



BILL & MELINDA
GATES *foundation*



5 June 2023

Distinguished Chairperson,

In light of your efforts to widen and deepen the participation at the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), we are pleased to update you on our progress to establish the Philanthropic Foundations Mechanism for Relations with the CFS. In the past months, we have made efforts to address the comments raised by Members in the informal meetings of 2022 and at our side-event at the CFS50 and have continued to develop the Mechanism. We would like to bring your attention to a few highlights:

1. We have been pleased to note that Members have welcomed our proposal, and have requested more explicit transparency, safeguards and accountability mechanisms to be set up by the PFM. We have therefore developed a website (<https://pfm-cfs.org>) and created an institutional email (cfs.pfm@gmail.com) to facilitate and encourage transparency and accountability of PFM actions. We will use this website to upload all our contributions, including statements, reports, information on side-events, contact details, etc.;
2. We will organize an Annual Review, after the 2023 CFS plenary, to assess the PFM's performance, achievements, and identify areas of improvement;
3. We reiterate that the membership to the PFM is open to interested foundations. We are currently initiating an internal discussion on which principles and basic criteria could be used to identify and attract other foundations to join the PFM. We reiterate the intention to work only with foundations who do not have commercial interests in the outcomes of their giving, and we are developing protocols (e.g., based on the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems) to ensure this;
4. As expressed in previous occasions, we believe that the plural characteristic of the PFM - a network of 60+ foundations, with diverse perspectives - widens the representation of philanthropic voices at the CFS. We believe this plurality creates checks and balances between the foundations and achieves a better representation of the philanthropic community.

Finally, we are excited to inform you that after an open search process, Ludovica Donati (ludodonati@gmail.com) joined us in May 2023 as the Liaison Advisor for the PFM, supporting our presence alongside other consultants in Rome. Ludovica will assist the three philanthropic organizations currently part of the PFM to coordinate their activities, facilitate inputs to negotiations, and engage interested philanthropic foundations in the work of the CFS. We would appreciate if Ms. Donati's email is added to the distribution list of Bureau and Advisory Group group meetings, whenever we are invited.

We would welcome an opportunity to present this progress in a future Bureau and Advisory Group meeting. To share this information with CFS Members would be an important opportunity to update the CFS community about our engagement with the crucial work of the CFS.

Sincerely,

Lauren Baker, on behalf of the Global Alliance for the Future of Food, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Agroecology Fund

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