

# Fifty-first session

## Making a difference in food security and nutrition

### 23 – 27 October 2023

### Guide to CFS 51

#### WELCOME TO CFS 51

Welcome to the fifty-first plenary session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS 51), taking place between **23 and 27 October 2023** in a hybrid format in Rome, Italy.

The Plenary will begin with a high-level opening ceremony and a discussion on strengthening coordinated policy responses to the food crises, which will consider the latest edition of the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report. Following this, the Plenary will explore global interlinkages with other key moments that relate to global food security and nutrition, including the 2023 United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Summit, UN Food Systems Summit Stocktaking Moment 2023, and the 2024 Summit of the Future as well as the twenty-seventh (COP27) and twenty-eighth (COP28) Conferences of the Parties (COP) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

In addition, CFS Plenary is set to endorse the following three documents: the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition, Policy Recommendations on Strengthening Food Security and Nutrition Data Collection and Analysis Tools for Food Security and Nutrition, and the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) 2024-2027. The Plenary will further feature two stocktaking sessions: a presentation of the progress on the follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) and a global thematic event on the monitoring of the two Policy Recommendations on Price Volatility and Food Security and on Social Protection for Food Security and Nutrition.

Finally, the CFS Plenary will elect a new CFS Chairperson who will commence their two-year term following the end of CFS 51.

#### CFS 51 LOGISTICS

**Dates and format:** Monday, 23 October – Friday, 27 October 2023. Plenary to be held in hybrid format and side events in either hybrid format or for in-person participation only. See last page for more details on planned 36 side events.

**Morning plenary:** 10:00 – 13:00 (Rome time).

**Afternoon plenary:** 15:00 – 18:00 (Rome time).

**Evening plenary session on Monday:** 18:00 – 21:00 (Rome time).

**Drafting Committee:** Thursday, 18:30. Room location, FAO HQ, TBC.

**Hosting:** CFS 51 will be organized in a hybrid format with selected high-level speakers, Members and Participants attending in person at FAO Headquarters in Rome, with other participants joining virtually via ZOOM ('Meeting' format). The Plenary sessions will also be available via webcast.

**Participation and languages:** CFS 51 is open to all Members of the Committee, Participants and Observers. Its formal plenary sessions will be conducted in all FAO languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish).

**High-level participation:** Member delegations are strongly encouraged to include High-level participants such as a Minister, Vice Minister of State Secretary (or equivalent) and inform the CFS Secretariat by **29 September 2023**, to be afforded priority protocol consideration on the Speakers' List.

**Registration for Member and Non-Member states:** Diplomatic representatives designated to attend the CFS 51 must register online using their protected password reserved for FAO Permanent Representatives at <https://www.fao.org/members-gateway/home/en/> before **29 September 2023**. Instructions for online registration can be downloaded from the FAO Members' Gateway.

**Registration for other Stakeholders:** Participants and Observers designated to attend the 51st Session of CFS should send an email to [CFS51-Registration@fao.org](mailto:CFS51-Registration@fao.org) by **29 September 2023** indicating names and last names, organization, official title, address, and email address. Personalized links to access the virtual meeting will be made available upon receipt of the above information.

**Timekeeping:** CFS 51 provides an opportunity for meaningful dialogue and interaction. Delegates are asked to keep their interventions succinct (three minutes or less) and relevant to the item under discussion. Ministers or regional representatives will be afforded five minutes for statements, as per usual CFS practice. Lengthy formal statements are strongly discouraged. Prior to the start of a session, delegate statements should be emailed to [CFS-Communications@fao.org](mailto:CFS-Communications@fao.org) for forwarding to FAO's Conference Services interpreters. All statements and presentations received from session speakers will be posted on the CFS 51 webpage (in their original language).

**Enquiries:** Please contact the CFS Secretariat at [cfs@fao.org](mailto:cfs@fao.org).

**More information:** Please visit the [CFS 51 webpage](#) where latest news, documents and updates will be posted.

## I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS (for information and for decision)

The Membership of the Committee will be confirmed, the CFS 51 Provisional Agenda and Timetable adopted, and the Drafting Committee appointed.

