

## CFS 50 SIDE EVENTS GUIDANCE NOTE

### THEMATIC FOCUS, SCENARIOS AND CRITERIA

#### 1. BACKGROUND

The 50th plenary session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS 50) will be held from 10 to 13 October 2022 in a 'hybrid' format. A provisional [Timetable](#) and [Agenda](#) are available on the [CFS 50 web-page](#). In addition to the formal plenary sessions, CFS invites its Members, Participants and other global food security and nutrition stakeholders to apply for the **32** available side event spaces. Side event applications will be selected from among applications received before the formal **deadline of 15 July** by the CFS Chairperson. They will be convened virtually (with few exceptions) over the 4 days of plenary - during mornings, mid-day, and the late afternoon periods. These 75-minute side events are intended to enrich and complement the CFS 50 Plenary sessions by highlighting work of relevance to the vision and mandate of CFS, especially where CFS policy guidelines and frameworks are being effectively utilized to foster partnerships for advancing the 2030 Agenda - in particular, SDG-2.

#### 2. THEMATIC FOCUS AND SOLICITATION

Of the 32 approved side events, a certain portion will reflect the major issues and/or topics that are contained within the [CFS 2020-2023 Multi-Year Program of Work \(MYPoW\)](#), while others will include the launch of significant studies or reports by partners which relate to the CFS mandate and vision, with others reflecting key issues and topics of relevance to CFS that emerged from the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit – including Coalitions that are closely aligned with CFS's major policy tools and the reports by the CFS High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE). At least one side event will address the nexus of science policy interfaces and coordination efforts intended to foster and facilitate more collaborative work around science, data, research and sustainable food production.

#### 3. CRITERIA, GUIDANCE AND CONDITIONS

The CFS-50 side events will be reviewed and selected using the following criteria:

1. Side Events must be relevant to CFS's vision and mandate; ideally, the core theme and strategic objective of the event should be relevant to the core topics and issues that are contained within the [CFS 2020-2023 Multi-Year Program of Work \(MYPoW\)](#), or previous policy products that remain especially relevant to the SDGs and 2030 Agenda.
2. Priority will be given to applications that reflect the CFS multi-stakeholder model and that include a variety of CFS constituencies. Issues such as gender parity among speakers and panellists, diverse geographic representation, and youth presence will be positively considered.
3. Side Events should maximize interactivity with a minimum of 30%-50% of the total time allocated for interaction with the audience. A maximum of 5-6 speakers including co-chairs is recommended.

4. In the event that two or more side event applications are received on a similar theme, organizers may be asked to consider merging their proposals. Such a request to merge is not obligatory, but may positively increase the prospects for its selection.
5. While interpretation in FAO's official languages (English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian and/or Chinese) is not mandatory (and entails set costs charged by FAO), utilizing interpretation to maximize inclusiveness may also positively affect final selection decisions.
6. Following each side event, organizers must prepare a 500-word summary regarding outcomes and key observations from the event, within two weeks of CFS 50. These summaries will be posted on the CFS 50 side events webpage in their original languages. Failure to submit such a summary by the deadline may be detrimental to future side event application decisions.