

Fifty-second session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

21 – 25 October 2024

Guide to CFS 52

WELCOME TO CFS 52

Welcome to the fifty-second plenary session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS 52), taking place between **21 and 25 October 2024** in a hybrid format in Rome, Italy.

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) was established in 1974, and reformed in 2009, with the vision to be the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform of the United Nations system for promoting food security and nutrition for all. Using a multi-stakeholder and inclusive approach, CFS Members and stakeholders develop and endorse policy recommendations and guidance on a wide range of topics relevant to food security and nutrition and aiming towards the universal realization of the right to food.

2024 marks the fiftieth anniversary of CFS as well as the twentieth anniversary of the endorsement of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the context of National Food Security. In this regard, the CFS 52 represents an important opportunity to take stock of what has been done and to discuss and analyze how to promote collaborative actions to address present and future challenges.

The Plenary will begin with opening statements by UN high-level representatives and a discussion on strengthening coordinated policy responses to the food crisis, which will consider the latest edition of the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World Report, the CFS summary report on Collaborative Governance as well as a briefing on ongoing international initiatives against hunger and poverty.

During its 52nd Session, the CFS is set to endorse the following three documents: the Policy Recommendations on Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition, the Action Plan to increase awareness, ownership, use and usefulness of CFS policy outcomes, and the updated version of the Rolling Section of the CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) 2024-2027.

Additionally, the Plenary will include a stocktaking session dedicated to monitoring the progress on the use and application of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security, as well as a session to discuss the implementation of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition.

The CFS Plenary will present an opportunity to share views on the Report of the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE-FSN) on Strengthening urban and peri-urban food systems to achieve food security and nutrition in the context of urbanization and rural transformation, and to discuss the key role of decent work in agriculture and food systems as well as the potential synergies and complementarities between CFS and the International Labour Organization (ILO) policy convergence work.

CFS 52 LOGISTICS

Dates and format: Monday, 21 October – Friday, 25 October 2024. Both the CFS Plenary and side events are held in hybrid format. See last page for more details on planned side events.

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

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

Evening plenary sessions: Monday 21 October and Wednesday 23 October, 18.00-21.00 (Rome time)

Drafting Committee: Thursday 24 October at 18.30 and Friday at 8.30. Room location, FAO HQs, Lebanon Room

Hosting: CFS 52 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 52 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).

Timekeeping and high-level participation: 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 not foreseen, but presentations longer than the apportioned time can be shared electronically with the CFS Secretariat and posted on its public website. A traffic light system will be in place to help delegates stay within the allocated time.

All delegates are requested to email their statements to cfs@fao.org, at least one hour before the session, so they can be shared with the interpreters for interpretation in FAO's six official languages, and to be posted in the Statements section of the CFS 52 web page (in their original language).

In the event that a Member delegation will include senior-level participation such as a Minister, Vice Minister, State Secretary (or equivalent), they should inform the Secretariat in order for that delegation head to be given priority protocol consideration on the Speakers List.

Registration for Member and Non-Member states: Diplomatic representatives designated to attend the CFS 52 must register online using their protected password reserved for FAO Permanent Representatives at <https://www.fao.org/members-gateway/home/en/> by 13 September 2024.

Instructions for online registration can be downloaded from the FAO Members' Gateway.

Registration for other Stakeholders: Participants and Observers designated to attend the 52nd Session of CFS should send an email to CFS52-Registration@fao.org by 13 September 2024 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.

Enquiries: Please contact the CFS Secretariat at cfs@fao.org.

More information: Please visit the [CFS 52 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 52 Provisional Agenda and Timetable adopted, and the Drafting Committee appointed. Furthermore, the Committee will be asked to consider and endorse the document outlining the modalities for the preparation of the CFS 52 Final Report.

Background documents:

- CFS 2024/52/1 – CFS 52 Provisional Agenda
- CFS 2024/52/Inf.1 – CFS 52 Provisional Timetable
- CFS 2024/52/Inf.2 – Guide to CFS 52
- CFS 2024/52/Inf.4 - Membership
- CFS 2024/52/2 – Guide to the preparation of the CFS 52 Final Report

II. STRENGTHENING COORDINATED POLICY RESPONSES TO THE FOOD CRISIS - THE STATE OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE WORLD 2024 *(for information and discussion)*

[Placeholder for excerpts from SOFI 2024 to be inserted in July]

The session will include:

a) Opening statements by the following, or their delegates (which will be posted on the CFS 52 Session document webpage):

- The UN Secretary-General;
- The Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO);
- The President, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD);
- The Executive Director, World Food Programme (WFP);
- The President of the United Nations General Assembly;
- The President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC);
- The Chairperson of the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE-FSN);
- The CFS Chairperson.

b) A presentation by Mr Máximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist (FAO), highlighting the main findings of the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) 2024 SOFI Report and the relevant policy implications for CFS;

c) A presentation of the CFS Summary Report on Collaborative governance for coordinated policy responses to emerging global food crises towards sustainable agriculture and food systems transformation;

d) Updates by representatives from ongoing international initiatives against hunger and poverty;

e) Delegate statements on coordinated policy responses to the global food crisis. Delegations may consider highlighting:

- The most pressing challenges and corresponding priority responses – strategies, policies or programs - that have been taken by their country or constituency;
- The global priority responses to be pursued to enhance coordinated action.