### Background documents:

- CFS 2023/51/XX – CFS 51 Provisional Agenda
- CFS 2023/51/XX – CFS 51 Provisional Timetable
- CFS 2023/51/XX /Inf.XX – Guide to CFS 51 (this document)
- CFS 2023/51/XX /Inf.XX – Membership List
- CFS 2023/51/XX – Guide to the Preparation of the CFS 51 Final Report

## II. HIGH-LEVEL OPENING CEREMONY (for information)

The CFS Ministerial Segment at CFS 51 will open with statements by the following individuals, or their delegates (whose statements will be posted on the CFS 51 Statements webpage):

- The UN Secretary-General;
- The President of the General Assembly;
- The President of ECOSOC;
- The Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO);
- The President, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD);
- The Executive Director, World Food Programme (WFP);
- The Chair of the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE-FSN) Steering Committee; and
- The CFS Chairperson.

## III. STRENGTHENING COORDINATED POLICY RESPONSES TO THE FOOD CRISIS - THE STATE OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE WORLD 2023 (for information and discussion)

[Placeholder for SOFI 2023 figures and key messages]

### **Session Rollout:**

Following a presentation of the 2023 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report, the Committee will engage in a High-Level Debate on coordinated policy responses to the global food crisis and on advancing food systems transformation for the achievement of food security and nutrition and the Right to Adequate Food, including the role of trade. The session will include the voices of the most affected as well as national statements. High-level heads of delegation will be secured a space to intervene.

Item III will continue to be discussed on Tuesday morning as a parallel session to the one taking place in the Plenary Hall, to offer the space to delegates who were not able to intervene on Monday 23 October to deliver their national statements.

The outcomes of the session will be captured [placeholder pending final decision of the Bureau on 23 May]

**Guiding questions:** [placeholder]

**Background documents:**

- CFS 2023/51/Inf.XX – The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023 Report

#### IV. GLOBAL 'INTERLINKAGES' DIALOGUES (for information and discussion)

This 90-minute session will touch on the 2023 UN SDG Summit, reflect on the UN Food Systems Summit Stocktaking Moment 2023 and consider the potential of the 2024 Summit of the Future. The segment will explore high-level interventions from the host governments of COP 27 (Egypt) and COP 28 (UAE), addressing the intersection of food systems with climate change. Dialogue on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), resulting from COP 15 in 2022, will further explore how preserving biodiversity in support of resilient food systems can contribute to global food security and nutrition goals.

- Session Rollout - TBD
- Background document - N/R

#### V. EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS AND PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY: ENDORSEMENT AND UPTAKE OF THE CFS VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT (GEWE) IN THE CONTEXT OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION (for decision)

The final version of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls Empowerment (GEWE) in the context of Food Security and Nutrition, resulting from an inclusive multi-stakeholder negotiation process within an Open-Ended Working Group, will be presented for consideration and endorsement by CFS Plenary.

The session will also represent an opportunity for a discussion on the highlights of the most significant elements of the draft text, and the opportunities presented for advancing and accelerating the uptake and implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines at global, regional, country, and local levels.

**Session Rollout:**

- Presentation of the final draft of the Guidelines by XXX
- Keynote remarks by XXX
- Interventions from the floor

**Background documents:**

- CFS 2023/51/XX – CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls’ Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition
- CFS 2023/51/XX – CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls’ Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition – Draft Decision

## VI. LEVERAGING THE USE OF DATA FOR DRIVING FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION POLICY: ENDORSEMENT AND UPTAKE OF THE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ON STRENGTHENING FSN DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS TOOLS FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION (for decision)

Following the release of a dedicated report by CFS High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE-FSN) in 2022, and multi-stakeholder consultations and negotiations in 2022 and 2023, this session expects to seek plenary endorsement of the CFS Policy Recommendations on Strengthening Food Security and Nutrition Data Collection and Analysis Tools for Food Security and Nutrition.

This session will also provide an opportunity for CFS stakeholders to share ideas and proposals on how to promote dissemination, use and application of the policy recommendations at all levels. This will contribute to strengthening the production, analysis, dissemination and use of food security and nutrition data and statistics that are key to inform local, national and global actions that promote food security and better nutrition.

