

MEETINGS UNDER THE CFS WORKSTREAM ON COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE

I. Background

The CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) 2024-2027 approved at CFS 51 includes a thematic workstream on “Collaborative governance for coordinated policy responses to emerging global food crises towards sustainable agriculture and food system transformation”. This thematic workstream is associated with CFS strategic function 1 “PLATFORM - leverage the convening power of the CFS as an inclusive international and intergovernmental platform to discuss the food security and nutrition situation and coordinate collective action at all levels”. (MYPoW A.1.4)

II. Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide a framework for an exchange with the Bureau and Advisory Group members to inform the further planning and implementation of the **2024 meetings** as set out as part of this Thematic Workstream.

Considering the Objectives and Outcomes stated in the MYPoW 2023-27, the discussion with Bureau and Advisory Group members will provide guidance including on: 1) priority topics for the meetings in 2024; 2) possibilities for synergies with other events and linkages with various partners; 3) proposed stakeholders to include in the Technical Task Team; and 4) the modalities of the meetings.

Matters for reflection include:

Promoting enhanced coherence among different international initiatives and actors considering the MYPoW through: coordination of efforts may include key actors such as the Rome-based Agencies and UN Nutrition and other multilateral stakeholders (e.g. The World Bank); considering focus on intensifying linkages with Geneva based actors on Right to food including Human Rights Council in Geneva in the context of the 20 years advancing right to food and raising the profile of its policy guidance; and strengthening productive engagement with the Rio Conventions on the nexus vis-a-vis food security (UNCCD, UNCBD, UNFCCC).

III. Exerts provided in the CFS MYPoW 2024-2027

Rationale:

Global challenges to food security and nutrition are greater than ever while the international community has committed to eliminate hunger by 2030. According to the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (2023) Report, an estimated 691-783 million people in the world (around 9.2 percent of the world population) are still suffering from hunger. Climate change, conflicts, poverty and inequalities, socio-economic shocks, including the still-lasting impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, are among the main drivers of food crises.

This calls for enhanced coherence among different international initiatives and the need to find short and medium-term solutions to crises that go hand in hand with long term and sustainable transformation of food systems.

Policy options need to be urgently identified, bearing in mind the importance of overcoming challenges related to lacking or weak cross-sectoral, multi-stakeholder and multi-level coordination, both vertically (across global, regional, national, subnational, territorial and local level) and horizontally (across sectors and institutions) which often leads to contradictory policies and insufficient actions.

CFS has a key role to play in strengthening coordinated global policy responses between relevant stakeholders to the multiple dimensions of food crises. It deliberates within a human rights framework, focusing on the progressive realization of the right to adequate food, with the support of a dedicated High-Level Panel of Experts. As such it is the most appropriate space for examining emerging food crises in a globally coordinated manner.

This workstream draws on the convening power of the CFS, its focus on the realization of the right to adequate food, and its ability to mobilize and engage relevant stakeholders in exchanges on food security and nutrition priorities and actions. The workstream will both contribute to and benefit from the preparation of an HLPE-FSN report on “Building resilient food systems” while at the same time drawing on the various policy convergence tools adopted by CFS in previous years to identify agreed policy measures that are relevant to the current challenges.

Objectives and expected outcomes:

The objective includes identifying signs of emerging food crises and to identify timely actions in line with longer-term objectives of food systems transformation and the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.

- *Regular biannual meetings will be held to discuss the evolving food and nutrition security situation, share experiences, data and information on existing initiatives, as well as to discuss key issues towards enhanced policy coordination and collaborative governance, giving particular attention to the voices of the most affected countries and constituencies. Pending available resources, these meetings will take place in different locations, especially in Geneva, or at the*

UNHQ in New York. High Level Special Events at the ministerial level are expected to be co-convened by CFS, as appropriate. The outcomes of the biannual meetings will be captured in a summary report and contribute to informing the CFS Plenary debate on the “State of food security in the world”.

- The engagement with the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) will be reinforced and its Chair or Secretariat will be invited to be part of CFS meetings regularly, and CFS Chair will participate in the AMIS Steering Committee.*
- In the event of the outbreak of a global food crisis, through this workstream the Committee will provide a platform to address the emerging food crises in a globally coordinated manner. This platform will represent a space to share experiences, policy responses and relevant data among CFS Members and Participants as well as information on international activities taken to address food crises.*
- A concise outline of potential CFS responses to emerging crises will be developed.*
- Subject to availability of resources, the workstream could include the establishment of a digital platform for good practices and experiences, led by the RBAs, whereby governments and other stakeholders could contribute with concrete examples of innovative governance modalities resulting in more effective, resilient and inclusive food systems.*
- In the context of this workstream a Global Thematic Event (GTE) on conflicts and food security and nutrition titled “Advancing the uptake of the CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (CFS-FFA)” will be organized to monitor progress on the use and application of the CFS-FFA on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of its endorsement.*

Process:

The CFS Secretariat, supported by a Technical Task Team, will organize biannual discussions to be held back to back with Bureau and Advisory Group meetings to take stock of the evolving food and nutrition security situation, share experiences, data and information on existing initiatives, and to identify key actions needed towards enhanced policy coordination and collaborative governance, with particular attention to the voices of the most affected countries and constituencies. The engagement with the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) will also be reinforced and its Chair or Secretariat invited to be part of these meetings. The outcomes of the biannual meetings will be captured in a summary report and contribute to informing the CFS Plenary debate on the “State of food security in the world”.

Pending available resources, meetings will take place in different locations in order to facilitate the participation of relevant regional and national stakeholders.

In the event of a global food crisis outbreak, and proposed by the Chairperson, the Bureau and Advisory Group will activate a follow-up and coordination task force, which will coordinate substantive deliberations on the status and evolution of the crisis and that will foster coherence between global,

regional and country-level efforts to address the crisis. High Level Special Events at the ministerial level are expected to be co-convened by CFS with this aim.

Additionally, a Global Thematic Event on conflicts and food security and nutrition titled “Advancing the uptake of the CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises” will be organized by the CFS Secretariat with the support of a Technical Task Team in 2025.

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