, flexible and longer-term repayment terms and debt waiver.
 - (iii) **Foster and support innovation in financial products and services provision** to diversify offerings available to women in agriculture and food systems. Support and raise awareness among financial product and service providers to allow and enhance financial inclusion, and encourage them to create financial products and services tailored to the needs of women, in particular rural micro-, small- and medium-scale producers and entrepreneurs.
 - (iv) **Promote women producers' and entrepreneurs' capacity, building in financial literacy as well as developing appropriate and accessible information on financial services and products.** This should include training in e-commerce. It is important to provide ongoing support and enable knowledge sharing among women producers and processors, as they move through different stages of business development.
 - (v) **Facilitate women micro-, small- and medium-scale food producers' and entrepreneurs' meaningful participation and empowerment and access to local, regional, and international markets**, including through collective associations and cooperative associations, promotion of business knowledge and the support of appropriate, targeted financial products and services that are tailored to their specific needs and circumstances, to improve their control over incomes and food security and nutrition for themselves and their families.

3.5. Women's and girls' access to and control over natural and productive resources, including land²⁷, water, fisheries and forests

3.5.1. Issues and Challenges

59. Women's restricted access to and control over key natural and productive resources undermine their rights and economic capacity, affecting the efficiency of the agricultural sector and limiting economic growth overall, failing to tap into women's enormous productive potential.
60. Land serves as a foundation for food security, shelter, income and livelihoods. However, women, including young women, encounter persistent barriers to having their land and property rights, including ownership, use, transfer and inheritance respected, even when laws and policies enshrine those rights. Many women are landless, and when women do have access, ownership/or control of agricultural land, their plots are usually smaller, and of poorer quality than men's, and often with less secure rights. The poorest people, including women and notably Indigenous women, women in local communities, and women in contexts of conflict, protracted crises and shocks are affected by land misappropriation and often do not have the power or resources to fight these practices.
61. The adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow onset events, loss of biodiversity, ecosystem degradation and desertification have severe impacts on agricultural production and the productivity, value and availability of natural resources, which are disproportionately affecting women, in particular Indigenous women, rural women and women in local communities, for example by increasing the time they need for fetching water, collecting fuelwood, food and medicinal plants and herbs.
62. When climate-related disasters result in outmigration of men, it leads to feminization of agriculture thus women are often obliged to assume additional on-farm responsibilities but have limited power to request and receive government support or financial and EAS as well as have limited access to production, inputs and land.
63. Women's access to water is crucial for agriculture, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture production and for household and domestic purposes. Women's access to water is often unequal, in particular for Indigenous women, women in local communities and women in situations of conflict, protracted crises and shocks. Women represent up to half of the labour force in aquaculture, largely in processing and trading, but typically receive lower labour returns and income than men.
64. Women also often have unequal access to forests and their resources. Forests provide crucial and important resources of fuel, food, fiber, medicines and other raw materials in particular for Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and rural people. However, activities related to commercial objectives and household well-being, such as timber production or collecting fuelwood, are unequally distributed among all women, men, girls, and boys. When women are equitably involved in sustainable resource management, development, and conservation, outcomes improve.
65. The differential uses of land, water, fisheries and forestry resources by men and women often lead to different specialized knowledge of resource management needs of these resources. Failure to take into account this knowledge in policy and planning can lead to poor outcomes, including loss of biodiversity, water pollution, soil degradation, loss of forest cover, and a failure to mitigate and adapt to climate change.
66. Men and women often grow different crops and/or different varieties and have different uses for the crops they grow. Typically, breeding and crop management programmes largely work with

²⁷ CFS Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, CFS, 2012.

men farmers, while women's priorities are rarely considered.

67. Most farm implements, including mechanized tools, have been designed based on the height, strength and body type of men and are inappropriate for use by, or even harmful to, women. Moreover, mechanization for women's activities in drying, storage and processing may be unavailable.
68. Through their transformative potential, agroecological²⁸ and other innovative approaches²⁹, and all other sustainable innovations and technologies, including climate-resilient agriculture, can improve the sustainability and inclusiveness of agriculture and food systems provided that they encompass an holistic approach and emphasis on gender equality, embracing the three pillars of sustainable development (economic, social and environment) and contributing to the local regional and global production and availability of diverse, affordable, nutritious, healthy, and culturally appropriate food.

3.5.2. Policies and strategic approaches

69. Governments are urged to:
- (i) **Design, strengthen, and implement legislation or introduce new legislation³⁰**, as appropriate, to promote equal access to and control over³¹ natural resources for all women. Ensure respect of women's land tenure rights and property rights, ownership, use and transfer –including through inheritance and divorce, taking into consideration national legal frameworks and priorities. At the same time, it is vital to expand the exchange of the experience and best practices with different legal systems and engage local authorities and customary leaders, when applicable, as partners to identify where laws offer protection to women's access to resources and ownership of property, and support these leaders in working to achieve that these provisions are respected and enforced.
 - (ii) **Promote that all women and girls, including from Indigenous Peoples, and local communities, have equal, secure and transparent legitimate tenure rights³², as applicable, and safe access to and control over and use of land, water, fisheries and forests, as applicable, independent of their civil and marital status.** When tenure rights are formalized, women and girls should be granted equal tenure rights as men and boys – for instance through the provision of title deeds or land tenure certificates in accordance with national laws. All women and girls, including widows and orphan girls, should be treated equally with regards to access to and control over and use of their land under all governance structures, including in existing regimes as applicable. It will be necessary to determine in each context the best mechanisms for achieving this, including how this is best achieved, through formal land administration or through customary land law and administration and through building greater coherence between the customary and formal systems as applicable.
 - (iii) **Support tenure rights of all women and girls** in accordance with the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (CFS-VGGT) and CFS Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (CFS-RAI), including protecting holders against the arbitrary loss of their tenure rights, including forced evictions, that are

²⁸ [The 10 elements of Agroecology. Guiding the transition to sustainable food and agricultural systems - FAO, 2018.](#)

²⁹ Innovative approaches include among others, sustainable intensification, no-till farming, organic agriculture, and other innovations and technologies to promote sustainable agrifood systems, CL 170/4 Rev1, Para. 56.

³⁰ [UN Women and OHCHR, Realizing Women's Rights to Land and Other Productive Resources \(Second edition, 2020\).](#)

³¹ [CEDAW General Recommendation No. 34 on the rights of rural women, para 64.](#)

³² [CFS Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests in the Context of National Food Security. First revision. FAO, 2022.](#)

inconsistent with their States' existing obligations and commitments under national and international law.

- (iv) **Support priority access for women fishers, fish processors and retailers to locally landed fish resources to sustain their livelihoods and food security.**
 - (v) **Respect land tenure systems of Indigenous Peoples, in particular women in local communities, and Indigenous women, consistent with the existing obligations and commitments under national and international frameworks** and promote their greater control and decision-making powers and obtaining of free, prior and informed consent, as applicable, critical for their food security, livelihoods and culture.
 - (vi) **Promote the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and girls in the development of Emergency Preparedness and Response and Rehabilitation Programmes (EPRP) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) strategies.**
70. Governments, with the support of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, private sector, and development partners, should:
- (i) **Advance knowledge on land tenure as well as user rights in fisheries** as a crucial step towards achieving gender equal governance of fisheries and attaining food security and nutrition and livelihood benefits.
 - (ii) **Promote and support full, equal and meaningful participation of women, including young women, Indigenous women and women with disabilities, in the management, transmission and governance** of natural resources at all levels, including of customary institutions, recognizing the importance of traditional and Indigenous Peoples' knowledge systems.
 - (iii) **Encourage equal investments in agricultural development that integrate and respond to the priorities, capabilities and constraints of women.** Promote agroecological and other innovative approaches³³, climate resilient agriculture and knowledge and technologies for women across the agriculture and food systems and its value chains in particular micro-, small- and medium-scale food producers and entrepreneurs that respond to their needs.
 - (iv) **Promote and fund**, especially in regions with permanent or regular lack of water, **innovation and technologies and facilities for access to and sustainable management of water** – such as cisterns – for household consumption and food production, with a focus on the rights and needs of women and girls. **There should be no discrimination on any basis**, inter alia age, class, race, disability and gender-based and ethnic discrimination and stereotypes, in matters of access to and use of equitable distribution of water for both consumption, food production, and of sanitation and hygiene.
 - (v) **Promote and support investments in gender-responsive climate change resilience, adaptation and mitigation measures** responsive to local needs, priorities, capacities and circumstances.
 - (vi) **Promote the full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership of women**, including Indigenous women, in all aspects of climate and environmental policy formulation and actions at all levels.

³³ Innovative approaches including among others, sustainable intensification, no-till farming, organic agriculture and all other innovations and technologies to promote sustainable agrifood systems (CL 170/4 Rev.1). FAO Ten Elements of Agroecology (2019).

3.6. Access to education, capacity building, training, knowledge and information services

3.6.1. Women's and girls' access to formal education

3.6.1.1. *Issues and challenges*

71. Education of all persons, particularly of women and girls, is a strategic and critical development priority for food security and nutrition. Women with more years of schooling tend to be more informed about nutrition and adopt healthier dietary practices for themselves and their families. Literacy and school attendance correlate with greater understanding of nutrition, breastfeeding, better farming practices and improved production methods, including increased likelihood of developing and using seeds and crops appropriate for their particular ecological environment and cultural context. Education, including civic education, also increases women's and girls' ability to access information and knowledge, enhancing their capacity to participate in the formal labour market and in decision-making, and to be informed about their rights. Inclusive and equitable quality education is essential for all women's and girls' empowerment, for achieving gender equality and for reducing women's poverty, and thus for improving their food security and nutrition.
72. Girls' education is associated with future economic and social prospects and lower early and repeated pregnancies and fertility rates, as well as with improved food security and nutrition. Yet, persistent inequality in education and high drop-out rates for girls continue to affect the lives of millions of women and girls worldwide. Obstacles to girls' education include child, early and forced marriage and pregnancy, all forms of violence, including GBV, discriminatory social norms, laws and policies, and gender stereotypes economic and social inequality, poverty, living in rural areas, conflicts, protracted crises and shocks, lack of gender-sensitive school facilities such as a lack of safe bathrooms and menstrual hygiene management for girls, particularly for Indigenous girls, girls with disabilities and girls in local communities. Shocks and crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic have negative impacts on girls' education.

3.6.1.2. *Policies and strategic approaches*

73. Governments are urged to:
- (i) **Implement and/or strengthen existing legislation or introduce new legislation**, as appropriate, providing gender equal access to culturally diverse and relevant inclusive quality education for all that respects cultural heritage and background.
 - (ii) **Develop and implement counter measures to child, early and forced marriage.**
 - (iii) **Foster transformative and gender-responsive curricula and education systems**, resources and processes to promote gender equality, eliminate discriminatory gender norms and deliver more equal education results for girls and boys.
 - (iv) **Eliminate barriers and prioritize efforts** to address negative social norms and gender stereotypes to ensure that girls enroll in and complete primary and secondary school education and to support their entry to tertiary education, including through social protection measures such as child benefits, student stipends or free school meals, transportation to school, access to safe and clean toilet facilities, access to sanitary products, counter measures against sexual abuse, exploitation and harassment in and to/from school, as well as promoting intercultural education, including teaching in indigenous languages.
 - (v) **Seek greater school attendance, promote literacy programmes for women**, girls, men and boys, and specifically integrate literacy classes into agriculture and nutrition programmes, including reading and understanding food and nutrition labels, in their curricula.

74. Governments, with the support of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, private sector and development partners, should:
- (i) **Address social norms** that perpetuate gender inequality by challenging gender stereotypes and discrimination in education, capacity building, training, knowledge access and generation, and information.
 - (ii) **Promote practical life, leadership and entrepreneurial skills training** for girls and women including through North-South, South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

3.6.2. Women's and girls' access to extension and advisory services

3.6.2.1. Issues and challenges

75. Capacity building through gender-responsive agricultural extension services and other forms of technical and vocational education and training is vital for improving women's knowledge, skills, leadership and production, and strengthening their agency, particularly for micro-, small-scale and medium-scale food producers and other value chain participants. Yet many women have less access to rural EAS than men often because of discriminatory gender norms that prevent women from being recognized as legitimate clients of EAS. The services they are able to access are often not well adapted to their needs and realities³⁴. In addition, there is a limited pool of available women extension service providers, agricultural technicians, researchers, planners and policy makers.
76. Women also often have limited access to market information, affecting their ability to realize their potential as producers, entrepreneurs, processors and traders. In addition, capacity building, training, knowledge and access to information on healthy diets are crucial tools for all, particularly women and girls in rural areas and Indigenous Peoples for gaining knowledge to improve food security and nutrition and prevent especially non-communicable diseases.

3.6.2.2. Policies and Strategic Approaches

77. Governments, with the support of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, private sector and development partners, should:
- (i) **Promote extension and advisory services (EAS)** designed to provide knowledge and technical support to improve food security and nutrition outcomes with particular attention to the special nutritional needs of women and children.
 - (ii) **Promote systemic changes in the design and delivery of EAS ensuring they are gender-responsive.** For example, EAS policies and programmes should include concrete gender equality objectives and gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation frameworks informed by women producers and gender-responsive budget. When applicable, encourage investments in digital agricultural extension services and the infrastructure to support this, including equitable access to internet, ICT and digital capacity building. Traditional and ancestral knowledge of women producers, including from local communities, and from Indigenous Peoples as well as producer-to-producer knowledge exchange, should be recognized, encouraged and respected as part of these processes. Service providers should promote the use of the participatory, reflective and experiential methodologies and design, deliver gender-responsive services and technologies that address discriminatory or negative social norms, take into account women's time, mobility and educational constraints and respond to women's specific needs and priorities, as appropriate.
 - (iii) **Reform and resource, as appropriate, inclusive research and EAS** to ensure that they

³⁴ The Gender and Rural Advisory Services Assessment Tool, FAO, 2018.

are responsive and accountable to the needs and interests of all women and girls, including through the recruitment and training of female extension and advisory agents. This should also involve the scale out of innovative extension models such as Farmer Field Schools that specifically address the needs of all women and girls.

- (iv) **Support EAS organizations to develop gender equal organizational cultures**, including putting into place mechanisms to recruit and retain women advisors and address specific barriers they face in adequately carrying out their work and promoting their participation and access to decision-making positions.

3.6.3. Women's and girls' access to appropriate ICTs-based, digital and innovative technologies

3.6.3.1. *Issues and challenges*

- 78. ICTs and digital technologies and solutions can often benefit women and girls in many ways. They can gain access to technical and vocational education and training, knowledge and capacity building opportunities, credit and new economic and employment opportunities, information on health care, nutrition and agriculture, including - for instance - pricing of products as well as early warning messages related to weather conditions, through online information resources and networking opportunities. ICTs and targeted digital content, as well as digital literacy and digital market access, can help women entrepreneurs in rural and remote communities, as well as in urban centers, to achieve access to new markets and consumers. ICTs can also facilitate cash transfers and mediate secure transactions, including the receipt of remittances and purchase of agricultural inputs. However, the knowledge gained through use of ICTs cannot replace EAS.
- 79. Access to ICTs varies significantly across regions and between women and girls, and men and boys. Women and girls located in rural or remote areas in particular face significant barriers in access and use of technologies and digital solutions, due to unaffordability, lack of electricity and connectivity, low digital literacy, as well as inequitable social norms. The gender gap in access to ICTs - and structural factors that cause it - need to be urgently addressed if the benefits of ICTs to GEWGE are to be realized. It is vital to ensure that new technologies do not result in gender-based discrimination and GBV against women and girls, and do not worsen existing inequalities.

3.6.3.2. *Policies and Strategic Approaches*

- 80. Governments, with the support of all other relevant stakeholders, including civil society, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, private sector, and development partners, should:
 - (i) **Increase girls' and women's access to affordable, accessible, context-specific, safe and secure digital connectivity**, reaching out to rural and remote areas, with the aim of closing the digital gender gap.
 - (ii) **Promote access to and implement programs for digital literacy for women and girls in education and financial services, and women's and young women's career orientation and employment**, and address the gender norms and negative stereotypes as well as structural and infrastructural barriers that undermine women's and girls' access to digital technologies.
 - (iii) **Analyze how women in agriculture including entrepreneurs prefer to access and gain new knowledge** (including through ICTs) to increase efforts to reach the intended target group and respond to their priorities and realities.
 - (iv) **Design agri-tech and other digital platforms and tools for women entrepreneurs** with equitable participation in its co-designing to address and recognize all women's and girls' needs, preferences, opportunities and constraints. Foster innovation and encourage

investments and funding for this.

