

## Workstreams and Activities Updates

**\*\*\*These updates cover the period since the 29 July 2022 CFS Bureau Meeting\*\*\***

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### **1. Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment**

A third round of formal negotiations on draft “*Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls’ Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition*” was convened at FAO HQ from 25 to 28 July 2022.

Work on the Guidelines has been ongoing for more than two years through an Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) led by Co-Chairs selected from among the CFS Membership, as foreseen as an important component of the approved CFS Multi-Year Program of Work (2020-2023). This inclusive and multi-stakeholder process has included several meetings of the OEWG, six regional consultations, an electronic consultation, and three week-long negotiation sessions. During the third round, despite consensus achieved on many portions of the text, the OEWG was unable to reach a final agreement during the third round of scheduled negotiations. A [Co-Chairs’ final summary](#) and a [statement from the CFS Chair](#) was circulated/posted on 29 August.

Following the July negotiation session, the CFS Chairperson has been conducting consultations with Member delegations and other stakeholders to identify common ground by which agreement on draft Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women and Girls’ Empowerment might be reached, as foreseen by the CFS Multi-Year Program of Work adopted by CFS Plenary in 2019. The CFS Bureau will discuss the topic at its meetings of 26/27 September.

### **2. Data collection and data analysis tools for food security and nutrition**

A public launch event of the CFS HLPE-FSN report #17 on ‘*Data collection and data analysis tools for food security and nutrition*’ was held on 16 September 2022, at FAO Headquarters in Rome, from 2:30 to 5:00 PM. Links to the recording and presentations can be found on the CFS HLPE-FSN public website.

The policy convergence process will officially start at CFS 50 plenary on 11 October 2022. Nomination of a ‘Rapporteur’ from among CFS Members is expected to be confirmed by the CFS Bureau at its meeting of 27 September.

### **3. Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches (AOIA)**

On 8 September, the Secretariat held a second meeting of its ‘Core Group’ of active partners who are helping the Secretariat promote awareness, uptake, and utilization of the CFS

“Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches.” The group heard updates from the Secretariat on its ongoing efforts to promote the Recommendations, a briefing by FAO’s Chief Scientist on FAO’s new Science and Innovation Strategy, as well as updates from the coordinators of the Agroecology Coalition and other institutional partners.

The Secretariat’s informal ‘Core Groups’ (presently two - one on VGFSN; another on Innovative Approaches) is the Secretariat’s internal effort to ensure regular secretariat exchange with key implementing organizations who can assist in amplifying and promoting our policy products among their networks and projects/programs. In addition to Secretariat updates on our own communication/outreach efforts, these quarterly meetings also provide informal feedback from CFS partners on how/where our policy tools are being used, and where further opportunities exist for additional promotion and awareness-raising. The Secretariat intends to share feedback on results of this internal initiative via a future briefing to the Bureau and (ad hoc) Advisory Group.

#### **4. High-Level Special Event “Time to Act Together: Coordinating Policy Responses to the Global Food Crisis”**

On 18 July 2022, the President of the General Assembly and the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) co-convened a High-Level Special Event at UN Headquarters in New York, USA to foster coordinated global policy responses to the current global food crisis supported by – and in support of – the UN Secretary-General’s Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy, and Finance. The event featured a number of high-level speakers, including the UN Secretary-General António Guterres, Mia Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados, and Pedro Sánchez, Prime Minister of Spain, among others. Statements, recordings and presentations are available on the [CFS Website](#). A joint Co-Chairs Summary of the event has been issued and can be accessed [here](#).

#### **5. CFS 50 Drafting Committee**

CFS Plenary will officially appoint the Drafting Committee at the opening session on 10 October 2022, the first day of the plenary.

In line with past practice, a request has been sent by the CFS Chair to Bureau members and Chairpersons of the FAO Regional Groups to submit their nominations for the members and the Chairperson of the CFS50 Drafting Committee by 19 September to [cfs@fao.org](mailto:cfs@fao.org).

Early identification of Drafting Committee Members and a Chairperson will permit the CFS Secretariat to organize an informal briefing in early October which, in the past, has proven to facilitate the work of the Drafting Committee.

At CFS 50, there will be only one session of the Drafting Committee that will take place in the evening of Wednesday 12 October.

## **6. High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (CFS HLPE-FSN)**

In addition to the launch of the HLPE-FSN report #17 (see above under ‘Data collection and data analysis tools for food security and nutrition’), the first in-person drafting meeting for the HLPE-FSN report #18 on inequalities will be held in Wokingham (England, UK) from 23 to 25 September.

Additionally, the launch of the HLPE-FSN’s Note on Critical, Emerging and Enduring Issues will be on 30 September. Invitations and registration information will be shared soon.

HLPE-FSN Steering Committee members will also meet next month from 17 to 21 October. During the same period, HLPE-FSN Steering Committee members will participate in FAO’s Science and Innovation Forum scheduled that same week.

## **7. Chairperson’s Engagements**

From 5 to 9 September, CFS Chair travelled to Kigali, Rwanda to participate in the annual AGRF Summit 2022. The theme this year was “Grow. Nourish. Reward – Bold Actions for Resilient Food Systems”. On the margins of the Summit, he met with several Ministers, with the African Union Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment and other stakeholders to discuss how CFS can advance sustainable, inclusive and prosperous food systems that advance food security and nutrition.

From 19 to 22 September, CFS Chair will travel to New York for the 77<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the UN invited to participate at the Heads of State and Government *Global Food Security Summit* taking place in the margins of the UNGA, co-convened by the African Union, the European Union, the United States and Spain as co-sponsors of the Leaders’ Network “Reinforcing Multilateralism Together”. He will also be speaking at parallel events and will have several bilateral meetings.

A dedicated [webpage](#) has been created on the CFS website featuring statements, remarks and speeches by the CFS Chair.

## **8. Communications, Events and Outreach**

A joint Op-Ed by CFS Chair and the 76<sup>th</sup> President of the UN General Assembly, Abdulla Shahid, was published on 3 August 2022 on Al-Jazeera. The Op-Ed is available [here](#).

Following the call for CFS 50 Side Events, the CFS Secretariat received close to 90 side event applications. Out of these applications, the CFS Chair selected 32 side events to complement the plenary discussions in October. The full schedule of CFS 50 side events can be accessed



[here](#). The registration links for the side events will soon be made available on the CFS 50 website.

CFS launched its “People’s voices” video series, featuring testimonials by people highlighting their everyday work including using CFS Policy guidance and platform. Kicked off as part of the high level event by PGA and CFS, first edition features voices on ongoing global food crisis. These video statements were kindly provided by CFS stakeholders, including the Civil Society and Indigenous People’s Mechanism (CSIPM), the Private Sector Mechanism (CSM), the Scaling-up for Nutrition (SUN) Movement, the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP), and the World Farmers' Organisation (WFO). All People’s voices videos can be accessed [here](#).