

Dear Mr. Muriithi,

Thank you for acting as Rapporteur to lead the preparation of the CFS contribution to the HLPF. I am providing you with my inputs below.

I – Proposed key messages for inclusion in the 2022 HLPF Ministerial Declaration

I propose to integrate references to the *CFS Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security* (para. 3.7, 14.1, 14.6), and the *Voluntary Guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries, and forests in the context of national food security*. Both these Guidelines are extremely relevant to articulate the response to the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.

More specifically, I suggest either adding a new bullet point or incorporating these as references at the end of the bullet points 1 or 5 (for Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Food) and at the end of the bullet point 2 (for the Voluntary Guidelines on Tenure).

Drawing from lessons of the 2007 food crisis, we should urge States to promote the safeguarding of legitimate tenure rights against threats and infringements, in order to reduce local food system destabilization and supply disruptions caused by the pandemic, as well as the risk of rising large-scale land acquisition and displacement of small food producers. (Source: Voluntary Guidelines on Tenure para. 3.1).

II - CFS assessment of the situation regarding the principle of “leaving no one behind” against the background of the COVID-19 pandemic

Based on my experience and discussions with various stakeholders, I would like to make brief suggestions below:

- Further consideration is needed regarding the impact of Covid-19 on groups who are at risk or in vulnerable situations, including those who have been made more vulnerable by the pandemic. Even though food and agricultural workers and producers were regarded as essential, they were often treated as expendable. Lack of adequate social and safety

protection measures combined with restrictions of movements have had a disproportionate impact on migrants and refugees, small scale and smallholder farmers, pastoralists, small scale fisheries, food and agricultural workers, women, and Indigenous peoples. Those in the informal sector that lost their jobs or livelihoods were hardest hit since they did not have access to social security measures. Unprotected workers are disproportionately exposed to the virus as they do not have access to paid or sick leave mechanisms. OHCHR and other UN entities have called for urgent steps to address food insecurity for the poorest and most marginalized segments of the population.

- The closure of schools, the disruption of businesses and markets, and the spread of the virus in elder care facilities have led to increased inequality and food insecurity. The [ILO](#) has highlighted how this is acutely affecting those with underlying health conditions, older persons, and young people already facing unemployment. To address these issues requires more emphasis on the ensuing crisis of care, especially since women are often bearing disproportionate increases in care work.

- The CFS 49 decided to mainstream attention to the impact of Covid-19 throughout its workstreams. At the same time, the General Assembly in its resolution 76/166 requested that I, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, report on the impact of Covid-19 on the realization of the right to food.

- On 30 September 2021 a seminar was organized on 'Adopting Globally Coordinated Policy Guidance regarding Impacts of COVID-19 on Food Security and Nutrition' co-sponsored by WHO, ILO, OHCHR, HLPE, IPES-Food, representatives of Mali, the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples Mechanism, and myself. The seminar heard how countries that suffer from debt and dependency on food imports are particularly affected by the deleterious effects of COVID-19.