3.7. Social protection and food and nutrition assistance

3.7.1. Issues and Challenges

81. The rights to social security and an adequate standard of living are enshrined in relevant international and regional human rights frameworks. Social protection is fundamental to progress in terms of poverty eradication, the achievement of gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment and achieving food security and nutrition and healthy diets for everyone.
82. Social protection policies and programmes that address discriminatory or negative social norms, gender stereotypes and unequal power relations between woman and men, can address risks and all forms of discrimination faced by women and girls over their life and support them with measures to prevent poverty, overcome social exclusion and manage risks in relation to different types of shocks and constraints. Social protection instruments include pensions, unemployment and agriculture insurance, labour market and livelihood enhancement interventions, child and family support payments, maternity protection and paid parental leave, employment injury benefits, sickness and health care, including universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences. Social protection instruments can also include cash or food transfers in times of crisis, public distribution systems and school meals.
83. Social protection can also be a transformative lever that can be used to challenge and transform gender relations. It can have direct positive impacts on food security and nutrition by helping people's access to adequate, safe, sufficient, and nutritious food and healthy diets for all women and their families, particularly in times of crisis. In combination with access to nutrition knowledge, social protection programmes can have a long-lasting positive impact on food security and nutrition and thus contributes to preventing all forms of malnutrition as well as non-communicable diseases.
84. The first 1,000 days of life are critical for children's nutrition. Therefore, public policies and gender-sensitive and specific nutrition programmes that support a healthy pregnancy, safe childbirth, provision of parental leave, exclusive breastfeeding for six months followed by nutritionally adequate and safe complementary feeding practices with continued breastfeeding for up to two years, or beyond, and diversified healthy and nutritious complementary feeding are crucial.
85. The provision of school meals, one of the most common social protection programmes, incentivizes parents and caregivers to send children, especially girls, to school. Furthermore, nutritious and healthy school meals can improve students' physical growth, and cognitive development, increase concentration and academic achievement, and reduce absenteeism; when delivered with nutrition education, they can lead to a lifetime of healthy diets choices. When school food is sourced from local smallholder farmers/food producers it can foster increases in local production.
86. Universal social protection should be enshrined in domestic legislation as a set of permanent entitlements defining individuals as rights-holders and guaranteeing them access to independent claims mechanisms if they are denied the benefits for which they qualify.

3.7.2. Policies and Strategic Approaches

87. Governments are urged to:
 - (i) **Ensure equal access to adequate social protection through a comprehensive legal framework.** Social protection programmes should be comprehensive and accessible by all who need them throughout their life course. They should also be agile enough to respond

to shocks, paying attention to women's and girls' special needs, including their specific dietary and nutritional needs.

- (ii) **Ensure social protection programmes address women's and girls' specific life course transitions and risks**, and the diversity of women's experiences, informed by relevant, disaggregated and up-to-date data.
 - (iii) **Provide adequate and sustained financial investments and allocations** to support long-term universal social protection programmes.
88. Governments, with the support of all other relevant stakeholders, including civil society, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, private sector and development partners, should:
- (i) **Enable women and men to participate equally in decision-making on social protection**, including in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes and policies.
 - (ii) **Enhance women's control of food acquisition, provision and distribution and nutrition assistance** by ensuring that women are able to be the household food entitlement holders, on an equal basis.

3.8. Recognition, reduction and redistribution of unpaid care and domestic work

3.8.1. Issues and Challenges

89. Women disproportionately carry significant responsibilities in terms of unpaid care and domestic work in addition to their employment and other work. This often hampers women's ability to participate in paid work, decision-making processes and public life, education and training and activities aligned to their own health and wellbeing.
90. Unpaid care and domestic work is critical to food security and nutrition. It includes the production and/or preparation of food for the family, feeding and caring for children, older people, people with disabilities, illnesses or injuries in the household and community; and many other activities essential to human well-being and society as a whole. These activities are often unrecognized and under-valued despite the reality that economies and wellbeing depend on them.
91. Activities undertaken by all women relating to food production, including Indigenous women using their traditional knowledge such as planting, tending, irrigation and harvesting crops and processing fish, are also often unpaid and unrecognized despite their enormous economic and social value.
92. In some developing countries and in the context of limited infrastructure as well as in situations or places where increased impacts of climate change, loss of biodiversity, ecosystems' degradation and desertification are occurring, rural women and girls spend an enormous amount of time accessing water, fuel wood, edible and medicinal plants, and other kind of food for domestic and agricultural use, which also has a negative impact on girls' school attendance³⁵.
93. The challenges that women face in undertaking unpaid care and domestic work with paid work often have a major negative impact on the persistent undernutrition among children under five, because it undermines their ability to practice breastfeeding and to ensure healthy diets for young children.

³⁵ [Progress on household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene 2000-2017, WHO and UNICEF, 2017](#)

3.8.2. Policies and strategic approaches

94. Governments, with the support of all relevant stakeholders including civil society, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, private sector and development partners, should:
- (i) **Recognize, make visible and value women’s unpaid work, including their crucial contributions to agriculture, food production, provision and preparation**, through measures that may include counting and including it in national statistics.
 - (ii) **Support more flexible working arrangements in workplaces in the public sector and encourage and support them in the private sector and in decision-making spaces** through the provision and implementation of effective gender policies that reflect ILO standards or guidance. This will enable women and men to achieve a better balance between unpaid domestic and care responsibilities and paid employment, and create more opportunities for women in the workplace.
 - (iii) **Promote the provision and uptake of maternity, paternity and shared parental leave** and other valuable social benefits linked to parenthood in all workplaces including informal economic sectors, as well as introducing supportive workplace policies for breastfeeding. Encourage employers, particularly SMEs and start-ups to provide parental leave.
 - (iv) **Promote initiatives, including nutrition education programmes, that recognize that unpaid care and domestic work should be shared more equitably between women, men, girls and boys, and that men must play a role in ensuring adequate nutrition for their families**, while also addressing the historical and structural inequality in power relations between women and men and gender stereotypes that may affect men’s willingness to take on these shared roles.
 - (v) **Reduce women’s unpaid work through public investments in social protection, provision of child and elder care services, and rural infrastructure** including the provision of essential services (water supply, sanitation and hygiene facilities and access to electricity and broadband) **and social services** (access to inclusive, quality education, health care, long-term care and other support services) that can reduce the burden, drudgery and many hours of unpaid work.
 - (vi) **Fund the provision and support the dissemination and uptake of labour-saving technologies** for domestic work as well as agricultural and aquatic food production and processing, for reducing the amount, drudgery and burden disproportionately shouldered by women and girls, as appropriate. Technology should be accessible for women and girls and adapted to their needs and priorities.

3.9. Elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, including gender-based violence, both online and offline, in the context of food security and nutrition.

3.9.1. Issues and Challenges

95. Every human being should be able to live a life free from all forms of violence. GBV against women and girls includes physical, sexual, psychological, economic abuse and harmful practices³⁶, and persists in every country. It is an extreme manifestation of gender inequality and can violate or abuse human rights and fundamental freedoms. It reinforces the vicious cycle of poverty and food insecurity.
96. Poverty, food insecurity, malnutrition and GBV against women and girls, including sexual

³⁶ GBV is defined in [CEDAW, General Recommendation No35](#).

violence,³⁷ are linked in multiple ways that will vary depending on context. Violence and the fear of it, reduce people's capacity to work, their productivity and livelihood assets, increases household expenditures (e.g. medical treatments) and also restricts access to community support and service delivery of all kinds. Deterioration in food security status can contribute to the increase in all forms of violence, including GBV at individual, household, community and societal level. Multiple factors such as discrimination based on ethnicity or disability can intensify the risk of GBV. There is extensive evidence documenting GBV, including sexual violence, in the agriculture and food sectors³⁸, for example when women and girls collect water, food and fuelwood. Food insecurity itself can exacerbate tensions within the household leading to domestic violence. At the same time, women and girls living in urban areas can also face high risk of GBV. This may result from factors that include greater social fragmentation, extreme poverty, poor quality and congested living conditions.

97. All forms of violence, including GBV, severely undermine women's and girls' physical, psychological, emotional and mental health, dignity and well-being, compromising their capacity to take advantage of opportunities to further contribute to food security and nutrition and undermining their livelihoods and right to an adequate standard of living. Yet it often remains shrouded in a culture of shame and silence.

3.9.2. Policies and strategic approaches

98. Governments are urged to support the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, including GBV and harmful practices³⁹, in the context of food security and nutrition by:
- (i) **Implementing existing international legal obligations, commitments and guidelines** relevant to food security, nutrition, agriculture and food systems and rural areas, including those related to CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action, and ILO Conventions, which call for the provision of legal frameworks to address and criminalize GBV and to protect survivors.
 - (ii) **Implementing and strengthening existing national legislation and introducing new legislation and regulations as applicable to prevent, respond and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, offline and online**, that take into consideration the context specific manifestations and response mechanisms within agriculture and food systems. Many countries now have laws preventing violence in the workplace and domestic violence laws in place, but some have deficiencies such as exemptions (e.g. marital rape), or too often these are not mobilized when they are most needed. It is therefore vital that States enforce the law in relation to all manifestation of GBV, including sexual violence. They should also raise the awareness of police, judiciary, healthcare and education professionals and social care workers and the public, with cultural relevance, in order to improve safeguarding and reporting mechanisms.
 - (iii) **Ensuring measures and services are in place for supporting and protecting victims and survivors of GBV** against women and girls, including sexual violence, which take into account specific manifestations within agriculture and food systems, as well as for supporting their needs within the context of legal proceedings, including criminal proceedings against perpetrators and investing in preventive measures. This requires providing effective survivor-centered reporting mechanisms such as emergency helplines, in Indigenous languages, when applicable, shelters for survivors and their children and ensuring there are 'one-stop-centres' where they can receive the support

³⁷ [How can we protect men, women, and children from gender-based violence? Addressing GBV in the food security and agriculture sector. FAO, 2018.](#)

³⁸ FAO, *ibid.*

³⁹ Harmful practices can be, among others, female genital mutilation and child, early, and forced marriage.

they need in an integrated way, with cultural relevance. It means not only punishing perpetrators but engaging them in processes to change harmful behaviours and attitudes.

- (iv) **Protect and advance all women and girls' food security and nutrition by ensuring the security and safety of all women and girls from the onset of crises**, with targeted approaches for survivors of violence and to the most disadvantaged, promoting their protection, dignity and integrity. Special attention should be given to women and girls who are at risk to suffer from any all forms of violence and discrimination, including multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, particularly young and older women, women with disabilities, Indigenous women, women in local communities and those in vulnerable situations.

99. Governments, with the support of all relevant stakeholders including civil society, local communities, Indigenous Peoples, private sector and development partners, are urged to take all appropriate measures to eliminate harmful practices and all forms of violence against women and girls by:

- (i) **Addressing and promoting changes in negative and discriminatory social norms and stereotypes that generate and perpetuate all forms of violence against women and girls in the context of food security and nutrition.** Investing in preventive measures should include addressing its root causes, including discriminatory gender norms and gender stereotypes. Initiatives could include campaigns and training programmes to achieve the objectives of these Voluntary Guidelines, through raising public awareness of GBV, including on sexual harassment and bullying, online and offline, and taking a zero-tolerance attitude to all forms of violence. They should address structural inequality in power relations between women and men— for example challenging the normalization of violence as a manifestation of male behaviour - and elimination of harmful practices. Men and boys should be actively engaged in these processes.
- (ii) **Promoting gender equality by supporting women's and girls' rights and empowerment, as well as strengthening women's rights organizations and associations, social movements, civil society, local communities', and Indigenous Peoples' organizations, as appropriate,** working to prevent, mitigate, respond to and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in the context of food security and nutrition.

3.10. Gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment across food security and nutrition in conflicts, humanitarian crises and emergencies

3.10.1. Issues and challenges

Climate change and natural disaster impacts for women and girls

100. Weather-related events linked to climate change are increasingly among the drivers of global hunger and food insecurity. Women and girls are distinctly and uniquely affected by climate change, earthquakes, climate-related shocks, like droughts and floods, water scarcity, sea level rise, loss of biodiversity, land degradation, desertification, and production damage and loss. The adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow onset events, further exacerbate existing gender inequalities. Women and girls, particularly women in local communities, and Indigenous women have less ownership and control over assets, lower access to EAS and weather information. Gender roles often leave them with more unpaid care work while simultaneously threatening their participation in sustainable development and reducing their own adaptive capacity. Women producers are often least able to withstand these impacts due to lack of access to technology and financial and other resources, including limited ability to access financing for climate-related disaster risk management and recovery, including agricultural insurance. Furthermore, this results in increasing levels of chronic hunger and poor

dietary diversity.

101. The adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow onset events, are magnifying and exacerbating fault-lines of gender inequality which hamper development⁴⁰ on a global scale, while at the same time gender inequality is deepening the impacts of climate change, particularly for Indigenous Peoples, local communities and the most disadvantaged, with serious implications for food security and nutrition often resulting in the increase of the triple burden of malnutrition.
102. Women and girls play a key role in climate change adaptation and mitigation and disaster risk reduction in many communities – for example through the management of early warning systems. Many women farmers and fisherwomen have gained vital knowledge of what works in the face of climate change that they are applying to their production techniques, yet too often they are not consulted or included in decision-making processes.

Impacts of zoonotic diseases on women and girls

103. The COVID-19 pandemic and other zoonotic diseases have shone a spotlight on the full extent of gender inequality and women's and girls' exposure to all forms of violence, including sexual violence, globally⁴¹. The pandemic and related containment measures have exacerbated pre-existing drivers of fragility, widened inequality and exposed structural vulnerabilities of local and global agriculture and food systems, hitting the most economically vulnerable households particularly hard, with women and girls often the most affected.
104. While important to limiting the spread of COVID-19, mobility restrictions and other public health measures, including lock downs, have left many women and girls in already difficult situations unable to escape from abusive situations in the home, and also with reduced support networks and financial capacity.

Conflict impacts for women and girls in the context of food security and nutrition

105. Conflicts, protracted crises and shocks cause hunger and food insecurity globally, disrupting supplies of nutritious and healthy food, economic activity, and food production leading to rising food prices and creating additional challenges for women to feed their families. At the same time, there is a circular relationship between conflicts, food crises and food insecurity that can drive conflicts, protracted crises and shocks. Children born in fragile or conflict-affected states are twice as likely to be malnourished. Conflicts are also a major contributor to displacement which negatively impacts access to nutritious and healthy food and livelihoods and can lead to long-term food insecurity and malnutrition for women and girls, including Indigenous women, and local communities' women. Conflicts also leave women and girls at a heightened risk of GBV, including sexual violence.
106. Gender based discrimination in access to and control over natural resources, productive assets such as land, property and financing often results in women having fewer resources to cushion against the loss of productive capacity caused by conflict. In addition, women are often less able to protect land and property from forcible seizure during conflict and they may have difficulty establishing and defending property claims in post-conflict environments. As a result, their ability to meet both their own nutritional needs and those of their families is severely compromised and may lead to negative coping strategies.

3.10.2. Policies and strategic approaches

107. Governments, with the support of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, private sector and development partners should:
 - (i) **Strengthen gender-responsive resilience, adaptation and mitigation policies and programmes** in the face of climate change and biodiversity loss and environmental

⁴⁰ See for example UNGA Resolution 76/163 on “The Right to development” adopted by the General Assembly on 16 December 2021

⁴¹ UN Women report “Measuring the shadow pandemic: violence against women during Covid19” 2021

degradation, particularly for women in agriculture, including Indigenous Peoples, and local communities with more support and investment in climate-resilient agriculture, agroecological and other innovative approaches⁴², as well as affordable, local sources of clean water in accordance with local needs, priorities, capacities and circumstances to achieve food security and nutrition targets.

