CFS POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS on STRENGTHENING FSN DATA COLLECTION and ANALYSIS TOOLS for FOOD SECURITY and NUTRITION

DRAFT OUTLINE (31 January 2023)

1. *Definition, Rationale and Scope*

This section will give a definition of Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) data – at a minimum, what is meant by FSN data in the context of this document. The definition will recognize that not only relevant for FSN is data providing information on the dimensions of food security and nutrition (availability, access, utilization, stability, agency and sustainability), but also, for example, data on the determinants or drivers of FSN, or data on the dimensions of sustainability of food systems.

This section will also provide a rationale for this document, including an overview of the status of the collection, analysis, dissemination and use of FSN data. The overview of the status will highlight the following aspects:

1. Extensive FSN data already exists - at least to measure some dimensions of food (in)security - although they exhibit varying degrees of quality and granularity, and they are either inaccessible or not properly utilized for decision-making on FSN.

2. At the same time, there are critical gaps on FSN data (e.g. geographical/thematic/sectorial). These need to be addressed by increasing and sustaining investments, while re-purposing current data-related investments in a more strategic manner.

3. There is an urgent need to better coordinate among FSN data producers and users, in order to harmonize, standardize and improve the quality of FSN data and statistics, while creating synergy and avoiding duplication of efforts.

4. Particularly resource poor countries need financial and technical support, and capacity development, to improve their capacities in generation of quality data, analysis and use for decision-making.

5. Establishing or strengthening FSN data governance would promote better use of data for improving food security and nutrition while mitigating the risks associated with the lack of a formal data governance framework on FSN data.

Lastly, this section will underscore the scope for the document, which, in line with the approved CFS MYPoW, is to provide specific and actionable voluntary policy recommendations for

strengthening the capacities of actors involved in the collection, analysis, dissemination and the use of FSN data.

2. *Create greater awareness and greater demand for better use of FSN data in decision-making*

This section will provide recommendations on how to promote decision-making for FSN, which is better informed by FSN data and evidence. Specifically, this section will give guidance on how to create greater awareness of FSN data, and increased demand for the use of FSN data in decision-making, among governments, policy-makers and donors. It will also promote a broader data and information analytic culture among decision-makers at all levels. Lastly, this section will encourage dialogue between data producers and data users, in order to facilitate prioritization on FSN data needs, including identification of gaps on FSN data, and solutions to address the most urgent data gaps and needs.

3. *Increase and sustain investment in the collection of essential data for FSN, while optimizing and, if needed, repurposing current data-related investments*

This section will provide specific recommendations on the need for all actors to invest more, better and sustainably in FSN data. It will offer a common understanding on what essential FSN data refers to. It will recognize the importance of identifying data gaps on essential FSN data, collaboratively prioritizing these gaps, and clearly delineating inclusive national data production and analysis plans that will serve as a framework for investments in FSN data. It will call for the strategic repurposing of current funding and leveraging of existing financing mechanisms towards an enhanced framework for data collection, analysis, dissemination and use of FSN data that will contribute toward effective FSN decision-making and policies. Finally, it will advocate for a multi-stakeholder and multi-disciplinary approach in filling FSN data gaps, recognizing that data is increasingly being produced by different stakeholders, at different levels. At the same time, different methods and types of data are being used on a variety of aspects of data collection, analysis and dissemination all of which are relevant to improving FSN data for effective decision-making.

4. *Increasing collaboration between all parties to harmonize, improve quality and maximize the sharing of FSN data*

This section will provide recommendations for all parties (referring to governments, international organizations, civil society, academia, and the private sector) on how to promote effective and

inclusive coordination and collaboration to enhance the quality and quantity of FSN data that is available. Specifically, this section will provide guidance on how to improve standardization, coherence, interoperability and harmonization of FSN data; how to increase integration and use of FSN data from multiple sectors and sources through multi-sectoral information systems; and how to maximize the quantity of FSN data that is available through data sharing, while highlighting existing initiatives underway.

5. *Invest in human capital and in the needed infrastructures and technologies to ensure the sustainability of data production cycle and analytic capacity*

This section will provide specific recommendations on the need for all actors to invest more, better and sustainably in all phases of the data production cycle (production, storage and processing) and in strengthening the analytical capacities of data producers and users. First, it will give guidance on how to strengthen both hard and soft digital infrastructures for data collection, storage, processing and analysis, in a way that improves the quality and timeliness of the data produced. Second, it will provide specific recommendations on how to improve FSN data literacy and education on FSN data to enhance capabilities of information users at all levels across generations and how to strengthen the capacities of national institutions. Moreover, how to reinforce the analytical capacities of data producers and data users. Third, it will call for promoting the use of resource-saving data collection technologies and approaches for filling data gaps, but also for reducing the cost of producing existing data.

6. *Establish or Strengthen FSN data governance at all levels (global, regional, national and sub-national level)*

This section will provide specific recommendations on how Governments, in collaboration with all actors involved, could establish, or strengthen, governance systems for FSN data, at all levels, anchored in human rights, as well as CARE and FAIR principles, that would enhance inclusivity, openness and transparency of data, while addressing the risks associated with loss of data privacy and confidentiality, and potential conflicts of interests. Such FSN data governance systems can ensure that collection, analysis, dissemination and use of FSN data is oriented to addressing food insecurity.

7. *Promotion, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation*

In accordance with the voluntary nature of these policy recommendations, all FSN stakeholders - and primarily governments - are asked to take the responsibility for their implementation, monitoring and evaluation. This section will recommend ways of supporting the implementation,

monitoring and evaluation of these policy recommendations. In addition, ways of promoting accountability of each actor to all relevant stakeholders will be recommended.