



CFS contribution to the  
2018 High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development global  
review

*“Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies”*

In depth-review of SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12, 15, 17

**The Committee on World Food Security**

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS)'s vision is to be the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for a broad range of committed stakeholders to work together in a coordinated manner in support of country led processes towards the elimination of hunger and ensuring food security and nutrition for all human beings. The CFS will strive for a world free from hunger where countries implement the Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security. The unique features of the reformed CFS include expanded participation rules and a specific science-policy interface. CFS' inclusive policy making processes ensure that the voices of all relevant stakeholders, particularly those most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition, are heard in the food and agriculture<sup>1</sup> policy dialogue. The High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) on Food Security and Nutrition provides independent evidence-based reports to inform and support policy discussions.

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<sup>1</sup>The term “agriculture” includes crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture.

## Key messages

### *[Food Security and Nutrition trends]*

*The pursuit of food security and nutrition (SDG2) is undermined by alarming gaps in access to natural resources such as land and forests (SDG15), water and sanitation (SDG6) and energy (SDG7) among small-scale food producers and other vulnerable groups, while conversely, food secure and well-nourished communities are essential pillars of sustainable food systems (SDG12) and resilient societies (SDG11). Structural causes of hunger and malnutrition relate to governance, economic and production issues, demographic and social issues, climate and environmental issues<sup>2</sup>. The use and application of CFS integrated policy instruments is conducive to the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security and to advance progress on these issues in the context of Agenda 2030.*

- 1. Inequalities in access to land, water, sanitation and energy, unsustainable management of natural resources, and limited economic opportunities in rural areas exacerbate tensions within societies, undermine global food security, and therefore stability, sustainability and resilience, and contribute to the underlying causes of protracted crises.** Policies and investments to tackle these inequalities are essential, with a specific focus on social groups tending to be left behind: rural and farming communities, women, youth and indigenous peoples.
- 2. Sustainable management and use of natural resources – including terrestrial biodiversity and water – is central to building resilience, adapting to the effects and mitigating the drivers of climate change.** Smallholders<sup>3</sup> manage a significant share of these resources globally, while being among those most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, land degradation and biodiversity loss. An enabling institutional and policy environment is needed for these actors to effectively participate in policy design and support their livelihoods. This will enhance the broader sustainability of societies. It is also essential to promote the sustainability and improvement of all systems of production so as to preserve biodiversity and ecosystems and minimize environmental degradation.

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<sup>2</sup> CFS Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition, rev 2016, Chapter II, A “Structural causes of hunger and malnutrition”

<sup>3</sup> Smallholders are understood here to include small-scale producers and processors, pastoralists, artisans, fishers, communities closely dependant on forests, indigenous peoples, and agricultural workers (CFS-RAI, paragraph 4)

3. **Integrated and inclusive development strategies should lead to mutually beneficial links between urban and rural areas.** Political commitment is called for to ensure that healthy and sustainable diets for all trigger the positive transformation needed towards sustainable societies.

*(a) Are we on track toward sustainable and resilient societies in 2030, in which no one is left behind?*

***[To be updated with relevant global food security and nutrition reports, statistics and trends on relevant topics linking FSN with SDGs under review, including water, energy consumption and biofuels, soil degradation, FLW, deforestation etc, and Plenary discussion. ]***

Until recently, there has been gradual global progress in reducing the numbers of the poor and hungry. However, the global economic growth that contributed to this progress has not been evenly distributed and was not always accompanied by similar gains in the other two dimensions of sustainable development, with social and environmental progress too often lagging behind. Loss and degradation of natural resources has continued, creating tensions around increasing competition for scarce resources – including, but not limited to, land and water. The continued exclusion of vulnerable groups – for example, small-scale food producers, urban slum dwellers, informal workers, women and unemployed youth – from the benefits of growth and from political processes in general has contributed to their increased vulnerability and limited their ability to continue investing in strengthening the resilience of their livelihoods. This failure to achieve a balance between the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development – specially called for under Agenda 2030 – has contributed to creating the conditions for the instability and conflicts which today risk reversing recent improvements in food security and nutrition globally.

The latest Global Report on Food Crises<sup>4</sup> states that globally, 108 million people in 2016 were reported to be facing crisis level food insecurity or worse (IPC Phase 3 and above), representing a 35 percent increase compared to 2015 when the figure was almost 80 million. The short-term outlook, indicates worsening conditions in areas impacted by droughts and conflicts.