- (ii) **Provide direct funding and support** to local civil society and community-led organizations, including women's and women's rights organizations that are leading mitigation and adaptation efforts to climate change, conflict-induced risks, the COVID-19 and future pandemics.
- (iii) **Consult women and girls in rural and urban areas about their needs in the face of crises.** Their local knowledge gained from adapting to crises should be respected and taken into account.
- (iv) **Support the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and girls in discussions and decisions on climate change adaptation and mitigation.** This includes discussions under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its gender action plan, and other relevant international processes⁴³ related to agriculture and the development of climate-related policies in their countries and communities.
- (v) **Address the gender dimensions of the COVID-19 pandemic and possible future zoonotic diseases, as well as other natural disasters** and climate change and extreme weather events in conflict or humanitarian crisis settings, and the impacts on women's economic needs, including forcibly displaced women and girls and women from Indigenous communities.
- (vi) **Support sustainable and resilient local and regional food systems** to improve women farmers' market power and complement the important role of international value chains in enhancing household food security and nutrition.
- (vii) **Adopt and implement social protection measures, including cash and food transfers that are available and easily accessible for those most affected by humanitarian crises,** especially women and girls.
- (viii) **Provide safe spaces for all women and girls and in every humanitarian response. Promote measures that prevent sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment** in the needs assessments, targeting or delivery of assistance. This means risk mitigation of and response to, all forms of violence, and reducing other security risks related to food logistics and distribution, and including all women and girls in the process of selecting the location of the distribution points.
- (ix) **Ensure that gender analysis and needs assessments are at the core of humanitarian crisis response planning, frameworks and programming, including humanitarian assistance.** Promote availability of sufficient resources during and after the acute phase of crises, strengthening ability of women and girls including Indigenous women, and local communities' women, to cope and rebuild.

⁴² Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems that Enhance Food Security and Nutrition, CFS Policy Recommendations, 2021.

⁴³ Other relevant global platforms include CSW66 and [InsuResilience Global Partnership for climate and disaster risk finance and insurance](#).

PART 4 - PROMOTION, IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF THE USE AND APPLICATION OF THE GUIDELINES

108. Governments have primary responsibility for promoting CFS and the use and application of CFS policy products and policy recommendations at all levels, working in collaboration with Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) and other relevant actors. To increase linkages between CFS and the regional and country levels, Governments are encouraged to establish or strengthen existing multidisciplinary national mechanisms with the active engagement of the RBAs headquarters and decentralized networks⁴⁴.

4.1 Implementation of the guidelines

109. All CFS Members and stakeholders are encouraged to support and promote at all levels within their constituencies, and in collaboration with other relevant initiatives and platforms, the dissemination, use and application of the Guidelines. The Guidelines are intended to support the development and implementation of relevant coordinated multisectoral national policies, laws, programmes and investment plans that will contribute to the achievement of gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment-in the context of food security and nutrition.
110. Governments at all levels, and intergovernmental organizations are invited to use the Guidelines as a tool to undertake initiatives toward achieving gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition at all levels. These include implementing existing national strategies, laws and programmes and designing new ones where needed; identifying policy opportunities and fostering transparent and open policy dialogue; enhancing policy coherence and coordination; establishing or strengthening multistakeholder platforms, partnerships, processes and frameworks, with safeguards for the identification and management of potential conflicts of interest; and supporting women's meaningful participation, agency and leadership in policy processes including representatives of women's organizations and all people, irrespective of sex, age, race or ethnicity and those in vulnerable situations⁴⁵.

4.2 Building and strengthening capacity for implementation

111. Governments are strongly encouraged to mobilize adequate financial, technical and human resources, and to put in place gender-responsive budgeting mechanisms, with support of international cooperation and local actors to increase the human and institutional capacity of countries at the international, regional, national and local levels to implement the Guidelines and to identify priorities toward their contextualization, operationalization and monitoring.
112. Technical agencies of the UN, including the RBAs (in collaboration with UN agencies, Funds and Programmes, including UN Women, UN High Commissioner of Human Rights, UNFPA, UN Nutrition, bilateral cooperation agencies, intergovernmental and regional organizations and other development partners, are encouraged to support - with their resources and within their mandates - efforts by governments to implement the Guidelines, upon request.

4.3 Monitoring the use and application of the guidelines

113. Governments, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, are encouraged to define national policy priorities and related indicators, mobilize regional and local structures to report on these indicators, and establish or strengthen, where appropriate, existing national monitoring and reporting systems in order to assess the efficacy and effectiveness of policies and regulations, and implement appropriate actions in case of negative impacts or identified gaps. Governments are encouraged to use science and evidence-based monitoring and evaluation approaches

⁴⁴ CFS 2018/45/3, para. 28.

⁴⁵ See Part 3 for more detailed policy recommendations.

focused on learning what works, and adaptation to maximize results.

114. CFS is encouraged to include these Guidelines in its ongoing work and its existing resources on monitoring, at the request of countries or regions, and reporting on the implementation of the Guidelines will be in line with CFS mandate and the agreed principles in the CFS Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF)⁴⁶.

⁴⁶ See section 5.5 of CFS Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF), 2017.

APPENDIX F - EXPLANATION OF POSITION BY INDONESIA, ALGERIA, CAMEROON, KUWAIT, MALAYSIA, THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, THE SUDAN AND SENEGAL ON THE CFS VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

DELIVERED BY INDONESIA ALSO ON BEHALF OF ALGERIA, CAMEROON, KUWAIT, MALAYSIA, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, SUDAN AND SENEGAL

Thank you, Chair.

I have the honor to make this statement on behalf of **Algeria Cameroon, Kuwait, Malaysia, Russian Federation, Sudan, Senegal**, and ourselves.

At the outset, allow me to thank the Facilitators for facilitating and guiding us to finally adopting the Voluntary Guidelines.

Accordingly, Indonesia and countries alike have engaged constructively and in good faith throughout the negotiations of the Voluntary Guidelines, with a view to reaching a balanced, substantive, and consensus-based outcome document.

Despite the efforts to construct a universally and consensually agreed elements, the Voluntary Guidelines contains a concept that does not necessarily reflect universal consensus of all member states.

The debate over this element continues to diverge and divide the view of states.

Thus, our delegations would like to reserve our position on the reference of **“Multiple and Intersecting Forms of Discrimination (MIFD)”**.

Nonetheless, nothing in this explanation of position would prevent us from undertaking our commitment in advancing gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition.

Finally, we would like to request the Chair and the CFS Secretariat to register this explanation of position to be included in CFS51 Report and as the official annex of the said report.

Thank you.

**APPENDIX G - EXPLANATION OF POSITION BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
ON THE CFS VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON GENDER EQUALITY AND
WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF FOOD
SECURITY AND NUTRITION**

25 October 2023

Chairperson,

Distinguished colleagues,

The Russian Federation aligns itself with the adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment (GEWE) in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition and thanks the CFS Secretariat, esteemed co-chairs and facilitators for their tireless efforts to reach compromise on such a controversial and sensitive issue.

Throughout the negotiations we have maintained our unwavering position that attention should be centred on the interests of women and girls, who make up more than 50 percent of the global population and are a significant driving force in agricultural development and ensuring food security. However, we note that the text includes individual concepts that in our opinion do not have broad international recognition and interpretation, which makes it difficult for them to be applied universally. In view of the above, the Russian Federation disassociates itself from paragraphs 7, 9, 10, 21, 32 (I, VI), 38, 39 (III, V), 44 (II), 45 (I), 49, 51 (V), 70 (V), 71, 73 (III), 75, 77 (II, III), 100, 102, 107 (I, IV) and 111. We ask the Chairperson and the Secretariat to reflect our position in the relevant section of the report as a footnote.

We also align ourselves with the position statement presented by the delegation of Indonesia.

The Russian Federation will apply these Recommendations in accordance with the National Strategy of Action for Women for 2023-2030, adopted by the Government of the Russian Federation in December 2022. Its objectives are the implementation of equal rights of men and women in various spheres of life, and the creation of equal opportunities for women to realize them, increasing their economic independence and political engagement. The Strategy is designed to unlock the potential of the 78 million Russian women who make up more than half of Russia's 146 million population.

Thank you for listening.

**APPENDIX H - EXPLANATION OF POSITION BY EGYPT ON THE CFS
VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S AND
GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF FOOD SECURITY AND
NUTRITION**

In reference to the CFS51 agenda item on the document: "CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition", **Egypt would like to reserve its position on the reference of "Multiple and Intersecting Forms of Discrimination (MIFD)" in the document.**

**APPENDIX I - STATEMENT BY THE CIVIL SOCIETY AND INDIGENOUS
PEOPLES MECHANISM ON THE CFS VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON GENDER
EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT IN THE CONTEXT
OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION**

The CSIPM supports the endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines on GEWGE, and recognizes this document as a first step in continuing discussions in the CFS to achieve gender equality as priority for the progressive realization of the RtF and to ensure the principle of non-discrimination against all persons. The CSIPM will contribute to the dissemination of the Guidelines while drawing attention to the shortcomings of this document. A detailed explanation note of our position is available on the CFS51 website*.

https://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/cfs/CFS51/Statements/V/Intervention_CSIPM_VG_GEWE.pdf

APPENDIX J - STATEMENT BY THE HOLY SEE (OBSERVER) ON THE CFS VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

The Holy See supports the endorsement of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition but with a detailed explanation note of its position available on the CFS 51 website*.

https://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/cfs/CFS51/Statements/V/Final_Holy_See_intervention_esp_en.pdf

APPENDIX K - CFS POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ON STRENGTHENING COLLECTION AND USE OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION (FSN) DATA AND RELATED ANALYSIS TOOLS TO IMPROVE DECISION-MAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE PROGRESSIVE REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT TO ADEQUATE FOOD IN THE CONTEXT OF NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY

RATIONALE

1. High-quality, timely and relevant Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) data is one key tool to inform local, national and global actions, as well as public policies, that promote and improve food security and nutrition. Capacities to produce, interpret and use FSN data, and institutional arrangements that promote the use of data to guide FSN policy, are essential to understand the impacts of policies and determine which policies are successful and which policies should be changed. In line with the approved CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) 2020-2023, the purpose of this document is to provide specific and actionable voluntary policy recommendations for strengthening the capacities of all stakeholders, especially governments, involved in the collection, analysis, dissemination, protection and the use of quality FSN data, towards enhancing effective, inclusive, evidence-informed decision making. The overall goal is to contribute to the progressive realization of the right to adequate food, in the context of national food security, as well as to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its targets. The recommendations are informed by the CFS High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE-FSN) Report 17 “Data Collection and Analysis Tools for Food Security and Nutrition: towards enhancing effective, inclusive, evidence-informed decision making” (2022).
2. There is no multilaterally agreed definition of Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Data, including within the UN Statistical Commission – the UN Body mandated to develop such definitions, as needed. For the purpose of these policy recommendations, data relevant to inform FSN policies will be referred to as Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Data. Throughout this document, FSN data is understood to be “data of diverse types, sources and sensitivities to describe and/or measure individual or collective food security and nutrition outcomes, and data relating to micro, meso or macro-level determinants influencing outcomes across the four pillars of food security: availability, access, utilization, stability^{47 48}”.
3. This understanding recognizes the importance of different types of data, qualitative as well as quantitative, and of adopting a systemic view for FSN data, which highlights the fundamental roles of all actors spanning the food system, in the production and assessment of relevant FSN data.
4. It is important to note that extensive FSN data already exists and is produced in a variety of ways, by different stakeholders, at least for some dimensions of food security, albeit with varying degrees of quality and granularity. However, they are often not equally accessible, not sufficiently processed or analyzed, nor properly utilized by policymakers, who are often unaware of the existence and relevance of such data, and resources to store, process and analyze them are distributed inequitably. Data relevant to inform FSN policies are often housed across diverse sectors and

⁴⁷ The HLPE-FSN and other FSN stakeholders consider ‘agency’ and ‘sustainability’ as additional, evolving dimensions of food security, though they are not multilaterally agreed.

⁴⁸ See Annex Table 1 on page 129 of [HLPE-FSN report #17](#) – which is not multilaterally agreed – for some examples of existing FSN data-related initiatives (including database, repositories, data systems and analysis tools), organized by dimension of food security and nutrition.

organizations and, as a result, the ability of decision-makers to make informed policy decisions is impeded by the culmination of challenges along each step of the data cycle.⁴⁹

5. Indigenous Peoples, peasants and other small-scale food producers have a variety of methods to generate, collect, store, and use data that are often not considered in standard data collection systems and in FSN decision-making. It is important to recognize the significance of these data for FSN and FSN decision-making at local and national level, and to support the effective, inclusive and meaningful participation of those who generate and manage these data, information, and knowledge, while respecting their human rights and protecting their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices.

6. Fundamental data gaps still exist. There is a need to address these gaps to effectively guide responsible action and inform policymaking, especially timely and sufficiently granular data on peoples' ability to produce and access food, on food and nutrient consumption, and on nutritional status, while recognizing the importance of safeguarding privacy. More data and information from actors across agriculture and food systems, that shed light on the structural determinants of FSN, and on the FSN of those in vulnerable situations and those subject to various forms of discrimination⁵⁰, and on geographical regions, are also needed. Countries have different data priorities and needs, depending on their statistical capacity, access to technology, financing resources, socio-economic conditions, as well as national FSN contexts.

7. Data, information and communications technologies present new opportunities and challenges, and there is a pressing need to address the major impediments that developing countries face in accessing new technologies and data collection and analysis, stressing the need to close the digital divides, both between and within countries. Several other constraints limit the use of data for effective data-informed policy action on FSN. Among them is the low and imbalanced level of data literacy and analysis skills (for both qualitative and quantitative data) on the part of some data and information producers and users, at all levels – from data collectors and analysts to decision-makers, and to the people, as rights' holders, and the ultimate beneficiaries of food security and nutrition policies.

8. Developing countries need financial and technical support, including statistical capacity building, voluntary technology transfers on mutually-agreed terms, as well as innovative frameworks such as south-south and triangular cooperation, among others, to strengthen their capacities to make responsible investments⁵¹ and to generate, collect, and analyze high-quality data, and use it to guide decision-making related to FSN. Insufficient allocation of financial resources to agricultural development and FSN programmes is a long-standing concern for many countries, and the lack of public, private, and international funding have clear consequences for data relevant to inform FSN policies.

9. FSN statistical data are often not standardized and often fragmented across different international agencies⁵², government sectors, public and private institutions, and they may be collected or managed using different protocols, making them difficult to use. Therefore, it is a priority to strengthen voluntary, national, regional, and international coordination efforts to explore global digital cooperation, taking into account the UN Secretary-General's Data Strategy⁵³ and his Roadmap for digital cooperation⁵⁴, which will be essential for comparison and to realize the full potential of

⁴⁹ The data cycle comprises the following steps: defining priorities and data needs; reviewing, consolidating, collecting and curating data; analyzing the data using appropriate tools; translating data into relevant insights to be disseminated and discussed; and, finally, using data for decision-making.

⁵⁰ As found in CFS *Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition*, para 3.6.1b, page 22

⁵¹ The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) endorsed the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (CFS-RAI) on 15th October, 2014

⁵² FAO is the custodian of 21 SDG indicators, including indicators 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.3.1, 2.3.2., 2.5.1a, 2.5.1b, 2.5.2, 2.a.1 and 2.c.1, related to ending hunger, achieving food security, and improve nutrition, as well as promoting sustainable agriculture.

⁵³ Available at https://www.un.org/en/content/datastrategy/images/pdf/UN_SG_Data-Strategy.pdf

⁵⁴ Available at <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N20/102/51/PDF/N2010251.pdf>

statistical data utilization, striving for an equitable world. Better coordination and harmonization across international organizations, government sectors, and public and private institutions should be encouraged to improve the quality and utility of FSN statistical data, while creating synergies and avoiding duplication of efforts and confusion when communicating information. Harmonization is particularly relevant for FSN statistics that are used for global or regional analyses and monitoring.