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

Background documents:

- CFS 2024/52/Inf.15 – The State of Food Security in the World 2024 Report
- CFS 2024/52/Inf.16- CFS Summary Report on Collaborative governance for coordinated policy responses to emerging global food crises towards sustainable agriculture and food systems transformation
- CFS 2024/52/Inf.17 – Information note on ongoing international initiatives against hunger and poverty

III. GLOBAL THEMATIC EVENT ON ADVANCING THE UPTAKE OF THE CFS VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON THE PROGRESSIVE REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT TO ADEQUATE FOOD IN THE CONTEXT OF NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY (*for information and discussion*)

The importance of the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security is reflected in the vision of the reformed CFS to “strive for a world free from hunger where countries implement the Voluntary Guidelines for the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security” (Right to Food Guidelines) [[CFS 2009/2.Rev2](#)]. The CFS Reform Document recognizes the human right to adequate food as fundamental to achieving food security.

The [Right to Food Guidelines](#), endorsed by the Committee at its 30th Session in October 2004, take into account a wide range of important considerations and principles, including equality and nondiscrimination, participation and inclusion, accountability and rule of law, and the principle that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interrelated and interdependent. They have guided countries and other stakeholders in developing and adopting a wide range of measures - to guarantee the availability of food in quantity and quality sufficient to satisfy the dietary needs of individuals; physical and economic accessibility for everyone, including vulnerable groups, to adequate food, free from unsafe substances and acceptable within a given culture; or the means of its procurement.

The CFS 52 Global Thematic Event (GTE), coinciding with the 20th anniversary of the Voluntary Guidelines on the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security, will take stock of the use and application of the guidelines. The GTE will offer an opportunity to reflect on the progress made over the past 20 years, highlighting best practices and lessons learned, while also identifying remaining challenges and paving the way for further action towards the realization of the right to food.

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 Voluntary Guidelines and will contribute to monitoring progress in implementing these voluntary guidelines at global, regional and national levels.

Session Rollout:

- Keynote presentations by XXX
- Moderated, interactive discussion with the participation of key CFS with exchanges between panelists and floor;
- Interventions from the floor

Delegates are invited to share views on the basis of the following guiding questions:

How have has your country/ constituency used the Right to Food Guidelines for the progressive realization of the right to adequate food?

Highlight good practices and positive experiences from your efforts towards the realization of the right to adequate food. Highlight key success.

What have been some of the challenges and barriers encountered in implementing the Right to Food Guidelines?

What are your reflections on the priorities for action for progressing towards the achieving the right to adequate food for all in the future?

Draft Conclusions will be presented for discussion and endorsement by Plenary.

Background Documents:

- CFS 2024/52/3 – Global Thematic Event on CFS Voluntary Guidelines on the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security – Draft Conclusions
- CFS 2024/52/Inf.18 - CFS Voluntary Guidelines on the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security
- CFS 2024/52/Inf. 19 – Monitoring CFS Voluntary Guidelines on the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security: Secretariat’s analysis of the contributions received

IV. STRENGTHENING THE IMPACT OF CFS POLICY AGREEMENTS: ENDORSEMENT OF AN ACTION PLAN TO INCREASE AWARENESS, OWNERSHIP, USE AND USEFULNESS OF CFS POLICY OUTCOMES *(for decision)*

Following multi-stakeholder consultations in an Open-Ended Working Group in the course of this intersessional period, this session seeks Plenary endorsement of the Action Plan to Strengthen the Uptake of CFS Policy Products.

The Action Plan is intended to present a roadmap with actions for different CFS stakeholders that are responsible for promoting the uptake CFS policy products at global, regional, national and local levels towards the realization of the right to adequate food.

The session will also represent an opportunity to listen to concrete experiences and examples concerning the use and integration of CFS policy products into national policies, programmes and legal frameworks.

Session Rollout:

- Presentation of the final draft of the Action Plan by Dr Josyline Javelosa (Philippines) and Ms Ronit Gerard (United States), Co-Rapporteurs of the CFS Uptake Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG);
- Endorsement of the Action Plan;
- Keynote remark;
- Statements and expressions of commitment of Members and Participants from the floor.

