

## Chair's reflections on the CFS Retreat

Thanking all participants for their in-presence attendance and active participation throughout the 2-day Retreat, I would like to reiterate the importance of CFS and its multistakeholder nature that emerged during the discussions, including its potential, and areas to be improved to strengthen its functions. The invited high-level speakers reinforced a coherent understanding on the relevance of the role of CFS, and the importance of advocacy and awareness to improve its visibility. Bearing in mind that the Committee's legal framework is regulated by the CFS Rules of Procedure, which are part of the FAO Basic Texts, in the course of the retreat the continuous support of the three Rome-Based Agency was as a key element for the CFS to perform its functions and roles.

Achieving food security and nutrition is crucial for poverty reduction and remains a top priority on political agendas. The increased relevance on this issue has led to the creation of various initiatives on this matter, which may potentially lead to policy fragmentation, thereby indicating the importance of the CFS to maintain contact and interaction with these initiatives to facilitate coherence with the aim to avoid duplication.

This situation highlights the need for increased global policy coordination, alignment, and coherence to advance our collective efforts in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG2 – Zero Hunger and in turn, will foster regional and local alignment. Underscored the value of the 2018 Independent Evaluation and its relevance with consideration of taking forward the implementation of the recommendations as previously adopted by the CFS Plenary.

The relevance of the CFS in this evolving landscape is evident, especially in the current multi-dimensional crisis scenario. Ongoing natural disasters, shocks - including economic shocks - and conflicts in various parts of the world are major drivers of food insecurity. In this context, the Committee serves as a pivotal space for concrete discussions and decisions aimed at addressing these issues and achieving food security and nutrition for all, and for the HLPE to proactively alert us of the emerging issues.

In order foster the country-level impact of CFS, a holistic approach is required that identifies and implements solutions capable of generating greater and long-term impact.

Proposed actions for consideration:

- There is a need to maximize the potential of the CFS platform, particularly its key evidence-based policy interface provided by the HLPE-FSN, to strengthen inclusive dialogues, enforce policy coherence, coordination among key stakeholders, and reinforce the impact at the country level. To this end, an HLPE-FSN Issues Paper should be prepared, focusing on the need to strengthen coordinated policy responses to the current global food crisis in order to support the discussion under item 2 of the CFS 52 Plenary Session in October 2024.
- Following the receipt of the correspondence from HLPE-FSN on emerging issues inter-sessionally, a mechanism should be presented for discussion at a future Bureau and Advisory group meeting on how the Bureau can proactively request inputs by the HLPE-FSN.

- There is a need to strengthen the coordination of each actor and maximize their impact. To this end, the modalities of interaction among the various bodies within the CFS structure (Bureau, Advisory Group, Chairperson, Secretariat, HLPE-FSN, Rome Based Agencies) should be strengthened and defined through a revision of legal, operational arrangements and capacity building.
- There is a need for greater long-term sustainability in the predictability of CFS resources to match the duration of the four-year MYPoW and beyond, in the context of transparency in CFS budgets linked to Human and Financial resource allocation. To this end, a reviewed resource mobilization strategy should be developed following further discussion in upcoming Bureau and Advisory Group meetings.
- Importance of CFS52 in the context of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the committee, the 20 years of the Right to Food guidelines with a specific theme, and to adapt the agenda and timetable to facilitate active participation with the side events playing a supporting role.