10. The number of state and non-state actors that play a role in FSN data collection and use is growing exponentially. It is our collective goal of ensuring that people are at the heart of decisions, when collecting, analyzing and using data, working to achieve the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security. People should have a say in data collection that affect their lives and should be included in decisions related to data use and re-use. FSN data systems should be guided by clear principles⁵⁵ (in particular participation, accountability, non-discrimination, transparency, human dignity, empowerment, and rule of law), in line with applicable domestic law and effective and participatory processes, to help ensure that FSN data is collected, used, analyzed and disseminated in ways that are effective, non-discriminatory, inclusive, consistent with human rights, transparent, ethical, and equitable, while applying applicable data privacy, data protection, and intellectual property safeguards and principles to ensure that such data are protected, while addressing conflicts of interest.

11. The complex array of public and private actors involved in FSN data, coupled with the rapidly changing data ecosystem due-to digital transformation, creates opportunities as well as risks and brings to centre stage the need for global coordination to improve FSN data governance. Governance frameworks for FSN data should strike the right balance between access and sharing and protection, privacy, and security, with the aim of creating trust and confidence. Developing and strengthening of national FSN data governance frameworks should take into account applicable broader global, multilateral discussions and efforts to improve data governance. It is important for FSN data to be widely accessible, broadly circulated and used in the public interest, while at the same time preserving the rights of data originators and data owners, taking into account national legislation and regulations, working to ensure data protection, and privacy, and taking steps to address imbalances in power among actors with respect to generating, accessing, collecting, storing, processing, sharing and using FSN data, which could worsen inequalities.

12. These policy recommendations are addressed primarily to Governments (relevant ministries, national, regional and local authorities and institutions), international organizations⁵⁶, international financial and FSN research institutions, private sector associations, philanthropies, rural development experts, universities and academic institutions, and civil society organizations. They are voluntary and non-binding and aim to complement other CFS policy recommendations and guidelines. They should be interpreted and applied consistently with existing obligations under national and international law, and with due regard to voluntary commitments under applicable regional and international instruments and in accordance with national legal systems and their institutions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. CREATE GREATER AWARENESS AND DEMAND FOR BETTER USE OF FSN DATA IN DECISION-MAKING

Governments should strive to:

⁵⁵ As found in CFS *Voluntary Guidelines to Support the progressive realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the context of national food security*, paragraph 7, page 2 and in CFS *Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition*, paragraph 48, page 8.

⁵⁶ Throughout the document, *international organizations* refer, among others, to the UN Rome-based Agencies (FAO, IFAD, and WFP), other inter-governmental organizations, both international and regional, with a mandate related to food security and nutrition, as well as International Financial Institutions.

- a) establish – or, when appropriate, strengthen existing – effective national multi-sectoral and multistakeholder FSN mechanisms responsible for guiding FSN policy and programme planning, linked to national development planning, and for setting local, national, regional and global priorities for better production and use of data in FSN decision-making, aligned to required analysis, within the data and statistical systems, to inform these policies. Such mechanisms should ensure that civil society, academia, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, those in vulnerable situations and those subject to various forms of discrimination⁵⁷, and other relevant stakeholders have an active and well-defined role in determining priorities;
- b) promote and facilitate dialogues and cooperation among a broad range of relevant stakeholders at the national and sub-national levels to develop concrete and feasible recommendations, facilitated by the aforementioned multi-sectoral FSN mechanisms, taking into consideration existing power imbalances between different actors and encouraging active, free, effective, and meaningful participation, in order to 1) discuss FSN data priorities, identifying what is already available⁵⁸ and what are the most urgent needs; 2) stimulate analysis of existing data to produce information that is relevant for FSN policies and programmes at regional, national and local levels; and 3) discuss the most effective means/platforms to disseminate the FSN data, (e.g. a one-stop shop platform, among others);
- c) use FSN data from varying sources taking into account quality, timeliness, costs, the burden on respondents, as well as results of prior risk assessments, providing evidence on the benefits of using this data in assisting policy-makers in decision-making;
- d) whenever data is used to inform FSN-related national legislation and public policies, include, as necessary, detailed data annexes, presenting available data sources and the analytic tools used for their development;
- e) promote the regular production and dissemination by government units responsible for collecting, storing, processing, analyzing and disseminating FSN-data of knowledge products informed by FSN data that summarize the main findings resulting from government data collection initiatives in user-friendly and inclusive formats that facilitate the use and uptake of information by decision-makers, including rural actors, and those in vulnerable situations, especially in remote areas.

International⁵⁹ organizations are encouraged to:

- f) foster dialogue, collaboration and coordination on good practices, for FSN data-driven decision-making, according to national priorities;
- g) foster debates within their governing bodies, as appropriate, on the need to develop guidelines on data-informed ex-ante and ex-post policy evaluation in the FSN domain;
- h) develop and promote tailor-made capacity development and training courses with the aim of supporting targeted stakeholders in FSN data use.

⁵⁷ As found in *CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition*, paragraph 3.6.1b, page 22.

⁵⁸ There may be a need for taking stock of available FSN data being collected by different agencies across seasons and levels (national, sub-national, local) to identify fundamental gaps and most appropriate data sources for both qualitative and quantitative data.

⁵⁹ See footnote 56.

Civil Society, Private Sector, Indigenous Peoples, and Research Institutions are urged to:

- i) use existing FSN data in advocacy efforts towards all stakeholders, especially decision-makers and governments, to further research and development of knowledge products that seek to bridge existing FSN data gaps, towards the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in context of national food security.

International organizations⁶⁰, donors and governments are encouraged to:

- j) request and use relevant FSN data that already exist and promote inter-operability, where possible, thus avoiding duplication of efforts, and contributing to efficiency and timeliness of efforts.

2. INCREASE AND SUSTAIN INVESTMENT IN THE COLLECTION, ANALYSIS AND ENHANCEMENT OF QUALITY AND PRIORITIZED FSN DATA, WHILE OPTIMIZING AND/OR REPURPOSING CURRENT RESOURCES, TO IMPROVE DECISION-MAKING, FOR THE PROGRESSIVE REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT TO ADEQUATE FOOD IN THE CONTEXT OF NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY

Governments should strive to:

- a) with the support of international organizations⁶¹, and donors, where appropriate, increase and sustain responsible investment and adequate resources for the production of timely, quality, disaggregated⁶², where relevant, reliable and consistent FSN data, on peoples' ability to produce and access food and healthy diets, on their food consumption and dietary patterns, and on their nutritional status, particularly of those in vulnerable situations, and other national prioritized data, as well as resources for the development of quality national standards and good practices for their use;
- b) elaborate national plans, through participatory processes and approaches, to define priorities for FSN data collection and analysis, to be integrated in their national strategies for the development of statistics, if existing, and to improve and optimize existing national FSN data systems, taking into account the different types of data from different sources. Governments that require assistance in implementing these plans could, upon request, be supported both technically and financially by international organizations⁶³, and donors, as appropriate, and their plans are recommended to be aligned with applicable international standards and good practices, while preserving national priorities and country ownership;
- c) regularly review existing national data-collection systems⁶⁴ relevant for FSN, through participatory processes, with the aim of identifying gaps, opportunities, and risks to streamline and modernize them, and enhance their efficiency and relevance, beyond statistical data collection, according to national priorities and domestic laws, and with due regard to applicable international standards and good practices.

⁶⁰ Ibid.

⁶¹ See footnote 56.

⁶² Disaggregated by sex and age, and other established demographic criteria and socio-economic variables, in accordance with the Beijing Declaration.

⁶³ See footnote 56.

⁶⁴ National data-collection systems include, among others: administrative records, geospatial information, sensor data and other data not necessarily collected for statistical purposes, as well as traditional statistical operations, i.e. surveys and censuses.

International organizations⁶⁵ are encouraged to:

- d) foster FSN data collection at country level and provide guidance to countries, upon the request of national governments, **outlining a minimum set of core FSN data**, with respective recommended methodologies and indicators, to help countries identify priorities when collecting FSN data.

Governments, international organizations⁶⁶ and relevant stakeholders are encouraged to:

- e) collaborate on identifying specific data gaps and needs required to improve existing FSN analyses as well as to continue and accelerate innovation in the areas of statistics, qualitative data, data science and survey-based research, in working towards the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security, while addressing possible conflicts of interest.

International organizations⁶⁷, donors, governments, and philanthropic foundations are encouraged to:

- f) increase and sustain the amount of resources that are allocated to improve FSN data collection, quality enhancement, analysis, dissemination and use, as appropriate, to improve the effectiveness of FSN-relevant policies, leveraging existing financing mechanisms and assessing and re-purposing existing funding as needed. Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁶⁸, capacity-building support to developing countries, including for Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated⁶⁹ by characteristics relevant in national contexts should aim at ensuring that national statistical plans, in which FSN data should be embedded, are fully funded. Investments in FSN data should reflect a good balance between data for development and data for crises and emergencies, according to national needs and contexts;
- g) improve coordination and alignment of investment initiatives aimed at supporting FSN data collection and analysis, taking into account data protection, privacy and security in order to avoid duplication of efforts, improve efficiency, and maximize synergies, including adding capacity-building in statistics and data work of national stakeholders, upon request of governments and according to national priorities;
- h) continue to strengthen and support existing FSN data funding initiatives to help countries and other stakeholders, including, for example, local communities organizations and organizations of Indigenous Peoples, to obtain financial support to strengthen their capacities, including statistical, in order to benefit from FSN data and make decisions, taking into account data protection, privacy, and security, with a vision that such initiatives could be coordinated.

International organizations⁷⁰, governments, civil society, academia, and the private sector are encouraged to:

- i) promote the collection, quality enhancement, analysis, and use of multiple forms of FSN data, beyond quantitative and machine-readable data, such as qualitative data and other forms of

⁶⁵ See footnote 56.

⁶⁶ See footnote 56.

⁶⁷ See footnote 56.

⁶⁸ See SDG target 17.18 and its global monitoring framework.

⁶⁹ Disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.

⁷⁰ See footnote 56.

information. This implies valuing and applying multiple approaches to information collection, including participatory, qualitative methodologies and mixed-methods approaches that are used by local communities, among others, while safeguarding the rights of data originators.

3. DEVELOP CAPACITIES AND THE INFRASTRUCTURES AND TECHNOLOGIES NEEDED TO ENSURE THE SUSTAINABILITY AND EQUITY OF FSN-DATA PRODUCTION CYCLE AND ANALYTIC CAPACITY FOR DECISION-MAKING

Governments are encouraged to:

- a) hire and invest in building the capacities of FSN statisticians, data experts and social scientists in the analysis and interpretation of quantitative and qualitative FSN-data, with knowledge of and capacity in risk-assessment and data privacy, to work in relevant ministries and national statistics offices, and incubate analytical units within relevant ministries;
- b) modernize national statistics system infrastructures in order to establish inter-operable, comprehensive, coordinated FSN data systems and to sustain the independent and transparent collection of quality disaggregated⁷¹ and detailed FSN data over time, with technical and financial assistance from national and international organizations⁷² and Official Development Assistance as a means to support national efforts, upon request and according to national priorities;
- c) invest in public data infrastructure, and improve, as appropriate, policy frameworks on the management of-public and private infrastructures underlying the collection, storage, processing, sharing and use of FSN data to promote equitable access to FSN data and efforts to prevent the illegal extraction of data, among other goals, recognizing the importance of the three dimensions of sustainable development⁷³, respecting human rights, and the equitable distribution of the benefits deriving from FSN data usage;
- d) expand training opportunities, including through South-South and Triangular Cooperation, for staff in national statistics offices and other government units and relevant stakeholders, including civil society, engaged in local, regional and multisectoral FSN data collection, processing and analysis, with support from national and international organizations⁷⁴ as appropriate, upon request, to enhance their analytic competencies.
- e) with the financial assistance from national and international organizations⁷⁵, as appropriate, create targeted scholarship programmes to allow youth, especially women, and those subject to various forms of discriminations⁷⁶, to study in scientific programmes related to FSN data, as understood in this document, that have a strong data focus (quantitative and qualitative), as well as data science and statistics, taking into account ancestral and Indigenous Peoples' knowledge;
- f) build capacities of other data stakeholders such as farmers, small-holders, peasants, Indigenous Peoples, fishers, pastoralists, traders, local communities, government officials,

⁷¹ Disaggregated by sex and age, and other established demographic criteria and socio-economic variables, in accordance with the Beijing Declaration.

⁷² See footnote 57.

⁷³ The three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental) are integrated, indivisible and balanced.

⁷⁴ See footnote 56.

⁷⁵ Ibid.

⁷⁶ See footnote 58.

rural experts etc. in the analysis, interpretation and use of quantitative and qualitative FSN data and associated risk-assessments.

Governments, international organizations⁷⁷, and relevant stakeholders including, philanthropic foundations, private sector, civil society, and academic research institutions are encouraged to:

- g) invest in further refinement, validation, and application of cost-saving, inclusive and participatory data collection approaches and novel sources of data while comprehensively assessing the risks within a robust data management and policy framework. Tools and technology that streamline and simplify FSN data collection while improving data quality could be used and promoted at all levels, according to national priorities and in respect of national and international legal and policy frameworks.

Governments, international organizations⁷⁸ and academic research institutions are encouraged to:

- h) prioritize capacity building in areas where current relevant FSN data availability is poor, with a focus on those countries which are lacking resources, infrastructures, data literacy and skills to fill data gaps with the goal of improving food security and nutrition⁷⁹;
- i) based on participatory assessments, improve existing analytic models and develop new ones to be employed in various areas of relevance for FSN decision-making. Especially relevant are validated model-based approaches to forecast future values of FSN determinants and outcomes. Such models should be transparent, non-discriminatory, with good quality training data, and flexibly implemented so that they can generate predictions under clear, alternative scenarios;
- j) develop, in collaboration with national and international public and private training institutions, learning materials that focus on FSN data collection and data protection, quality control, analysis, interpretation and communication of results for specific types of FSN data and methodologies, including analytical models. Materials should promote an integrated understanding of the dynamic relationship between the different activity sectors, types of data and resulting indicators, taking into account the needs of small-scale food producers, workers, consumers and policy makers at multiple levels;
- k) reduce language barriers by expanding the set of languages in which FSN e-learning courses, materials, literacy tools, data platforms and analysis tools are offered, and develop peer-to-peer learning, ensuring that new technologies, linguistic services and translations are accurate and reflect the intent and meaning of the original language.

International organizations⁸⁰ are encouraged to:

- l) support, upon governments' request and within established frameworks, local capacities, in particular in developing countries, including Small Island Developing States, by making strong efforts to work closely with professionals from public institutions, whenever the need exists to collect and analyse FSN data at national and subnational levels, in coordination with organizations of small-scale food producers, workers, Indigenous Peoples, women, consumers and CSOs and using participatory approaches, as appropriate;

⁷⁷ See footnote 56.

⁷⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁹ To achieve the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.

⁸⁰ See footnote 56.

- m) support national-level surveys on FSN data in combination with capacity strengthening of and knowledge-transfer to national stakeholders regarding FSN data collection and analysis tools taking into account the need for adequate resources for public institutions to improve local infrastructure and reduce technological inequalities;
- n) support efforts to secure local access and input to national statistical systems in coordination with national statistics offices, respecting national ownership.

4. COLLABORATION AMONG PARTIES ON HARMONIZATION AND SHARING OF FSN DATA

Governments, international organizations⁸¹, and their regional bodies⁸² are encouraged to:

- a) Promote the harmonization, coherence, and interoperability of FSN data and relevant platforms, aimed at harmonizing methods and facilitating the sharing of FSN data, while respecting the rights of data originators and owners, data privacy and Free Prior and Informed Consent, as applicable, with inclusive collaboration of relevant sectors and stakeholders;
- b) Consider the need of addressing FSN statistics as a potential domain within the United Nations Statistical Commission, taking into account ongoing UN intergovernmental processes in this regard;
- c) publicly disseminate macro-, micro- and metadata as different sets of data that are relevant to FSN, in order to increase findability and access for policy, programmes, and research purposes, respecting confidentiality and data protection and privacy, safeguarding the rights of data originators, taking into account the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics⁸³ and the Principles Governing International Statistical Activities⁸⁴, and in conformity with national laws and regulations;
- d) treat FSN data as open as possible but as closed as necessary to serve the public good, duly taking into account data privacy, data protection, the rights of data originators, confidentiality, national security, intellectual property, including its safeguards and principles, and legitimate business interests, to increase the availability, access and sharing of FSN data, addressing data gaps in national and international systems, and to support efforts towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;
- e) in line with national laws and regulations, and in accordance with relevant human-rights frameworks, promote the use and integration of FSN data from multiple sources⁸⁵ and multiple sectors⁸⁶ related to FSN, including by promoting dialogue at technical levels as well as between technical and political levels;
- f) increase collaboration on access and sharing of data on international trade of food and non-food agricultural inputs and products, and on trade policies, including through strengthening of instruments such as the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS), while underscoring the importance of also collecting data on local, national and regional markets and ensuring proper protection of the data.

