

Workstreams and Activities Updates

*****These updates cover the period since the 23 November 2020 Bureau Meeting*****

1. CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN)

Following endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition at CFS 47 on 10 February 2021, branded versions of the VGFSyN have been prepared by the CFS Secretariat and are available at the following links:

- [English](#)
- [French](#)
- [Spanish](#)
- [Arabic](#)
- [Chinese](#)
- [Russian](#)

The Secretariat is working on a coordination and outreach strategy to guide the promotion and ultimate uptake and implementation of the Guidelines. Further information on this will be provided shortly to the Bureau and the Advisory Group. The Secretariat has produced a [2-page communications document on the Voluntary Guidelines](#) to promote awareness and uptake the Guidelines. The 2-pager has been posted on the CFS website and shared with the UNFSS Secretariat and Mr David Nabarro for further sharing with the Action Tracks and with organizers of national food systems dialogues respectively.

2. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Terms of Reference for “CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls’ Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition (GEWGE)” were formally approved by CFS 47 Plenary on 9 February 2021. Work has now started on the next steps, including setting up the GEWGE Multilateral Trust Fund/493 to support this workstream. The Secretariat is working to prepare a Zero Draft of the Guidelines, drawing on the expertise of a Technical Task Team and others. The Zero Draft of the Voluntary Guidelines will then undergo a process of consultations (e-consultations, regional consultations) in the course of the summer and fall to inform Draft One for review and comments by the OEWG before year’s end. A final draft of the VG-GEWE for formal negotiation is expected to be ready by March 2022, as planned.

3. Data Workstream

CFS-HLPE conducted an e-consultation on the scope of its upcoming report on Data through the FSN Forum. CFS HLPE also issued a call for experts to join the report’s project team. The open call for candidature closed on 28 February 2021, and the Project Team will be appointed in the coming weeks. A Technical Task Team, composed of interested (ad hoc) Advisory Group members, will be formed in April to begin organizing an intersessional event planned for 1 July 2021.

4. Monitoring CFS Policy Recommendations on Water and Climate Change for FSN

A call for experiences in the use and application of two sets of CFS policy recommendations on climate change and water in the context of food security and nutrition was launched in March 2021. The Secretariat, in collaboration with a Technical Task Team composed of interested (ad hoc) Advisory Group members, will utilize the results of this exercise to organize a plenary event during CFS 49 in October 2021.

5. Chairperson's Outreach Activities

The Secretariat continued to support Chair's participation in numerous public events and meetings to advance knowledge of CFS, its multi-stakeholder model, and its policy products. Some of these engagements included:

- A CFS [side event](#) during the German-hosted GFFA virtual event in Berlin in January, featuring an outstanding panel of experts in the areas of water and climate. See [GFFA Communiqué](#) calling for utilization of CFS products
- [Briefing UN Nutrition Chair on the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition](#)
- [Update to the G77 and China Group on the work of CFS](#)
- [Hosted an informal working group of Bureau and Advisory Group members to brainstorm on strengthening the effectiveness of CFS and its products](#)
- [Interview on Thai media](#) on the work of CFS

CFS Chair also strengthened engagement in the Food Systems Summit's preparation, including his active participation in the Summit's Advisory Committee. Meanwhile, the CFS Secretariat is engaged in the five Action Tracks and Champions Network. PSM and CSM have both been formally invited to participate in all five Action Tracks; PSM has accepted and is engaging, while CSM is still considering the offer.

6. CFS 47

CFS 47 was held virtually from 8-11 February at a pivotal moment in the global food security and nutrition policy agenda. Among its many highlights, the UN Secretary-General's message of support for CFS was delivered by the UN Food Systems Summit Special Envoy, followed by personal appearances by the Heads of FAO, IFAD, WFP, along with the CFS Chairperson and the Chairperson of the CFS High Level Panel of Experts (CFS HLPE) Steering Committee.

CFS Members adopted the [CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition](#) – culminating 5+ years of work, and endorsed Terms of Reference for its next major project – CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment. Members also reiterated the importance of CFS's Framework for Action in Protracted Crises, reaffirmed CFS's Program of Work (2020-2023), highlighted its active work to respond to COVID-19, and welcomed 9 new member states. Close to 4,500 participants registered for the Plenary and the 12 official side events. More information, the final plenary report, and all related documents and links are available on the [CFS 47 webpage](#).

7. Communications and Outreach

a) Revamped Website Launched

Following many months of work to refresh the CFS website to better position and promote the work of the Committee, we are pleased to inform you that the revamped website is now live on the same link you have always used: <http://www.fao.org/cfs/en/>. The new-look website is easy to navigate, has simpler access to the CFS "Working Space," and is organized to facilitate access to our many products and resources.

The [French](#) version is already posted, while the Arabic, Chinese, Russian and Spanish versions will be finalized in the coming days. If you have comments/feedback, please share them with us at cfs@fao.org.

b) Twitter Chat on the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition

The Secretariat organized a [Twitter chat on the VGFSYN](#) on 3 March 2021 with Ambassador Hans Hoogeveen and Nancy Aburto, Deputy Director of FAO's Food and Nutrition Division. In the first two days, the chat generated 58,907 impressions* and 1,260 engagements** which is higher than usual reach and engagement for CFS tweets.

* impressions are the amount of views on a tweet

** engagements are likes, retweets, profile clicks or any other interactions with a tweet