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<sup>4</sup> Global Report on Food Crisis 2017, Food Security Information Network, [http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/ena/wfp291271.pdf?\\_ga=2.125083982.592734137.1500554492-50174173.1500554492](http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/ena/wfp291271.pdf?_ga=2.125083982.592734137.1500554492-50174173.1500554492)

*(b) Concrete recommendations arising from CFS*

CFS calls for better policy convergence and coordination as well as inclusive governance and policy processes, supported by effective partnerships. CFS has developed a number of policy guidelines and recommendations aimed at fostering integrated approaches to food security and nutrition, based on independent evidence and expertise, and designed with the participation of a range of relevant actors (see annex 1 for a full list). **The urgency is now for government policy-makers and stakeholders to use these to support national efforts and policy making.** Guidance is needed from the HLPF to draw governments' attention on the urgent need for country-level uptake of CFS policy products, as befits their national context.

Key Message 1: Enhanced access to natural resources by small-scale food producers and other vulnerable groups will contribute to food security, improved nutrition, stability and resilience

- Inadequate and insecure **tenure rights** increase vulnerability, hunger, malnutrition and poverty, and can lead to conflict and environmental degradation when competing users fight for control of these resources.

In addition to being directly relevant to the achievement of a number of targets under SDG 15 related to the restoration of degraded land and sustainable management and use of natural resources, responsible governance of tenure promotes sustainable social and economic development that can help eradicate poverty and food insecurity, and encourages responsible investment. The Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of tenure of land, forestry, fishery and other natural resources (VGGTs), endorsed by the CFS in 2012, seek to improve governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests. They seek to do so for the benefit of all, with an emphasis on small-scale food producers and vulnerable and marginalized people, with the goals of food security and progressive realization of the right to adequate food, poverty eradication, sustainable livelihoods, social stability, housing security, rural development, environmental protection and sustainable social and economic development.

- **Conflict and protracted crises** call for specially designed and targeted assistance, combining immediate actions to alleviate hunger and suffering with medium to long-term actions to build resilient livelihoods and food systems, avoid impoverishment, and address the underlying causes of food insecurity and malnutrition, such as through sustainable management and use of natural resources, disaster risk reduction, and other medium to longer term actions.

The CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (CFS-FFA) was endorsed by CFS member countries and stakeholders in 2015, and provides guidance to governments

and stakeholders on how to improve food security and nutrition in protracted crises while addressing the underlying causes, towards sustainable and resilient societies by 2030. To rebuild livelihoods and strengthen resilience of populations in protracted crises, it calls for policies and actions to strengthen sustainable local food systems, foster access to productive resources and to markets remunerative and beneficial to smallholders; for inclusive non-discriminatory and sustained access to relevant basic services such as safe drinking water and sanitation; and to respect the existing rights and ability of members of affected or at risk populations to access and use their natural resources.

- **“Empower women and achieve gender equality”**

A world with zero hunger can only be achieved when everyone has equal opportunities, equal access to land (SDG15), water (SDG6), energy (SDG7) and other natural resources, and equal voice in the decisions that shape their own lives, households, communities and societies. Whether policies and programmes involve mainstreaming gender or targeting gender equality, they must address the aspirations and demands of women and men (and girls and boys, as applicable) - not solely their practical needs - so that gender relations shift towards equality and all persons can enjoy food security and nutrition. The 2011 CFS “Gender, Food Security and Nutrition” policy recommendations aim to enhance gender equality, to improve the nutritional status of women, adolescent girls, and children in particular, and eliminate any form of discrimination and violence against women; and require systemic action across policies, plans and programmes, from emergency to development contexts.

- **Achieving both food security and energy security** can be an opportunity as well as a challenge. Addressing the interlinkage between SDG 7 “Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all” and SDG2 calls for considering possible competition between biofuel crops and food crops.

To address possible trade-offs towards sustainable development, all relevant stakeholders in biofuel development should ensure that food security and the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security are priority concerns, with a special focus on women and smallholder producers given their vulnerability. The CFS policy recommendations “Biofuels and food security and nutrition” offer a number of recommendations to Members and stakeholders to guide priority setting and integrated policy programming.

Key Message 2: Sustainable management of natural resources is central to building resilience and addressing climate change effects.