International organizations⁸⁷ responsible for producing key FSN data are encouraged to:

⁸¹ See footnote 56.

⁸² Ibid.

⁸³ See <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/dnss/gp/FP-Rev2013-E.pdf> (adopted on 29 January 2014 at the highest political level as a General Assembly resolution (A/RES/68/261))

⁸⁴ See <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/acccsub/2013docs-22nd/SA-2013-8-FP-UNSD.pdf>

⁸⁵ Including data produced by the private sector, indigenous peoples, local communities and civil society organizations.

⁸⁶ For example: food, agriculture, health, nutrition, social development, environment, budget and planning.

⁸⁷ See footnote 56.

- g) strengthen collaborations with governments, civil society, academia and the private sector to harmonize FSN data collection and analytical methods and indicators on important FSN domains (in particular food security assessments), noting that not all types of data can be armonized, and in consultation with Governments, strengthen coordination on the release of datasets and knowledge products.

Governments, international organizations, research institutions, civil society and the private sector are encouraged to:

- h) promote compliance of FSN data with existing open-access and fair use principles for data and analysis tools, such as the UNFPOS principles and with consideration as appropriate, of other complementary principles, including the FAIR principles⁸⁸, continually adapting as these evolve, aiming at availability, access and re-usability of FSN data and research results, while at the same time, ensuring data protection, safeguarding the rights of data originators, respecting data privacy and intellectual property including its safeguards and principles, and seeking free prior and informed consent, as applicable, covering activities carried out for the same purposes, when sharing FSN data and while promoting fairness, inclusion and equitable distribution of benefits.

5. STRENGTHEN FSN DATA GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORKS AT LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS AND FOSTER RELATED DIALOGUE AT GLOBAL LEVEL

Governments are encouraged to:

- a) include FSN data within national statistical and other relevant data systems to promote a broader national data governance anchored in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, that enables the attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and is consistent with UNFPOS, as appropriate, and informed by emerging international multilateral discussion on data governance frameworks. Discussions should take into consideration broader FSN principles⁸⁹ such as human dignity, non-discrimination, equity and justice, gender equality, participation, transparency, accountability, among others;
- b) consider strengthening and, where necessary, developing, maintaining and implementing policies, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders, to promote transparency and accountability and improve compliance by related non-state actors⁹⁰ with national legislation and with applicable principles and due diligence requirements⁹¹, as appropriate, regarding the collection, storage, processing, using, and sharing of FSN data and analytics, among others.

Governments and international organizations⁹² are encouraged to:

- c) strengthen inclusive, participatory multi-stakeholder processes to discuss the development of FSN data principles that support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security. This includes, ethical considerations, decision-making roles and responsibilities, and national accountability systems for the implementation and application of FSN data principles at national level.

⁸⁸ The [FAIR Principles](#) provide guidelines to improve the Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, and Reuse of digital assets. While recognized by international organizations and initiatives such as WHO, OECD and G20, they are not multilaterally agreed.

⁸⁹ As found in the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT), Section 3B.

⁹⁰ Other actors outside of the official national data system.

⁹¹ See for example the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

⁹² See footnote 56.

The private sector, civil society, academia and philanthropic foundations are encouraged to:

- d) share FSN data and analytics for the public good with governments and public institutions, and among each other, for policy and research purposes, respecting confidentiality and data privacy, and exploring mechanisms to make their FSN data more promptly and widely available, while working to ensure proper protection of the data.

APPENDIX L - CFS MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK (MYPOW) 2024-2027

CFS Vision

CFS “will constitute the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for a broad range of committed stakeholders to work together in a coordinated manner and in support of country-led processes towards the elimination of hunger and ensuring Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) for all human beings. CFS strives for a world free from hunger where countries implement the voluntary guidelines for the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security”.

CFS Overall objective

CFS aims at eliminating hunger and malnutrition through improved policy convergence/coherence at global level, which leads to strengthened actions at national and regional levels.

All activities in the MYPOW are designed, planned and implemented to promote: resilience of livelihoods; attention to the people most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition; a multi-sectoral inclusive and participatory approach; evidence-based decision-making; social, economic and environmental sustainability; gender equality, women’s and girls’ rights and women's empowerment in the context of FSN.

CFS Roles and functions

CFS roles are set out in the Reform Document⁹³ (CFS:2009/2 Rev.2, paragraphs 5 and 6). The six roles are:

Role 1: *Coordination at global level.* Provide a platform for discussion and coordination to strengthen collaborative action.

Role 2: *Policy convergence.* Promote greater policy convergence and coordination, including through the development of international strategies and voluntary guidelines on food security and nutrition.

Role 3: *Support and advice to countries and regions.* At country and/or region request, facilitate support and/or advice in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of their nationally and regionally owned plans.

Role 4: *Coordination at national and regional levels.* Serve as a platform to promote greater coordination and alignment of actions in the field, encourage more efficient use of resources and identify resource gaps.

Role 5: *Promote accountability and share best practices at all levels.*

Role 6: *Develop a Global Strategic Framework for food security and nutrition,* in order to improve coordination and guide synchronized action by a wide range of stakeholders.

In the 2024-2027 MYPOW, CFS will focus its resources on performing: Role 1 (coordination at global level); Role 2 (policy convergence); Role 5 (promoting accountability and best practices) in a more demand-driven way and with greater efficiency and effectiveness; as well as Role 6 (Global Strategic Framework). In this MYPOW, CFS will strengthen Role 4, by serving as a platform at the global level

⁹³ [Reform of the Committee on World Food Security.](#)

to promote greater coordination and alignment of actions in the field and providing countries a platform to share their progress and challenges to achieving SDG 2⁹⁴.

Recognizing that CFS is an intergovernmental policy body and not an implementing body, Role 3 (support and advice to countries and regions) and 4 (coordination at national and regional level) will primarily rely on government initiatives possibly in collaboration with the RBAs, other UN bodies and other stakeholders that have an implementation and coordination role at national and regional levels, e.g. through compiling and sharing experiences and good practices, on leveraging existing FSN multistakeholder platforms or establishing them⁹⁵.

Three interlinked strategic functions will help channel CFS energy and resources for this MYPoW. CFS will support country-led implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, focusing primarily on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 and its linkages with other SDGs and targets relevant to FSN, guided by the following strategic functions.

- Strategic Function 1 – PLATFORM: Leverage the convening power as the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform to discuss the FSN situation and coordinate collective action at all levels.
- Strategic Function 2 – POLICY: Develop voluntary global policy guidance for policy convergence and coherence to achieve food security and improve nutrition and promote the progressive realization of the right to adequate food.
- Strategic Function 3 – UPTAKE: Foster the uptake, follow-up and review, and sharing of experiences and best practices on the use and application of CFS products at all levels.

I. FOCUS AREAS, THEMATIC WORKSTREAMS AND SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES (“Strategic” Section)

The CFS MYPoW activities for 2024-2027 are presented as a combination of four cross-cutting focus areas and three CFS strategic functions so as to provide a strong and coherent basis for prioritization and implementation, as well as a robust narrative of the areas in which CFS will deliver in the period 2024-2027.

The following cross-cutting focus areas were identified as overarching domains which are at the forefront of the major challenges faced by agriculture and food systems today and together they define the strategic direction of the 2024-2027 CFS MYPoW:

- *Enhancing equity and inclusiveness in agriculture and food systems*
- *Fostering resilience of agriculture and food systems to shocks and stresses*
- *Promoting agriculture and food systems actions that protect the planet*
- *Strengthening means of implementation and collaborative action for food security and nutrition*

These focus areas are to be understood as interconnected. Each of the thematic workstreams described in this section contributes to one or more of these cross-cutting focus areas and is expected to promote

⁹⁴ Adapted from document CFS 2018/45/3 “CFS Evaluation: Implementation of the response to the Evaluation – With Draft Decision”, Annex A, paragraph 2.

⁹⁵ Adapted from document CFS 2018/45/3 “CFS Evaluation: Implementation of the response to the Evaluation – With Draft Decision”, Annex A, paragraph 9.

the progressive realization of the right to adequate food and the achievement of SDG2. An overview table illustrating how CFS outputs contribute to the cross-cutting focus areas is shown in table 1.

Table 1. Cross-cutting focus areas and related outputs

| Enhancing equity and inclusiveness in agriculture and food systems |
|--|
| The progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security: Actions towards 2030. <i>Global Thematic Event</i> |
| Promoting decent work in agriculture and food systems. <i>CFS Plenary item</i> |
| Reducing inequalities for food security and nutrition. <i>HLPE-FSN Report, Policy Recommendations</i> |
| Strengthening urban and peri-urban food systems to achieve food security and nutrition in the context of urbanization and rural transformation. <i>HLPE-FSN Report, Policy Recommendations</i> |
| Preserving, strengthening and promoting Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems and traditional practices for sustainable food systems. <i>HLPE-FSN Report, Policy Recommendations</i> |
| Empowering Family farmers to strengthen sustainable food systems and to achieve food security and nutrition. <i>Global Thematic Event</i> |
| CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition. <i>Forum on uptake</i> |
| Fostering resilience of agriculture and food systems to shocks and stresses |
| Collaborative governance for coordinated policy responses to emerging global food crises towards sustainable agriculture and food system transformation. Annual summary reports |
| Conflicts and food security and nutrition. <i>Global Thematic Event</i> |
| Building resilient food systems. <i>HLPE-FSN Report, Policy Recommendations</i> |
| Promoting agriculture and food systems actions that protect the planet |
| Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition. <i>Updated HLPE-FSN Report, Updated Policy Recommendations</i> |
| Tackling climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation through the right to food. <i>High Level Forum and connection with COPs</i> |
| Strengthening means of implementation and collaborative action for food security and nutrition |
| Responsible investment and financing for food security and nutrition. High Level Forum |
| In-depth debate on enhanced efforts to increase awareness, ownership, use and usefulness of CFS policy outcomes at all levels. <i>Action Plan</i> |

Further to the above-mentioned cross-cutting focus areas, the thematic workstreams elaborated in this MyPoW are associated with the CFS strategic functions (Platform/Policy/Uptake). In this document the strategic functions constitute the main organizing principle for elaborating the thematic workstreams, taking into account the CFS added value and comparative advantages. In addition, the MYPoW contains supporting activities which include all activities that are carried out to ensure the functioning of the Committee.

A mid-term review will be carried out in 2025 to assess and adjust, if necessary, the remaining elements of the MYPoW, complementary to the annual update of the rolling section.

An overview table and tentative timeline illustrating the main activities under the various strategic functions is shown in table 2.

| | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | |
|------------------------------|--|---|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| | CFS 52 | CFS 53 | CFS 54 | CFS 55 | |
| HLPE-FSN Reports | Strengthening urban and peri-urban food systems | Building resilient food systems | Promoting indigenous peoples' food and knowledge systems and traditional practices | Sustainable Fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition | |
| Policy | Reducing inequalities for food security and nutrition | Strengthening urban and peri-urban food systems | Building resilient food systems | Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems and traditional practices | Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture |
| | Collaborative governance for coordinated policy responses to emerging global food crises towards sustainable agriculture and food system transformation – Biannual meetings | | | | |
| Platform | Decent work in agriculture and food systems | High Level Forum on Climate, Biodiversity and the right to food | High Level Forum on strengthening responsible investment and financing for FSN | | |
| Uptake | OEWG Increasing awareness, ownership, use and usefulness of CFS policy outcomes | Increasing awareness, ownership and use of CFS policy outcomes at all levels – Implementation of agreed Action Plan | | | |
| | GTE Right to Food Forum – uptake GEWE guidelines | GTE Conflicts and food security | GTE Empowering family farmers | | |
| Supporting activities | Communications, outreach and resource mobilization, CFS Engagement in the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development, Linkages with other relevant global processes/institutions, annual updates of the MYPoW rolling section, mid-term review of the MYPoW strategic section | | | | |
| | | | HLPE note on critical, emerging and enduring issues for FSN | Preparation of 2028-2031 MYPoW | |

A. THEMATIC WORKSTREAMS

Strategic Function 1 – Platform

Leverage the convening power of the CFS as an inclusive international and intergovernmental platform to discuss the food security and nutrition situation and coordinate collective action at all levels

A.1.1 The progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security: Actions towards 2030

Focus area: ‘Enhancing equity and inclusiveness in agriculture and food systems’

Rationale:

The importance of the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security is reflected in the vision of the reformed CFS to “strive for a world free from hunger where countries implement the Voluntary Guidelines for the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security” (Right to Food Guidelines) [[CFS 2009/2.Rev2](#)]. The CFS Reform document recognizes the human right to adequate food as fundamental to achieving food security.

The [Right to Food Guidelines](#), endorsed by the Committee at its 30th Session in October 2004, take into account a wide range of important considerations and principles, including equality and non-discrimination, participation and inclusion, accountability and rule of law, and the principle that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interrelated and interdependent. They have guided countries and other stakeholders in developing and adopting a wide range of measures - to guarantee the availability of food in quantity and quality sufficient to satisfy the dietary needs of individuals; physical and economic accessibility for everyone, including vulnerable groups, to adequate food, free from unsafe substances and acceptable within a given culture; or the means of its procurement.

The Right to Food Guidelines anticipated the urgency of today’s most pressing global challenges to achieving sustainable development, including conflicts, inequalities, diseases, and not least climate change, loss of biodiversity and land degradation. In this context, the [UN Human Rights Council’s Resolution](#) adopted on 7 July 2022, highlighted the urgent importance of continuing to address the adverse consequences of climate change for all, particularly in developing country and for the people whose situation is most vulnerable to climate change.

Objectives and expected outcomes:

This workstream will mainstream the Right to Food as overarching framework of all the Committee’s activities, and use the convening power of CFS to reinforce its uptake as the framework of the efforts to achieve SDG 2 and of food systems transformation. In particular, it will look at the urgent need to promote climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity loss mitigation and land degradation neutrality to effectively contribute to upholding the progressive realization of the right to food for all. It will also hold inclusive and extensive discussions among all relevant actors to foster the uptake, follow-up and review and sharing of experiences and best practices, leading to increased stakeholders’ awareness, enhanced accountability and accelerated policy actions towards the achievement of SDG2.

- In the context of this workstream, a Global Thematic Event (GTE)⁹⁶ titled “Advancing the uptake of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security” will be organized to monitor progress on the use and application of the Voluntary Guidelines on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of its endorsement.
- An intersessional High-Level Forum titled “Tackling climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation through the Right to Food” will be organized to take stock of the progress made, reflect on the challenges posed to the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security by climate change and biodiversity loss, with a focus on promoting policies that support climate change adaptation and mitigation and biodiversity loss mitigation to lessen their impacts on the on people’s livelihoods and right to food. It will also consider policies to make smallholder and family farmers beneficiaries of climate mitigation measures. The aim is for this Forum to increase awareness on the linkages between climate change and biodiversity and the human right to food. To this end, the Forum could be co-convened with the COP presidencies and conventions and held in the context of the Conferences of the Parties of the Rio Conventions (COPs). A short HLPE-FSN background note will inform the intersessional High-Level Forum.

The active engagement of CFS Bureau members and of the CFS Chair in events that are relevant to the progressive realization of the right to food is encouraged during the period of this MYPOW.

A.1.2. The role and rights of agriculture and food systems workers

Focus area: ‘Enhancing equity and inclusiveness in agriculture and food systems’

Rationale:

Agriculture and food systems are a major source of employment in many countries, especially in developing countries. While rural transformation tends to reduce the number of those employed in primary production, it may provide job opportunities at intermediate and downstream stages of food supply chains. However, despite their crucial contribution, workers in agriculture and food system have long been underpaid and undervalued, with limited access to adequate social protection, while facing occupational hazards, including exposure to environmental hazards, poverty and increasing food insecurity. Most agricultural workers hold informal jobs and a quarter are in extreme poverty (ILO, 2020); women’s work in agriculture and food systems in particularly prone to informality and poor working conditions (FAO 2023).