**Session Rollout:**

- Presentation of the final draft of the policy recommendations by Mr Anthony Murithii (Kenya), Rapporteur of the CFS Data Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG)
- Endorsement of the policy recommendations
  - Keynote remarks by XXX
- Interventions from the floor.

At the end of the session, a draft decision will be presented for discussion and endorsement by Plenary.

**Background Documents:**

- CFS 2023/51/X – CFS Policy Recommendations on STRENGTHENING FSN DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS TOOLS FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION
- CFS 2023/51/X – CFS Policy Recommendations on STRENGTHENING FSN DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS TOOLS FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION – Draft

## VII. ADDRESSING MULTIPLE DIMENSIONS OF INEQUALITIES: REDUCING INEQUALITIES FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION (for discussion)

This agenda item marks the beginning of the CFS policy convergence process on Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition. The objectives of this session are to provide plenary with an opportunity to discuss the relevant policy findings of the HLPE Report on “Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition” and give guidance on the issues to be addressed in the development of CFS Policy Recommendations on this topic.

### **Session Rollout:**

This agenda item will be divided into two parts:

#### **Part 1:**

- The Chairperson of the CFS HLPE-FSN Steering Committee, Mr Bernard Lehmann, will introduce the HLPE report.
- The HLPE-FSN Project Team Leader, Mr Bhavani Shankar, will present an overview of the main findings and recommendations of the HLPE-FSN Report, focusing on implications for the upcoming CFS policy convergence process.

#### **Part 2:**

Delegates will have an opportunity to ask questions on the findings and the recommendations of the report. Delegates are encouraged to share their views on the basis of the following guiding questions:

1. What are the priority policy areas to be addressed by the CFS policy convergence process?
2. How inequalities within agriculture and food systems (e.g., income inequalities, unequal access to and control over assets, etc.) impede opportunities for many actors to overcome food insecurity and malnutrition.
3. Are there any relevant initiatives and experiences on reducing inequalities for food security and nutrition that CFS can build upon?

At the end of the session, draft conclusions will be presented for discussion and agreement.

### **Background Documents:**

- CFS 2023/51/XX – Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition – Draft Conclusions
- CFS 2023/51/Inf.XX – HLPE-FSN Report (2023) on Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition

## VIII. CFS STRATEGIC DIRECTION TOWARD 2030: THE MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK (MYPoW) 2024-2027 (for decision)

This session, moderated by the CFS Chairperson, will conclude a year-round process which started with consultations at CFS50 on critical, emerging and enduring issues for food security and nutrition, and-continued in the context of Open Meetings and Bureau and Advisory Group meetings throughout the intersessional period.

**Session Rollout:**

The CFS Chairperson will present the 2024-2027 CFS MYPoW and related Draft Decision for endorsement by the Committee. Following endorsement, the CFS Chair will invite interventions based on the following guiding questions:

1. How does your constituency plan to actively engage in various MYPoW activities to maximize - from the outset - impact at country and regional level?
2. The effective implementation of the CFS thematic workstreams will require broader partnerships with relevant actors for each of the thematic areas. Who should CFS engage with at the global/regional/national level?

**Background documents:**

- CFS 2023/51/XX – CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) 2024-2027
- CFS 2023/51/XX – CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) 2024-2027 – Draft Decision
- CFS 2023/51/Inf.XX – CFS Annual Progress Report 2023

## IX. PROGRESS REPORT ON FOLLOW-UP TO THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NUTRITION (ICN2)

This section will consist of:

- Presentations by representatives from FAO and WHO on the progress made in following up on ICN2 commitments and in implementing the Decade of Action on Nutrition, including the development and implementation of the Decade's Work Programme.

At the end of the session, draft conclusions will be presented for discussion and agreement.

