



CFS 51

23-27 October 2023

Side event 35 | Fair food prices – unlocking multistakeholder action for inclusive and competitive markets

Organized by:

- Consumers International
- World Trade Organization (WTO)
- Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)
- Rockefeller Foundation

Friday, 27 October; 13.30 – 14.45 (UTC+2)
Sheikh Zayed Center & via Zoom

[Register here](#)

Abstract

The triple crises of conflict, climate, and COVID-19 have exposed the fragility of our overconcentrated food systems, resulting in soaring consumer prices while undermining the livelihoods of small-scale and family farmers. Governments and international organisations have worked to bring down global commodity prices by facilitating international trade and strengthening domestic food production; but this decrease is not being effectively transmitted to consumers, nor are producers benefitting from the high prices being paid. Instead, weak competition and market distortion are leading to record profits, built on unfair prices.

Delivering fair food prices for all requires urgent action to improve competition measures – both at national level and in global commodity markets – in order to tackle excessive pricing, financial speculation, and more. This side event will bring together representatives from government and international organisations, as well as consumer and farmer voices, to discuss the actions needed to deliver fair food prices; and explore how these efforts can be supported by a range of CFS policy products, including the Recommendations on Price Volatility and Food Security; the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition; the Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Food; and the ongoing work on Data Collection and Analysis.

Objectives

- Share new research and evidence on unfair food prices with a high-level multi-stakeholder audience;
- Explore and shape solutions to the challenge of unfair food prices - primarily by strengthening competition and tackling distortion in national and international markets;
- Facilitate engagement between governments, international organisations, consumers, producers, and other stakeholders - including those in the audience - on this urgent issue;
- Understand how existing and upcoming CFS policy products can support action on this issue by all stakeholders.



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