The extent of the precariousness and difficult working conditions is of particular concern for seasonal and migrant workers, including undocumented ones, in agriculture and food system, as well as for typically vulnerable groups of the population such as women, youth and Indigenous Peoples who are overrepresented among informal, casual and low-paid workers. Finally, 70 percent of child labour – 112 million boys and girls – takes place in agriculture, including farming, livestock, forestry, fishing and aquaculture (ILO and UNICEF, 2020).

CFS has a crucial role to play in addressing these challenges considering the role and rights of agriculture and food systems workers are critical for global food security and nutrition, reducing poverty, advancing rural and agricultural development, and ensuring environmental sustainability.

⁹⁶ Global Thematic Events are envisaged under the “Uptake” function of CFS described later in the document.

Objectives and expected outcomes:

Following the endorsement of the “Policy Guidelines for the Promotion of Decent Work in the Agri-food Sector” by the International Labour Organization (ILO), CFS will provide its platform to highlight the key role of decent work in agriculture and food systems from a Right to Food perspective and to disseminate and foster the uptake of ILO guidelines. It will also provide its platform for relevant stakeholders to discuss potential synergies and complementarities between CFS and ILO policy convergence work, as well as on how existing CFS policy guidance could support the utilization of the ILO Policy Guidelines at country level.

- This workstream will lead to a CFS Plenary Discussion on decent work in agriculture and food systems, and to the adoption of conclusions by Plenary.

A.1.3 Strengthening responsible investment and financing for food security and nutrition

Focus area: ‘Strengthening means of implementation and collaborative action for food security and nutrition’

Rationale:

The 2018 HLPE-FSN Report “Multi-stakeholder partnerships to finance and improve food security and nutrition in the framework of the 2030 Agenda” estimated the financing needs for sustainable development at the global level and noted that the annual investment gap in the food security and agriculture sector during 2015-2030 for investment in agriculture, research, rural development, safety nets, etc. was USD\$260 billion. The Addis Ababa Agenda for Action on Financing for Development also recognized the importance of an enabling environment at all levels, including regulatory and governance frameworks, in nurturing science, innovation, the dissemination of technologies, particularly to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

Objectives and expected outcomes:

This workstream will discuss cost estimates to properly finance sustainable and inclusive food systems that are not just capable of ending hunger and malnutrition, but simultaneously eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities in all their dimensions, and deliver on climate, biodiversity, soils and the rest of the SDGs.

It will reflect on the status and evolution of financing in agriculture and food systems on a regular basis, informed by the work carried out by the UN System and International Financial Institutions (IFIs) among other stakeholders.

It will include deliberations on how standards and principles, such as the CFS-RAI, can be used to further mobilize responsible investments and will advance the debate on topics such as blended finance, de-risking, moving beyond Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) and tracking its flows.

- This workstream will use the convening power of the CFS by offering its platform function to regularly update on the status of responsible investments and financing for food security and nutrition, including through a High Level Forum on Strengthening responsible investment and financing for food security and nutrition, to be informed by a short HLPE-FSN background note
- Additionally, the workstream is expected to engage with the 2025 Addis Ababa +10 International Conference on Financing for Development.

Given the recognized key role of family farmers in reducing malnutrition and contributing to the promotion of sustainability in all its dimensions, this workstream will also comprise inclusive and extensive discussions among all relevant actors to foster the uptake and sharing of experiences and best practices of relevant CFS policy instruments, contributing to the objectives of the 2019-2028 UN Decade of Family Farming.

- In the context of this workstream a Global Thematic Event (GTE) titled “Empowering family farmers to strengthen sustainable food systems and to achieve food security and nutrition” will be organized to elevate the global awareness of the relevance of investing in family farming to achieving the SDGs, as well as to monitor progress on the use and application of a number of relevant CFS policy recommendations such as: “Connecting smallholders to markets” (2016); “Investing in smallholder agriculture for food security and nutrition” (2013); “How to increase food security and smallholder sensitive investments in agriculture” (2011); “Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition” (2022). A short HLPE-FSN background note will inform the Global Thematic Event.

A.1.4. Collaborative governance for coordinated policy responses to emerging global food crises towards sustainable agriculture and food system transformation

Focus area: ‘Fostering resilience of agriculture and food systems to shocks and stresses’

Rationale:

Global challenges to food security and nutrition are greater than ever while the international community has committed to eliminate hunger by 2030. According to the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (2023) Report, an estimated 691 - 783 million people in the world (around 9.2 percent of the world population) are still suffering from hunger. Climate change, conflicts, poverty and inequalities, socio-economic shocks, including the still-lasting impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, are among the main drivers of food crises.

This calls for enhanced coherence among different international initiatives and the need to find short- and medium-term solutions to crises that go hand in hand with long term and sustainable transformation of food systems.

Policy options need to be urgently identified, bearing in mind the importance of overcoming challenges related to lacking or weak cross-sectoral, multi-stakeholder and multi-level coordination, both vertically (across global, regional, national, subnational, territorial and local level) and horizontally (across sectors and institutions) which often leads to contradictory policies and insufficient actions.

CFS has a key role to play in strengthening coordinated global policy responses between relevant stakeholders to the multiple dimensions of food crises. It deliberates within a human rights framework, focusing on the progressive realization of the right to adequate food, with the support of a dedicated High-Level Panel of Experts. As such it is the most appropriate space for examining emerging food crises in a globally coordinated manner.

This workstream draws on the convening power of the CFS, its focus on the realization of the right to adequate food, and its ability to mobilize and engage relevant stakeholders in exchanges on food security and nutrition priorities and actions. The workstream will both contribute to and benefit from the preparation of an HLPE-FSN report on “Building resilient food systems” while at the same time drawing on the various policy convergence tools adopted by CFS in previous years to identify agreed policy measures that are relevant to the current challenges.

Objectives and expected outcomes:

The objective includes identifying signs of emerging food crises and to identify timely actions in line with longer-term objectives of food systems transformation and the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.

- Regular biannual meetings will be held to discuss the evolving food and nutrition security situation, share experiences, data and information on existing initiatives, as well as to discuss key issues towards enhanced policy coordination and collaborative governance, giving particular attention to the voices of the most affected countries and constituencies. Pending available resources, these meetings will take place in different locations, especially at the UNHQ in New York. High Level Special Events at the ministerial level are expected to be co-convened by CFS, as appropriate. The outcomes of the biannual meetings will be captured in a summary report and contribute to informing the CFS Plenary debate on the “State of food security in the world”.
- The engagement with the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) will be reinforced and its Chair or Secretariat will be invited to be part of CFS meetings regularly, and CFS Chair will participate in the AMIS Steering Committee.
- In the event of the outbreak of a global food crisis, through this workstream the Committee will provide a platform to address the emerging food crises in a globally coordinated manner. This platform will represent a space to share experiences, policy responses and relevant data among CFS Members and Participants as well as information on international activities taken to address food crises.
- A concise outline of potential CFS responses to emerging crises will be developed.
- Subject to availability of resources, the workstream could include the establishment of a digital platform for good practices and experiences, led by the RBAs, whereby governments and other stakeholders could contribute with concrete examples of innovative governance modalities resulting in more effective, resilient and inclusive food systems.
- In the context of this workstream a Global Thematic Event (GTE) on conflicts and food security and nutrition titled “Advancing the uptake of the CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (CFS-FFA)” will be organized to monitor progress on the use and application of the CFS-FFA on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of its endorsement.

Strategic Function 2 – Policy

Develop voluntary global policy guidance for policy convergence and coherence to achieve food security and improve nutrition and promote the progressive realization of the right to adequate food

A.2.1 Reducing inequalities for food security and nutrition

Focus area: ‘Enhancing equity and inclusiveness in agriculture and food systems’

Rationale:

Sustained disparities between vulnerable and other social groups – reflecting inequalities between and within countries - can slow growth and lead to political instability, migration fluxes, with related adverse consequences on food security and nutrition. Stark inequalities – including between rural and urban areas – in access to basic services and assets lead to unequal processes of economic growth and transformation. These inequalities affect households' prospects for overcoming rural poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition.

The relationship between inequality, food security and nutritional outcomes is evident. While inequalities affect food security and nutrition outcomes, inequalities can also be generated by food systems themselves. High levels of concentration in food production, corporate concentration in food trade, transformation and distribution, and uneven distribution of agricultural assets and access to natural resources and finance are all trends that perpetuate and deepen inequalities between different actors in agriculture and food systems. In turn, these elements affect the food security and nutrition status of vast portions of the population, especially the most vulnerable groups.

This vicious cycle continues as food insecurity and malnutrition further deepen inequalities through lost opportunities in health, education and employment. Thus, recognizing the drivers of inequalities in food systems helps understanding how to address them and, in turn, food insecurity and malnutrition. The HLPE-FSN stressed the importance of addressing food security and nutrition through a food systems approach, highlighting the linkages between supply chains, food environments, consumer behaviour, and the economic, social and institutional systems that connect to food. Inequalities affecting food systems' drivers can be transmitted to all components of food systems and ultimately affect food security and nutrition outcomes.

Objectives and expected outcomes:

The objective of this thematic workstream is to develop a set of focused and action oriented policy recommendations that will strengthen the capacities of countries to identify the drivers of inequalities in agriculture and food systems in order to address them and, in turn, food insecurity and malnutrition. The proposed thematic workstream will contribute to the CFS vision and the overall objective of addressing the root causes of food insecurity with a focus on the people most affected by hunger and malnutrition and on the need to promote the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.

The focus will be on inequalities within agriculture and food systems. The workstream will provide an analysis, based on the HLPE-FSN report, on drivers of socio-economic inequalities between actors in agriculture and food systems that influence food security and nutrition outcomes. Gender inequalities and the need to create opportunities for youth will inform the analysis, so there will be scope for complementarities with other MYPOW workstreams, although the overall focus will differ from these workstreams.

A.2.2 Strengthening urban and peri-urban food systems to achieve food security and nutrition in the context of urbanization and rural transformation

Focus area: 'Enhancing equity and inclusiveness in agriculture and food systems'

Rationale:

Growing urbanization, combined with the reorientation of urban and peri-urban agricultural lands to more profitable uses, have been gradually leading to a “geographical decoupling” of urban areas from sources of food supply, posing higher risks for food security and nutrition. In the absence of specific food systems planning across the rural-urban continuum, the sale and consumption of highly processed

foods is growing in most urban centers, while local commerce that delivers healthy, fresh food at affordable prices is neglected, with negative impacts on food security and nutrition.

Urban and peri-urban agriculture is an important option with potential positive impacts on dietary diversity, quality of city spaces and community action and empowerment. Yet, in most cities, there is little state support for it. Instead, current regulations in urban areas and the market value of land limit the opportunities for local production.

With almost sixty percent of the global population currently living in urban areas, it is imperative to address the challenges of urbanization in relation to rural transformation to “build back better” in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic, the impact of climate change and conflicts. The current multi-layered global food crisis point to the importance and potential of the territorial dimension of food systems – addressing poverty and inequality, building resilience and social inclusion and fostering sustainable livelihoods.

Objectives and expected outcomes:

The objective of the workstream is to develop a set of focused and action oriented policy recommendations on strengthening urban and peri-urban food systems in the context of urbanization and rural transformation as a key means of achieving the CFS vision, SDG2, and an array of other SDGs, including SDGs 1, 10 and 11.

The CFS policy recommendations on urban and peri-urban food systems are envisioned as a focused, action-oriented document that will encourage coordinated policies for food security and nutrition across rural, urban and peri-urban areas, taking into account the specific needs of diverse rural and urban contexts and the linkages between them.

An inclusive event on “Localizing SDG2: multilevel governance” will precede the start of the OEWG negotiations.

The workstream will benefit from the findings and recommendations of an HLPE-FSN report on the topic.

A.2.3. Building resilient food systems

Focus area: ‘Fostering resilience of agriculture and food systems to shocks and stresses’

Rationale:

Global challenges to food security and nutrition, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts, extreme weather events due to climate change, natural disasters, loss of biodiversity and land degradation reveal structural vulnerabilities of agriculture and food systems. These shocks and stresses may disrupt food value chains and, when combined with other factors such as financial or economic crises, may lead to unaffordability and/or unavailability of healthy food. There are also deep inequalities and unsustainable practices in the current food distribution and marketing systems.

There is wide recognition of the weaknesses and vulnerabilities of agriculture and food systems, and growing calls to improve their functioning so that they are able to respond to current and future challenges, seeking to diversify sources of inputs, production, markets, supply chain and actors, supporting the creation of small and medium-sized companies, cooperatives, consortiums and other groups to maintain diversity in the agriculture and food value chains.

Given the increased frequency of shocks to agriculture and food systems in recent years and the growing risks from a range of sources, it is imperative to explore more deeply how they can be made

more resilient – that is, more capable of recovering, adapting and transforming in the face of shocks – as well as more equitable and sustainable, so that they are able to support all dimensions of food security.

Understanding the different types of vulnerabilities of agriculture and food systems, and their implications for the different actors involved, will enable CFS to provide a space for exchange and convergence on the policy measures needed to enhance the resilience of local, regional and global food supply chains, including consideration of inclusive and equitable employment opportunities, the role of trade, environmental sustainability, access to healthy diets and human rights.

Objectives and expected outcomes:

The objective of the workstream is to create a set of focused, action-oriented policy recommendations on “Building resilient food systems” as a key means of achieving the CFS vision, SDG2, and an array of other SDGs, including SDGs SDG 8, 10, 12, 14 and 15, as a result of the contribution that agriculture and food systems make to livelihoods and natural systems.

The workstream will benefit from the findings and recommendations of an HLPE-FSN report on the topic.

A.2.4. Preserving, strengthening and promoting Indigenous Peoples’ food and knowledge systems and traditional practices for sustainable food systems

Focus area: ‘Enhancing equity and inclusiveness in agriculture and food systems’

Rationale:

Indigenous Peoples’ agricultural and food systems are intimately tied to nature and are capable of providing food and nutritional security whilst restoring ecosystems and maintaining biodiversity. This was recognized by the scientific group of the UN Food Systems Summit, which led to the creation of the Coalition on Indigenous Peoples’ food systems.

Traditional knowledge clearly contributes to the enhancement of the sustainability of agriculture and food systems. FAO’s Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) provide a good example of how to support traditional systems and demonstrate the wealth they can provide at social, economic and environmental levels. Since 2002, GIAHS has designated 62 systems in 22 countries as agricultural heritage sites. These represent diverse natural landscapes and agricultural practices that create sustainable livelihoods and food security in rural areas while combining biodiversity, resilient ecosystems, traditions and farmer innovations in a unique way.

The 2022 HLPE-FSN Note on Critical, Emerging and Enduring Issues for Food Security and Nutrition reports that Indigenous Peoples’ traditional knowledge systems are becoming more widely appreciated as methodologically, substantively and contextually strong and they address current contemporary agricultural and food system challenges through insights on socioecological mechanisms and interactions within food generation environments. Additionally, there is great value in acknowledging and striving to foster the connection between modern, scientific practices and traditional knowledge systems.

Despite their centrality, Indigenous Peoples’ food and knowledge systems, and traditional knowledge and practices are undervalued and under unprecedented risk of disappearance. One of the main challenges is that Indigenous Peoples’ food and knowledge systems, and traditional knowledge and practices are either misunderstood or unknown, which often result in incomplete or inadequate policy tools. To this end, it is critical to establish a political willingness and leadership to increase Indigenous People’s participation in the policy making processes.

This thematic workstream will benefit from the comparative advantage of the CFS to offer an inclusive and intergovernmental platform for global coordination and policy convergence, which will bring together policy makers, scientific international communities, UN Agencies and Indigenous Peoples.

Objectives and expected outcomes:

The objective of the workstream is to create a set of focused, action-oriented policy recommendations on “Preserving, strengthening and promoting Indigenous Peoples’ food and knowledge systems and traditional practices for sustainable food systems to achieve FSN” as a key means of achieving the CFS vision, SDG2, and an array of other SDGs, including SDGs 1, 10, 12, 13 and 15.

The workstream will benefit from the findings and recommendations of an HLPE-FSN report on the topic.