- Accelerate efforts for **sustainable agricultural development, including livestock systems**

The policy recommendations on “Sustainable Agricultural Development for Food Security and Nutrition: What role for livestock?” (CFS 43, 2016) recognize the livelihoods and environmental challenges confronted by different agricultural production systems, with special emphasis on the livestock sector, and calls for their sustainable transformation. They particularly recognize pastoral systems and call for their protection and support as well as for the enhancement of the role of grazing systems, leveraging the potential of livestock as a means for sustainable livelihoods for smallholders, and promoting the sustainability of intensive systems. These recommendations are particularly important to help achieve SDG 12 “Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns” and its targets related to the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources, the reduction of chemical waste released into air, water and soils, the promotion of sustainable practices and lifestyles.

- **Water** availability will become an increasing challenge for global food security and nutrition, as irrigated agriculture is the largest user globally, totalling up to 70 percent global use (with significant difference between countries), some from non-renewable sources<sup>5</sup>. However, ecosystems and landscapes sustain water resources, and forests play a major role in the water cycle, ensuring quantity, quality and stability of water for human use.

Promoting sustainable management and conservation of ecosystems for the continued availability, quality and reliability of water for food security and nutrition is essential, and is key to the achievement of SDG 6 “Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”. The CFS Policy recommendations "Water for food security and nutrition" endorsed in 2015 offer members and stakeholders guidance on how policies can successfully address the water-food security and nutrition nexus, and the linkages between the right to safe drinking water and sanitation and the progressive realization of the right to adequate food, and leverage synergies with other goals.

- Forestry (upcoming)

Key Message 3: “Investing in sustainable food systems should be at the heart of rural and urban transformation”

- **Investing responsibly in agriculture and food systems** can produce multiplier effects for complementary sectors, such as service or manufacturing industries, thus further contributing to food security and nutrition and overall economic development.

The Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (CFS-RAI), endorsed in 2014, provide elements for increasing investments in agriculture and food systems in a sustainable manner.

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<sup>5</sup> HLPE, 2015. Water for Food Security and nutrition. A report by the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security, Rome 2015.

They recognize the vital role of smallholders, providing the bulk of investment and that States play a unique role in fostering an enabling environment for responsible investment in agriculture and food systems, in promoting an enabling policy, legal, regulatory, and institutional environment. The principles are relevant to the achievement of all SDGs under review. To strengthen and secure smallholders' own investment, the Principles recognize that it is also necessary to engage with and promote responsible investment by other stakeholders. States have a key role in enabling, supporting, and complementing investments by smallholders and empowering them to invest responsibly.

- Promote integrated, mutually beneficial **rural transformation and urbanization processes**

A strong gap in the policy architecture relates to the need for policies and research that address inter-sectoral and inter-spatial linkages, to analyse interacting systems and the implications for both rural and urban areas. Such integrated policies are crucial to achieve SDG 11 “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”. Their need will increase further in the near future considering the greater connectivity and interdependence across rural and urban areas, including in the agri-food sector.

Supported by its inclusive and evidence-based processes, CFS will continue working in 2018 on identifying issues calling for greater policy convergence and integration, towards transformations of food systems that link rural and urban areas for their mutual economic, social and environmental benefits.

- **Sustainable food systems for healthy nutrition; healthy nutrition for sustainable food systems**

The effects of economic growth, urbanization, and changes in relative prices of food influence changes in diets and food systems, and lead to an acceleration of the nutritional transition. Because the causes and factors leading to malnutrition in all its forms are complex and multidimensional, and require collective action across sectors and by a broad range of stakeholders, CFS decided to step up its contribution to global efforts under the framework of the UN Decade for Action on Nutrition 2016-2025, and is undertaking work to explore the multiple interactions between nutrition and food systems connecting producers and consumers, towards more sustainable and healthy diets for all, underpinned by sustainable food systems. The work undertaken by CFS is expected to link directly to most targets of SDG 12 “Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns”. CFS will continue working on the issue in 2018-2019 towards concrete policy recommendations.

- **Strengthen policies and investments targeting smallholders**

The CFS policy recommendations on “Investing in smallholder agriculture for food security” (CFS 40: 2013) and “Connecting Smallholders to markets” (CFS 43, 2016) recognize that smallholders supply 70% of overall food production and therefore play an essential role in ensuring food security and nutrition today and in the future. These recommendations, relevant to the achievement of a number of SDGs (including SDG 11 and 12 and 15) call for strengthening targeted policies and investments that address smallholders’ specific constraints and maximize potential for their beneficial access to reliable and remunerative markets. They also call for greater policy attention on local and domestic food markets where 80% of smallholders operate, as these markets, while performing multiple functions beyond commodity exchange, are often overlooked in policy making.

