

Executive summary

In line with its first strategic objective, CFS will leverage its convening power to bring together key stakeholders to discuss policy responses to the multiple dimensions of the global food crisis. To this end, CFS proposes to convene a series of thematic substantive sessions, with the technical support of relevant UN bodies. Each session will provide inputs into the CFS 51 Ministerial Segment on *Coordinating Policy Responses to the Global Food Crisis – The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World*, including through an expected preparatory High Level Special Event

Background

The compounding challenges of supply chain disruptions, climate change related shocks, impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, financial tightening through rising interest rates, debts and inflation, and conflicts including the year-old war in Ukraine have resulted in what the UN Secretary-General's Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance (GCRG) has described as once-in-a-generation cost-of-living crisis that has affected governments, communities and households. As a result, the world is witnessing unprecedented levels of hunger, malnutrition and poverty, undermining efforts to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) while further exacerbating inequalities.

CFS through its global intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder platform can play a key role in strengthening collaborative action among governments, regional organizations, international organizations and agencies, NGOs, CSOs, food producers' organizations, private sector organizations, philanthropic organizations, and other relevant stakeholders, in a manner that is supportive of countries' efforts, in alignment with each country's specific context and needs.

In working towards this aim, CFS and the 76th President of the General Assembly co-convened a High-Level Special Event to foster coordinated global policy responses to the current food crisis in New York on 18 July 2022, supported by and in support of GCRG. Discussions on coordinating policy responses to the multiple dimensions of the global food crisis also took place in substantive segments of the CFS Bureau and Advisory Group meetings throughout the year and at the High-Level Ministerial Segment of the 50th Plenary Session of CFS in October 2022.

These discussions resulted in the identification of **six** core elements of integrated responses to the crisis at the global, regional, country and local levels:

1. Step up humanitarian response, in all humanitarian crises.
2. Stabilize markets and prices, and avoid unnecessary trade barriers and restrictions.
3. Support and protect smallholder and family farmers, cooperatives and SMEs, encouraging increased local production and consumption, while reducing food loss and food waste.
4. Restore the availability and affordability of inputs including fertilizers, coupled with increased efficiency, unleashing the full potential of agroecology and other innovative approaches.

5. Reinforce and expand nutrition-sensitive social protection floors/systems.
6. Equip countries with the financial resources, fiscal space and funds needed.

Substantive Thematic Sessions

At CFS 50, the Committee called on leveraging the convening power of CFS to strengthen coordinated global policy responses to the multiple dimensions of the global food crisis, including through, but not limited to, regular discussions on substantive issues that affect the global food security crisis in the agendas of Bureau and Advisory Group meetings, as well as the continued engagement of the CFS Chairperson, HLPE-FSN, Secretariat and autonomous mechanisms of CFS within the GCRG.

In follow up to this commitment, CFS Chairperson proposes to convene a number of substantive thematic sessions - either standalone or as part of already planned events and initiatives - to enhance policy coordination in response to the global food crisis around priority action areas. The proposed expected outcomes of the sessions are:

1. Comprehensive understanding of the integrated policy responses needed at all levels that are country-focused and that prioritize the most affected people and communities.
2. Enhanced coordination, coherence and convergence of responses to the crisis, seeking the adequate connection and synergies between short-term urgent interventions with food systems transformation and resilience efforts.

The Substantive Thematic Sessions outcomes will converge at a High Level Special Event (date and venue TBC), where a synthesis report will be debated.

The final synthesis report prepared by the Chairperson will input CFS 51 Plenary.

Sessions Format and Approach

The guidance, advice and support of the CFS Bureau and Advisory Group is sought in the design, preparation and convening of the sessions to achieve the desired outcomes. Specific areas for discussion at this Bureau and Advisory Group meeting include:

1. Prioritization of issues and topics to be covered and number of sessions
2. Existing initiatives and key global moments and events that could be leveraged to convene the sessions and maximize synergies
3. Nature of sessions outputs and their contribution to shaping the CFS 51 Ministerial Segment
4. Identification of key partners including Members, UN bodies and other stakeholders for each session