A.2.5 Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition

Focus area: Promoting agriculture and food systems actions that protect the planet

Rationale:

In 2014, the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and the CFS High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE-FSN) recognized the great significance of fish and other aquatic foods in the diets of certain regions where both dependence on fish and vulnerability to climate change impacts were extraordinarily high.

The report produced by the HLPE-FSN concluded that “fish deserves a central position in food security and nutrition strategies”. The resulting CFS policy recommendations highlighted the need to make aquatic foods an integral element of inter-sectoral national food security and nutritional policies as well as to include them in national nutritional programmes and interventions aimed at tackling micronutrient deficiencies, especially among children and women.

Compared to when the report was written, further information has been produced about the nutritional contents of aquatic species caught or cultivated for human consumption around the world and new catch data and fishery management and climate change models are now available.

This workstream will make use of the Rome-based Agencies’ databases, build on CFS’ cross cutting nutrition, health, and cross-sectoral expertise, and aim to integrate a variety of related knowledge sources, including traditional and Indigenous knowledge in order to protect and nourish those at greatest risk. Many of the data and modeling gaps of 2014 can now be filled, and the CFS and HLPE now can also draw on the additional resources offered by the UNFSS Coordination Hub and the relevant UNFSS Coalitions that are affiliated with it (e.g., Aquatic Blue Food Coalition, Coalition of Action for Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems, School Meals). Furthermore this workstream will pay specific attention to the crucial role of small scale fisheries for food security and nutrition, building on the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries.

Objectives and expected outcomes:

The objective of the thematic workstream is to update the policy recommendations on sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition, avoiding in all cases duplications with the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries.

This workstream will build upon the CFS policy recommendations endorsed in 2014, and draw on the evidence provided by the CFS High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE-FSN) that would update its report on this topic. The updated version of the report prepared in 2014 could serve as a roadmap to identify sources of data and models that are needed to fully evaluate the potential for aquatic foods to contribute to food security and nutrition in the context of climate change, and to foster food system transformation pathways that include aquatic foods.

The HLPE-FSN can consider how their recommendations from 2014 about considering and integrating aquatic foods can now be implemented in ways that would not have been feasible at that time, and make recommendations for future policies and programmes.

This policy workstream is expected to contribute to different Sustainable Development Goals, including SDG 14 on life below water and SDG 2 on food security.

Strategic Function 3 – Uptake

Foster the uptake, follow-up and review, and sharing of experiences and best practices on the use and application of CFS products at all levels

A.3.1 In-depth debate on enhanced efforts to increase awareness, ownership, use and usefulness of CFS policy outcomes at all levels.

Focus area: ‘Strengthening means of implementation and collaborative action for food security and nutrition’

Rationale:

Using a multi-stakeholder, inclusive and evidence-based approach, CFS develops and endorses policy recommendations and guidance on a wide range of food security and nutrition related topics. In order to strengthen its impact, it is essential to increase the visibility and use of CFS policy instruments at local, national and regional levels.

In 2018, the CFS Plenary agreed that “Member States have primary responsibility for promoting CFS and the use and application of CFS policy products and recommendations at all levels, working in collaboration with the RBAs, other relevant UN bodies, CSM, PSM, CGIAR, philanthropic and financial institutions and other concerned actors. To increase linkages between CFS and the regional and country levels, Member States are encouraged, at their discretion, to constitute or strengthen, with the active engagement of the RBA headquarters and decentralized networks, where feasible and suitable, multidisciplinary national mechanisms (e.g. food security networks, national alliances, national CFS platforms) and foster their interest and contribution to CFS. The RBAs, other UN bodies and other stakeholders have a role to play in mainstreaming CFS products and recommendations in their own work and facilitating their use and application at all levels.”

However, there is wide consensus on the need of strengthening the impact of CFS deliberations and policy outcomes, through innovative actions on increasing awareness, ownership and use of CFS policy outcomes.

Objectives and expected outcomes:

The workstream is intended to foster an in-depth debate on enhanced efforts by CFS stakeholders on how to increase its impact, promote the dissemination, ownership, use and uptake of all CFS policy agreements, leading to increased awareness, policy coherence and coordination at all levels.

- An inclusive and participatory process will be established for CFS stakeholders, which will aim at maximizing the engagement from capitals, HQ and the field, as appropriate. This will result in the preparation of an Action Plan to be presented for endorsement by the CFS Plenary. The Action Plan will identify the areas of work where improvement is needed, recommend relevant follow-up actions and outline roles and responsibilities of different actors.
- After the approval of the Action Plan, a follow-up process is foreseen to implement its recommendations.

A.3.2 Global thematic events

The following topics (the progressive realization of the right to adequate food, conflicts/protracted crises, investing in family farming) have been identified as relevant for the organization of global thematic events to advance the global debate on these key issues and track progress made in adopting selected CFS policy agreements on the basis of the evolving global context. To this end, the current *“Terms of Reference to share experiences and good practices in applying CFS decisions and recommendations through organizing events at national, regional and global levels”* approved in 2016 at CFS 43 may need to be updated as part of the above mentioned workstream 3.1. “In-depth debate on enhanced efforts to increase awareness, ownership, use and usefulness of CFS policy outcomes at all levels”.

The rationale for each global thematic event planned for this four-year Programme of Work is included under the Strategic Function 1 of the related thematic workstream as well as reported in the rolling section. Three GTEs are planned to take place as follows:

- Global Thematic Event on the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security at CFS 52 in 2024 to monitoring progress the use and application of this CFS Guidelines, as part of the 20th anniversary from its endorsement;
- Global Thematic Event on conflicts and food security and nutrition. Advancing the uptake of the CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises at CFS53 in 2025 to monitor progress the use and application of this CFS Framework, as part of the 10th anniversary from its endorsement;
- Global Thematic Event on Empowering Family farmers in 2026 as a contribution to the objectives of the 2019-2028 UN Decade of Family Farming and to monitor progress on the use and application of a number of relevant CFS policy recommendations: “Connecting smallholders to markets” (2016); “Investing in smallholder agriculture for food security and nutrition” (2013); “How to increase food security and smallholder sensitive investments in agriculture” (2011); “Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition” (2022).

A.3.3. Forum on the uptake of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition

Following the endorsement of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition, the Forum is intended to provide the CFS members with an opportunity to discuss the implementation of the VGs and mobilize political commitment from governments, donors, civil society, private sector, and the UN system.

B. SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES

B.1. Communications, outreach and resource mobilization

Communication about the work of the CFS is a key responsibility of all CFS Members and other stakeholders. The Rome-based Agencies (RBAs), with their global networks, play a key role in outreach as other members of the Advisory Group. All CFS stakeholders are encouraged to reach out to their constituencies, networks and regions to raise awareness of CFS and its policy guidance and recommendations, and to solicit feedback from them on their use. In this way the responsibility of communicating and profiling CFS, especially at regional and national levels, is shared.

The CFS Chairperson has a key role on connecting CFS to other relevant multilateral fora. The role of the CFS Chair is to represent CFS and promote its inclusive model and agreed outcomes in appropriate political fora. The Chair also advocates for the consideration of CFS policy outcomes by decision and policymakers and collaborate with Member Countries, RBAs and other relevant stakeholders to find opportunities to raise awareness and disseminate the outcomes of the work carried out by the Committee.

The role of the CFS Secretariat is to support communication efforts of all CFS stakeholders and the outreach efforts of the CFS Chairperson, subject to available resources. The Secretariat shall count on sufficient expertise and dedicated capacities on strategic communication, in support of CFS membership and the Chairperson.

The CFS annual Plenary session is usually held in FAO in October and represents the main opportunity to communicate with, and hear from CFS Members, Participants, and Observers and goes beyond the stakeholders who deal with CFS on a day-to-day basis. The convening power of CFS is strong and the session is seen by many as the most important event in the food security and nutrition calendar. Media are invited to cover the CFS session and according to what topics are on the agenda, attention by specialist media can be attracted. Side events that are held during the session are a major attraction for both organizers and attendees. Because of the high attendance that side events attract, CFS week is seen as a major networking opportunity for the FSN community. Communication channels include the public website, social media channels, and a mailing list with approximately 6,000 subscribers.

B.2. Linkages with other relevant global processes/institutions

The CFS will seek to reinforce its presence and interaction (in both directions) with, *inter alia*, the UN General Assembly and ECOSOC, the FAO Conference, High Level Political Forum and Regional Sustainable Development Fora, Conferences of the Parties of the Rio Conventions, UN Health, WTO, Environmental and Habitat Assemblies and with the UN Food Systems Summit process. Pending agreement with relevant partners, and subject to the availability of resources, the following activities will be carried out:

- Thematic sessions on CFS policy agreements at the FAO Regional Conferences, including through side events, as appropriate.
- An annual briefing to the General Assembly on CFS policy agreements and Plenary outcomes, in the appropriate format, to be agreed with the President of the General Assembly, possibly coinciding with the Second Committee negotiations.
- At least, one session of the “Group of Friends on Food Security and Nutrition” in New York, possibly coinciding with the CFS reporting session to ECOSOC at the Management Segment.
- Regular participation of the Food Systems Summit UN Coordination Hub at CFS specific meetings, and regular inclusion of the FSS national pathways and coalitions progress in the CFS context, in partnership with the Coordination Hub.
- High Level Special Events, intersessional events, or side events on specific issues relevant to the implementation of the MYPoW and to food security and nutrition, co-convened with interested institutions and bodies, as appropriate.
- Regional workshops in partnership with the UN Regional Commissions on FSN, CFS policy agreements and Plenary outcomes, as appropriate.
- Other outreach activities carried on by the Chairperson or designated Bureau Members, as appropriate.

B.3. CFS Engagement in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted in September 2015 calls for a global shift in the approach to development and provides a framework for countries to implement their commitment to leaving no one behind, including eradicating hunger and malnutrition.

The 2030 Agenda explicitly recognizes the important role and inclusive nature of CFS to advance food security and nutrition. As such, CFS has been regularly contributing to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) global follow-up and review by sharing the outcomes of its deliberations and policy agreements, based on the SDGs under in-depth review and reporting modalities proposed by the HLPF Secretariat.

- Pending available resources, a side event will be regularly co-convened in partnership with UN entities at the High-Level Political Forum.
- In 2027, the process to define the development agenda succeeding the 2030 Agenda is expected to start. CFS will agree on the ways of engaging in this process at its 2027 Plenary.

B.4. CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work

As established in Annex B of the CFS Evaluation Implementation Report, following the adoption of the MYPoW, “annual updates of the rolling section of the MYPoW will be prepared by the Bureau, in consultation with the Advisory Group, and presented to the Plenary for consideration and endorsement. They are intended to reflect Plenary decisions, consider possible adjustment, and review implementation of the MYPoW. The updates will be carried out taking into account resource and workload implications”.

This MyPoW also foresees a mid-term review in 2025 to assess and adjust as necessary the remaining elements of the MyPoW, complementing the annual update of the rolling section. Then, following CFS plenary discussions on critical and emerging FSN issues in 2026, Bureau and Advisory Group members, in the intersessional period 2026-2027, are expected to work on the preparation of the MYPoW 2028-2031.

II. ACTIVITIES AND COST ESTIMATES⁹⁷ ("Rolling" section⁹⁸)

A. Thematic Workstreams

A.1.1: The progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security: Actions towards 2030

Process:

Following a Special Event on the progressive realization of the right to adequate food at CFS 51, an intersessional High-Level Forum titled “Tackling Climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation through the right to food” will be organized by the CFS Secretariat with the support of a Technical Task Team in 2025.

The Forum is envisaged to be co-convened with the COP presidencies and conventions and held in the context of the Conferences of the Parties of the Rio Conventions (COPs) 99. A short HLPE-FSN background note will inform the intersessional High-Level Forum.

A Global Thematic Event on the “Advancing the uptake of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security” will be organized by the CFS Secretariat with the support of a Technical Task Team in 2024.

Additional extra-budgetary resources:

| Item | Cost estimate (USD) |
|---|---------------------|
| Costs associated with the organization of a High-Level Forum: preparation of background document, translation, speakers’ travel, interpretation, communications and outreach material | 100,000 |
| Cost associated with the organization of a Global Thematic Event on the Right to Adequate Food: Advancing the uptake of the Right to Food Guidelines: preparation of background document, translation, speakers’ travel, communications and outreach material | 50,000 |
| Total cost (USD) | 150,000 |

A.1.2: The role and rights of agriculture and food systems workers

⁹⁷ Figures provided in this section should be considered as additional to costs associated with the organization of CFS Plenary sessions and with the core CFS Secretariat staff. The CFS core budget is funded through the regular programme by FAO, IFAD and WFP based on verbal agreements. As stated in the agreed consultation report for the preparation of the response of the CFS Evaluation (CFS 2017/44/12/Rev.1), “CFS relies on the contributions of the three RBAs (FAO, IFAD and WFP), who provide 4.05 million each biennium in cash and in-kind, towards the CFS core budget that covers the cost of CFS plenary and Secretariat”.

⁹⁸ In line with the provisions of Annex B of the CFS Implementation Report on the new MYPoW structure and process (CFS 2018/45/3), endorsed at CFS 45: Annual updates of the rolling section of the MYPoW will be prepared by the Bureau, in consultation with the Advisory Group, and presented to the Plenary for consideration and endorsement. These are intended to reflect the Plenary decisions, consider possible adjustment, and review the implementation of the MYPoW. The updates will be carried out taking into account resource and workload implications.

⁹⁹ Pending agreement with relevant partners and subject to availability of resources

Process:

A CFS Plenary discussion on decent work in agriculture and food systems will take place at CFS 52 in October 2024.

Additional extra-budgetary resources:

| Item | Cost estimate (USD) |
|---|----------------------------|
| Cost associated with the organization of a session at CFS 52 (event planning, speakers' travel, interpretation and translation of background document, communication and outreach material) | 50,000 |
| Total cost (USD) | 50,000 |

A.1.3. Strengthening responsible investment and financing for food security and nutritionProcess:

A High-Level Forum titled “Strengthening responsible investment and financing for food security and nutrition” will be organized by the CFS Secretariat with the support of a Technical Task Team at CFS 53 in 2025. The High Level Forum will be informed by a short HLPE-FSN background note.

Additionally, a CFS side event will be organized in the context of the Addis Ababa+10 International Conference ¹⁰⁰.

A Global Thematic Event on “Empowering Family farmers to strengthen sustainable food systems and to achieve food security and nutrition” will also be organized by the CFS Secretariat with the support of a Technical Task Team in 2026.

Additional extra-budgetary resources:

| Item | Cost estimate (USD) |
|--|----------------------------|
| Costs associated with the organization of a High-Level Forum: event planning, preparation of background document, translation, speakers' travel, interpretation, communications and outreach material | 100,000 |
| Costs associated with the organization of a Global Thematic Event on Investing in family farming to strengthen sustainable food systems and to achieve food security and nutrition: event planning, preparation of background document, speakers' travel, communications and outreach material | 50,000 |
| Total cost (USD) | 150,000 |

¹⁰⁰ Pending agreement with relevant partners and subject to availability of resources.

A.1.4. Collaborative governance for coordinated policy responses to emerging global food crises towards sustainable agriculture and food system transformation

Process:

The CFS Secretariat, supported by a Technical Task Team, will organize biannual discussions to be held back to back with Bureau and Advisory Group meetings to take stock of the evolving food and nutrition security situation, share experiences, data and information on existing initiatives, and to identify key actions needed towards enhanced policy coordination and collaborative governance, with particular attention to the voices of the most affected countries and constituencies. The workstream will rely on the inputs and updates provided by representatives from relevant food security monitoring and early warning systems as well as by the HLPE-FSN. The engagement with the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) will also be reinforced and its Chair or Secretariat invited to be part of these meetings. The outcomes of the biannual meetings will be captured in a summary report and contribute to informing the CFS Plenary debate on the “State of food security in the world”.

Pending available resources, meetings will take place in different locations in order to facilitate the participation of relevant regional and national stakeholders.

In the event of a global food crisis outbreak, and proposed by the Chairperson, the Bureau and Advisory Group will activate a follow-up and coordination task force, which will coordinate substantive deliberations on the status and evolution of the crisis and that will foster coherence between global, regional and country-level efforts to address the crisis. High Level Special Events at the ministerial level are expected to be co-convened by CFS with this aim.