- **Reduce food loss and waste**, towards sustainable food systems

Food Losses and Waste (FLW) impact the sustainability and resilience of agricultural and food systems and their ability to ensure food security and nutrition for all for this generation and for future generations. It is the focus of a direct target of SDG 12 (“By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses”). States and other stakeholders have differentiated roles, and should encourage sustainable patterns of production and consumption, in accordance with national and international human and animal health regulations. CFS policy recommendations on “Food loss and waste in the context of sustainable food systems”, endorsed in 2014, call on all concerned stakeholders to develop effective strategies and innovations, and take steps to reduce food loss and waste.

- Create opportunities for **rural youth**

In many countries and regions with higher rates of poverty and hunger, more than half of the population is currently under 25, with the majority of these young people living in rural areas and settlements, even as migration to cities expands. Addressing constraints to engaging young women and men in smallholder agriculture and related non-farm rural sectors through targeted policy interventions is key to make sure that no one is left behind. Enhancing youth access to productive resources, innovation and new technologies, combined with traditional knowledge, as well as appropriate training (agricultural and financial), education and mentorship programmes will increase their opportunities for decent work and entrepreneurship and promote stable, sustainable and resilient societies in the long-term”.



## Annex 1: CFS Reference documents

<p><b>1. CFS endorsed policy products</b></p> <p>Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (2015)</p> <p>Main CFS products</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security - (VGGT 2012)</li> <li>• Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (CFS-RAI 2014)</li> <li>• Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crisis (CFS-FFA 2015)</li> </ul> <p>Other Policy recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land tenure and international investments in agriculture (CFS 37: 2011)</li> <li>• Price volatility and food security (CFS 37: 2011)</li> <li>• How to increase food security and smallholder sensitive investments in agriculture (CFS 37: 2011)</li> <li>• Food security and climate change (CFS 39: 2012)</li> <li>• Social protection for food security (CFS 39: 2012)</li> <li>• Biofuels and food security (CFS 40: 2013)</li> <li>• Investing in smallholder agriculture for food security (CFS 40: 2013)</li> <li>• Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition (CFS 41, 2014)</li> <li>• Food Losses and Waste in the Context of Sustainable Food Systems (CFS 41, 2014)</li> <li>• Water for Food Security and Nutrition (CFS 42, 2015)</li> <li>• Connecting Smallholders to Markets (CFS 43, 2016)</li> <li>• Sustainable agricultural development for food security and nutrition: what roles for livestock? (CFS 43, 2016)</li> <li>• Sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition (CFS 44, 2017)</li> </ul>	<p><b>2. HLPE independent reports</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HLPE Report #1 Price volatility and food security (CFS 37: 2011)</li> <li>• HLPE Report #2 Land tenure and international investments in agriculture (CFS 37: 2011)</li> <li>• HLPE Report #3 Food security and climate change (CFS 39: 2012)</li> <li>• HLPE Report #4 Social protection for food security (CFS 39: 2012)</li> <li>• HLPE Report #5 Biofuels and food security (CFS 40: 2013)</li> <li>• HLPE Report #6 Investing in smallholder agriculture for food security (CFS 40: 2013)</li> <li>• HLPE Report #7 Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition (CFS 41, 2014)</li> <li>• HLPE Report #8 Food Losses and Waste in the Context of Sustainable Food Systems (CFS 41, 2014)</li> <li>• HLPE Report #9 Water for Food Security and Nutrition (CFS 42, 2015)</li> <li>• HLPE Report #10 Sustainable agricultural development for food security and nutrition: what roles for livestock? (CFS 43, 2016)</li> <li>• HLPE Report #11 Sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition (CFS 44, 2017)</li> <li>• HLPE Notes on Critical and Emerging Issues, 2014 and 2017</li> <li>• HLPE Steering Committee contribution to SDG2 review</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Compilation of experiences resulting from thematic lessons learned events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing the knowledge, skills and talent of youth to further food security and nutrition (CFS 42)</li> <li>• Experiences and good practices in the use and application of the voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security (VGGT) - Summary and key elements (CFS 43)</li> <li>• Outcomes 'From Agreement to Action: learning from the first voluntary national reviews in the HLPF' (CFS 43)</li> </ul>
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