**Background documents:**

- CFS 2023/51/XX – Progress report on follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) – Draft Conclusions
- CFS 2023/51/Inf.XX – Progress report on follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2)

## X. MONITORING CFS POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ON PRICE VOLATILITY AND FOOD SECURITY AND ON SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION (for information and discussion)

At a time of unprecedented threats to food security and nutrition and with a world economy that seems more uncertain and volatile than ever before, the current global food crisis is affecting food security at all levels, with the most vulnerable being hit the hardest. Price volatility is a major challenge of this crisis, which affects welfare and food security. In this context, social protection mechanisms and programs receive particular attention as a means to mitigate vulnerability and tackle food insecurity and hunger for households and individuals. They can be considered an

instrument that helps to address the issue of price volatility, contributing to the achievement of SDG 2 on Zero Hunger.

“Food security is a complex multidimensional issue and a national responsibility” (HLPE-FSN#1, 2011). To move towards the transformation to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agriculture and food systems for better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life – in line with the FAO’s Strategic Framework 2022-31 – it is necessary to reduce, manage and cope with multiple shocks and stresses, including addressing food price volatility and strengthening social protection systems to achieve food security and nutrition for all.

This CFS 51 monitoring event will take stock of the uptake of two sets of CFS policy recommendations: on [Price Volatility and Food Security](#) (endorsed in 2011, CFS37), and on [Social Protection for Food Security & Nutrition](#) (endorsed in 2012, CFS 39). These two sets of policy recommendations identify a series of *action points* targeted to governments and all relevant stakeholders to address the structural causes of food price volatility and ensure that its impact do not undermine producers and consumers’ right to food; and to design and implement, or strengthen, social protection systems for food security and nutrition, respectively.

The event is informed by the documented experiences and good practices of a broad range of stakeholders in the use and application of these CFS policy recommendations, and will contribute to monitoring progress in implementing these two sets of recommendations at global, regional and national levels.

#### **Session Rollout: TBD**

#### **Background documents:**

- CFS 2023/51/Inf.XX – Monitoring CFS Policy Recommendations on Price Volatility and Food Security and on Social Protection for Food Security and Nutrition: *Secretariat's analysis of the contributions received*
- CFS 2023/51/Inf.XX – CFS Policy Recommendations on Price Volatility and Food Security, endorsed at CFS 37 in 2011
- CFS 2023/51/Inf.XX – CFS Policy Recommendations on Social Protection for Food Security and Nutrition, endorsed at CFS 39 in 2012

#### **Guiding questions:**

- What are the key experiences and best practices in applying the policy recommendations from the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) on Price Volatility and Food Security, as well as Social Protection for Food Security and Nutrition? How/have these recommendations been used to address the underlying causes of food price volatility and strengthen social protection systems for food security?
- How have these two sets of policy recommendations been adapted to meet the specific needs of populations facing food insecurity in different contexts?
- What are the most prominent constraints and challenges in applying these policy recommendations to enhance the resilience of the most vulnerable populations?



- Considering the current global food crisis, are these policy recommendations relevant today in achieving food security and nutrition for all while advancing towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

## XI. OTHER MATTERS (for decision)

During this item, a new CFS Chairperson will be elected, and new Bureau Members and their Alternates will be presented for decision. Arrangements for the CFS 52 Plenary Session in October 2024 will be discussed. The CFS 51 Final Report, as presented by the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee, will also be adopted (advanced electronic copies of the Final Report will be made available during the early afternoon of Friday 27 October 2023).

### **Background documents:**

- CFS 2023/51/Inf.XX – Election of the CFS Chairperson

## NOTE ON SIDE EVENTS

To enrich and complement the CFS 51 Plenary and give partners and other stakeholders an opportunity to highlight their work, CFS invites its Members, Participants and other global food security and nutrition stakeholders to apply for 36 side event spaces – four side events per side event slot:

- Monday from 8:30 to 9:45 Rome time
- Tuesday to Friday from 8:30 to 9:45 and 13:30 to 14:45 Rome time

Side event applications will be selected by the CFS Chairperson from among applications received by the formal deadline of 16 June 2023. A full schedule of all side events is available on the [CFS 51 webpage](#).

For questions on the CFS 51 side events, contact the CFS Secretariat: [CFS-side-events@fao.org](mailto:CFS-side-events@fao.org)