Additionally, a Global Thematic Event on conflicts and food security and nutrition titled “Advancing the uptake of the CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises” will be organized by the CFS Secretariat with the support of a Technical Task Team in 2025.

Additional extra-budgetary resources:

| Item | Cost estimate (USD) |
|---|------------------------------|
| Costs associated with the organization of biannual intersessional meetings in 2024, 2025, 2026 and 2027: meeting planning, preparation of background document, communications and outreach material, preparation of annual summary reports | 240,000 |
| Costs associated with the organization of a Global Thematic Event on Conflicts and food security and nutrition. Advancing the uptake of the CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises: preparation of background document, event planning, speakers’ travel, communications and outreach material | 50,000 |
| Total cost (USD) | 290,000¹⁰¹ |

¹⁰¹ In the event of global food crisis outbreak, costs associated with the organization of a High Level Special Event (event planning, preparation of background document speakers’ travel, communications and outreach material) would amount approximately to USD 100,000.

A.2.1: Reducing Inequalities for food security and nutrition

Process:

Following the launch of the HLPE-FSN Report in June 2023, the identification of a Rapporteur among CFS Members and a Plenary discussion at CFS 51, CFS will conduct a policy convergence process, leading to the development of policy recommendations to be presented to the Committee for endorsement at CFS 52 in October 2024.

Additional extra-budgetary resources:

| Items | Cost estimate (USD) |
|--|---------------------|
| Costs associated with the negotiation process: preparation of background document, interpretation of meetings and translation of documents, communications and outreach material | 250,000 |
| Total cost (USD) | 250,000 |

A.2.2. Strengthening urban and peri-urban food systems to achieve food security and nutrition in the context of urbanization and rural transformation

Process:

Following the launch of the HLPE-FSN Report in June 2024, the identification of a Rapporteur among CFS Members and a Plenary discussion at CFS 52, CFS will conduct a policy convergence process, leading to the development of policy recommendations to be presented to the Committee for endorsement at CFS 53 in October 2025. The release of the Zero Draft will be preceded by a thematic inclusive session on “Localizing SDG2: multilevel governance”.

Additional extra-budgetary resources:

| Item | Cost estimate (USD) |
|--|---------------------|
| Costs associated with the negotiation process: preparation of background document, interpretation of meetings and translation of documents, communications and outreach material | 250,000 |
| Total cost (USD) | 250,000 |

A.2.3. Building resilient food systems

Process:

Following the preparation and launch of the HLPE-FSN Report in 2025, the identification of a Rapporteur among CFS Members and a Plenary discussion at CFS 53, the Committee will conduct a

policy convergence process, leading to the development of policy recommendations to be presented to the Committee for endorsement at CFS 54, in October 2026.

Given the key role of well-functioning markets and trade for resilience of food systems and to facing crises, a specific event on the role of trade will be co-organized with the World Trade Organization (WTO)¹⁰².

Additional extra-budgetary resources:

| Item | Cost estimate (USD) |
|--|----------------------------|
| Costs associated with the negotiation process: preparation of background document, interpretation of meetings and translation of documents, communications and outreach material | 250,000 |
| Total cost (USD) | 250,000 |

A.2.4: Preserving, strengthening and promoting Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems and traditional practices for sustainable food systems

Process:

Following the preparation and launch of the HLPE-FSN Report in 2026, the identification of a Rapporteur among CFS Members and a Plenary discussion at CFS 54, the Committee will conduct a policy convergence process, leading to the development of policy recommendations to be presented to the Committee for endorsement at CFS 55, in October 2027.

Additional extra-budgetary resources:

| Item | Cost estimate (USD) |
|--|----------------------------|
| Costs associated with the negotiation process: preparation of background document, interpretation of meetings and translation of documents, communications and outreach material | 250,000 |
| Total cost (USD) | 250,000 |

A.2.5: Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition

Process:

Following the preparation and launch of the HLPE-FSN Report in 2027, the identification of a Rapporteur among CFS Members and a Plenary discussion at CFS 55, the Committee will conduct a policy convergence process, leading to the development of policy recommendations to be presented to the Committee for endorsement at CFS 56 in October 2028.

¹⁰² Pending agreement with WTO.

Additional extra-budgetary resources:

| Item | Cost estimate (USD) |
|--|---------------------|
| Costs associated with the negotiation process: preparation of background document, interpretation of meetings and translation of documents, communications and outreach material | 250,000 |
| Total cost (USD) | 250,000 |

A.3.1: In-depth debate on enhanced efforts to increase awareness, ownership, use and usefulness of CFS policy outcomes at all levelsProcess:

Following the identification of a Rapporteur among CFS Members, the Bureau and its Advisory Group will define a workplan and timeline for the in-depth debate to take place during the 2023-2024 intersessional period. An Open-Ended Working Group, open to interested CFS Members and Participants, will be established to discuss and prepare the Action Plan that will be presented for consideration by the Plenary at CFS 52. Follow-up activities that will be defined in the Action Plan expected to be agreed at CFS 52 will be included through the regular updates of the CFS MYPoW.

Additional extra-budgetary resources:

| Item | Cost estimate (USD) |
|---|--|
| Costs associated with OEWG activities in 2023-2024: preparation of background documents and draft Action Plan | 50,000 |
| Follow-up activities 2024-2027 | To be determined, based on the Action Plan |
| Total cost (USD) | 50,000 |

A.3.3. Forum on the uptake of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition

The Forum on the uptake of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition will take place at CFS52 in 2024.

| Item | Cost estimate (USD) |
|--|---------------------|
| Cost associated with the organization of the Forum: session planning, speakers' travel, communications and outreach material | 30,000 |
| Total cost (USD) | 30,000 |

B. Supporting activities

B.1. Communications, outreach and resource mobilization

Process:

Following the endorsement of the 2024-2027 MYPoW, the in-depth debate on increased awareness and use of the CFS policy outcomes and the development of the related Action Plan, the [2020-2023 CFS Communication Strategy](#) will be updated. The [CFS Resource Mobilization Strategy](#) will also be updated accordingly.

Additional extra-budgetary resources on communications and outreach are shown within the context of each thematic workstream and supporting activity. Further updates will be defined and discussed in 2024/2025 as part of the annual update of the MYPoW rolling section.

B.2. Linkages with other relevant global processes and institutions

Process:

The CFS Secretariat, the Chairperson and CFS Members and Participants will seek to reinforce the presence of the Committee and its interactions with relevant global processes, initiatives and institutions in order to identify potential areas of collaboration and maximize synergies.

Additional extra-budgetary resources will be defined each year upon the identification of specific activities. Preliminary activities and related cost estimates are provided in the table below:

| Item | Cost estimate (USD) |
|---|---------------------|
| Costs associated with the organization of thematic sessions on CFS policy agreements at the FAO Regional Conferences (in 2024 and 2026), including through side events: event planning, travel, communications and outreach material | 100,000 |
| Costs associated with the organization of annual briefings to the General Assembly on CFS policy agreements and Plenary outcomes in 2024, 2025, 2026 and 2027: travel, communications and outreach material | 40,000 |
| Costs associated with the organization of High Level Special Events, or intersessional events on specific issues relevant to the implementation of the MYPoW, co-convened with interested institutions and bodies in 2024, 2025, 2026 and 2027: event planning, travel, interpretation communications and outreach material | 200,000 |
| Costs associated with the organization Regional workshops in partnership with the UN Regional Commissions on CFS policy agreements and Plenary outcomes: workshop planning, travel, communications and outreach material | To be determined |

| | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Plenary discussions on topics and activities carried out by other institutions of particular relevance to the work of the Committee | Included in the core budget |
| Costs associated with the participation of the CFS Chairperson and Bureau Members at the COPs, and vice-versa, at the CFS Plenary sessions, of the chairpersons and executive secretaries of the COPs in 2024, 2025, 2026 and 2027: travel, communications and outreach material | 60,000 |
| Total cost (USD) | 400,000 |

B.3. CFS Engagement in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Process:

Contributions to the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) will be developed by the CFS Secretariat on the basis of the substantive guidance provided by the Bureau in consultation with the Advisory Group. A Rapporteur will be identified to facilitate the drafting process.

The CFS Secretariat, the Chairperson and CFS Members and Participants will also seek to organize side events at the HLPF on CFS policy agreements and Plenary outcomes of relevance to the thematic reviews carried out each year.

Additional extra-budgetary resources:

| Item | Cost estimate (USD) |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Costs associated with the preparation of CFS inputs to HLPF in 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027: document preparation | Included in the core budget |
| Costs associated with the organization of CFS side events at HLPF: event planning, speakers’ travel, interpretation, communications and outreach material | To be determined |
| Total cost (USD) | |

B.4. CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work

Process:

In 2026 the HLPE-FSN will produce the 4th note on Critical, Emerging and Enduring Issues for Food Security and Nutrition, which will be discussed at CFS 54 as a first input into the development of the new CFS MYPoW. In 2027, CFS will prepare the draft 2028-2031 MYPoW on the basis of the process established in Annex B of the CFS Evaluation Implementation Report.

Additional extra-budgetary resources:

| Item | Cost estimate (USD) |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Costs associated with the consultative process to develop the new MYPoW in 2027: preparation of background document, translation | Included in the core budget |
| Total cost (USD) | |

OVERVIEW OF ESTIMATED EXTRA-BUDGETARY COSTS

| Estimated extra-budgetary costs | | | | | |
|--|---------|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|-----------|
| A. Thematic workstreams | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | TOTAL |
| A.1.1. The progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security: Actions towards 2030 | 50,000 | 100,000 | | | 150,000 |
| A.1.2. The role and rights of agriculture and food systems workers | 50,000 | | | | 50,000 |
| A.1.3. Strengthening responsible investment and financing for food security and nutrition | | 100,000 | 50,000 | | 150,000 |
| A.1.4. Collaborative governance for coordinated policy responses to emerging global food crises towards sustainable agriculture and food system transformation | 60,000 | 110,000 | 60,000 | 60,000 | 290,000 |
| A.2.1. Reducing inequalities for food security and nutrition | 250,000 | | | | 250,000 |
| A.2.2. Strengthening urban and peri-urban food systems to achieve food security and nutrition in the context of urbanization and rural transformation | | 250,000 | | | 250,000 |
| A.2.3. Building resilient food systems | | | 250,000 | | 250,000 |
| A.2.4. Preserving, strengthening and promoting Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems and traditional practices for sustainable food systems | | | | 250,000 | 250,000 |
| A.2.5. Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition | | | | | (In 2028) |
| A.3.1. In-depth debate on enhanced efforts to increase awareness, ownership, use | 50,000 | Pending definition of Action Plan | | | 50,000 |

| | | | | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---|
| and usefulness of CFS policy outcomes at all levels | | | | | |
| A.3.3. Forum on the uptake of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition | 30,000 | | | | 30,000 |
| SUBTOTAL (Thematic workstreams) | 490,000 | 560,000 | 360,000 | 310,000 | 1,720,000 |
| B. Supporting activities | | | | | |
| B.1. Communications, outreach and resource mobilization | | | | | Included in workstreams/supporting activities |
| B.2. Linkages with other relevant global processes/institutions | 125,000 | 75,000 | 125,000 | 75,000 | 400,000 |
| B.3. CFS Engagement in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development | | | | | Included in the core budget |
| B.4. CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work 2028-2031 | | | | | Included in the core budget |
| SUBTOTAL (Supporting Activities) | 125,000 | 75,000 | 125,000 | 75,000 | 400,000 |
| TOTAL | 615,000 | 635,000 | 485,000 | 385,000 | 2,120,000 |

**APPENDIX M - RESULT SHEET OF THE VOTE ON THE PROPOSAL TO
SUSPEND THE 30-DAY DEADLINE FOR NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR
THE ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON**

RESULT SHEET/RESULTATS/RESULTADOS

51st Session of the Committee on World Food Security, Monday 23 October 2023, 12:45 hours.

Vote on the proposal to suspend the 30 day deadline for nomination of candidates for the election of the Chairperson, as contained in Rule II, paragraph 4 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee.

Roll Call Vote/Vote par appel nominal/Votación Nominal

| | |
|--|-----|
| Number of votes cast/ Nombre de suffrages exprimés/ Número de votos emitidos | 115 |
| Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoría requerida | 77 |
| Votes for/ Votes pour/ Votos en favor | 115 |
| Votes against/ Votes contre/ Votos en contra | 0 |
| Abstentions/ Abstenciones | 0 |

Votes for:
Votes pour:
Votos en favor:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Thailand, Tunisia, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia.

Votes against:
Votes contre:
Votos en contra:

Abstentions:
Abstenciones:

No reply:
Aucune réponse:
Ninguna respuesta:

Bahamas, Bangladesh, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, El Salvador, Eswatini, Israel, Jordan, Lesotho, Liberia, Republic of Moldova, Saint Lucia, Uzbekistan, Zimbabwe

ADOPTED/ADOPTÉE/ACEPTADA



Elections Officer/ Fonctionnaire électorale/ El oficial de elecciones

APPENDIX N - RESULT SHEET OF THE SECRET BALLOT TO ELECT THE TWO CFS BUREAU ALTERNATE MEMBERS FOR THE EUROPE REGION



51st Session of the Committee on World Food Security
23 – 27 October 2023

| | | | |
|---|----------|---|--|
| REPORT OF BALLOT RÉSULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACIÓN | 1 | ELECTION OF CFS ALTERNATE BUREAU MEMBERS ELECTION DES MEMBRES SUPPLÉANTS DU BUREAU DU COMITÉ ELECCIÓN DE LOS MIEMBROS SUPLENTE DEL LA MESA DEL COMITE | EUROPE End of 51 st Session, two year term |
|---|----------|---|--|

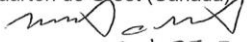
| | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|--------------------------------|----|
| 1. Ballot papers deposited | 106 | 4. Members casting valid votes | 97 |
| 2. Abstentions | 8 | | |
| 3. Defective ballots | 1 | | |

| | |
|-------------|----|
| 5. Majority | 49 |
|-------------|----|

| Elected – Élu(s) – Elegido(s) | | Not elected – Pas élu(s) – No elegido(s) | | Eliminated – Eliminé(s) – Eliminado(s) | |
|----------------------------------|----|---|----|---|--|
| Norway | 70 | Russian Federation | 37 | | |
| Romania | 64 | Belarus | 23 | | |
| | | | | | |

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escuradores

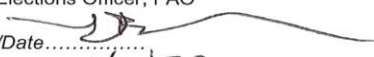
Mr Maarten de Groot (Canada)


Signature/Date... Oct. 25 2023

Mr Mina Rizk (Egypt)


Signature/Date... Mina R. 25-10-23

Mr Ilja Betlem, Elections Officer, FAO


Signature/Date... 25/10/23

APPENDIX O - RESULT SHEET OF THE VOTE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING

RESULT SHEET/RESULTATS/RESULTADOS

51st Session of the Committee on World Food Security, Friday 27 October 2023, 20:00 hours.

Vote on a motion to adjourn the Meeting in accordance with Rule XII, paragraph 21 of the General Rules of the Organization

Roll Call Vote/Vote par appel nominal/Votación Nominal

| | |
|--|---|
| Number of votes cast/ Nombre de suffrages exprimés/ Número de votos emitidos | 78 |
| Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoría requerida | 40 |
| Votes for/ Votes pour/ Votos en favor | 48 |
| Votes against/ Votes contre/ Votos en contra | 30 |
| Abstentions/ Abstenciones | 6 |
| Votes for: Votes pour: Votos en favor: | Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States of America |
| Votes against: Votes contre: Votos en contra: | Algeria, Angola, Belarus, Cameroon, China, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Mali, Morocco, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia, Venezuela, Yemen |
| Abstentions: Abstenciones: | Brazil, Burundi, El Salvador, Mexico, Uganda, Zimbabwe |
| No reply: Aucune réponse: Ninguna respuesta: | Afghanistan, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Chad, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, India, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Paraguay, Republic of Moldova, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Singapore, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Türkiye, Ukraine, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Zambia |

ADOPTED/ADOPTÉE/ACEPTADA



Elections Officer/ Fonctionnaire électorale/ El oficial de elecciones