Potential guiding questions for discussion:

- a) Among the recommendations included in this Action Plan, which are the ones that your country/constituency/institution is planning to prioritize and which concrete activities are expected to be undertaken?
- b) In line with the nature of this Action Plan as a guide and starting point for a living process that draws on different experiences, practices and actions, which are the main steps that need to be taken to promote joint efforts and collaborative actions to promote the use of CFS policy products at all levels?

A draft decision will be presented for discussion and endorsement by Plenary.

Background Documents:

- CFS 2024/52/4 –Action Plan to strengthen the uptake of CFS policy products
- CFS 2024/52/5 –Action Plan to strengthen the uptake of CFS policy products – Draft Decision

V. CFS STRATEGIC DIRECTION TOWARD 2030 (*for decision*)

CFS Members will be asked to consider the annual update of the rolling section of the CFS 2024-2027 MYPoW, as prepared by the Bureau in consultation with the Advisory Group.

The CFS Chairperson will introduce document CFS 2024/52/11 and invite interventions by CFS stakeholders.

Following discussion, a draft decision will be presented for endorsement by Plenary.

Background documents:

- CFS 2024/52/6 – CFS MYPoW 2024-2027 Update of the Rolling Section – with Draft Decision
- CFS 2024/52/Inf.20 – CFS Annual Progress Report 2024

VI. ADDRESSING MULTIPLE DIMENSIONS OF INEQUALITIES: ENDORSEMENT AND UPTAKE OF THE CFS POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ON REDUCING INEQUALITIES 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 2023, and multi-stakeholder consultations and negotiations in 2024, during this session the Committee is expected to endorse the CFS Policy Recommendations on Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition.

The session will also represent 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 to reduce inequalities both within food systems and related systems and within and among countries.

Session Rollout:

- Presentation of the final draft of the policy recommendations by Lara Lobo (Brazil), Rapporteur of the CFS policy convergence process on Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition
- Endorsement of the policy recommendations
- Keynote remarks by XXX
- Interventions from the floor

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

Background Documents:

- CFS 2024/52/7 – CFS Policy Recommendations on Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition
- CFS 2024/52/8 – CFS Policy Recommendations on Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition – Draft Decisions

VII. PROMOTING FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION ACROSS THE RURAL-URBAN CONTINUUM: STRENGTHENING URBAN AND PERI-URBAN FOOD SYSTEMS TO ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE CONTEXT OF URBANIZATION AND RURAL TRANSFORMATION (*for discussion*)

Following the launch of the CFS HLPE-FSN Report on *Strengthening urban and peri-urban food systems to achieve food security and nutrition in the context of urbanization and rural transformation* in July, this agenda item will mark the beginning of the CFS policy convergence process on this thematic area. The objectives of this session are to provide the CFS plenary with an opportunity to discuss the relevant policy findings of the HLPE-FSN report 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:

a) THE CFS HLPE-FSN REPORT PRESENTATION

Drafting Team Leader, Ms Jane Battersby, Senior Researcher, African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town, will present an overview of the main findings and recommendations of the CFS HLPE-FSN Report, focusing on implications for the upcoming CFS policy convergence process.

b) DELEGATES' DISCUSSION ON THE FINDINGS OF THE REPORT

Delegates are encouraged to share their views on the basis of the following guiding questions:

- What are the priority policy areas to be addressed by the CFS policy convergence process?
- How can CFS foster the participation of local governments in food security and nutrition-related policy-making?
- How can CFS build upon relevant initiatives and experiences on strengthening urban and peri-urban food systems to achieve food security and nutrition?

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

Background documents:

- CFS 2024/52/9 – Strengthening urban and peri-urban food systems to achieve food security and nutrition in the context of urbanization and rural transformation – Draft Conclusions
- CFS 2024/52/Inf.21 – HLPE-FSN Report (2024) on Strengthening urban and peri-urban food systems to achieve food security and nutrition in the context of urbanization and rural transformation

VIII. PROMOTING DECENT WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS (*for information and discussion*)

Agriculture and food systems are a major source of employment in many countries, especially in developing countries, employing directly over 1.23 billion people worldwide. While rural transformation tends to reduce the number of those employed in primary production, it may provide job opportunities at intermediate and downstream stages of food supply chains.

However, despite their crucial contribution, workers in agriculture and food system have long been underpaid and undervalued, with limited access to adequate social protection, while facing occupational hazards, including exposure to environmental hazards, poverty and increasing food insecurity. Globally, two-thirds of the extreme poor are engaged in agriculture. A quarter of agricultural workforce is in extreme working poverty.

Addressing these issues and advancing decent work for all actors in the agriculture and food sector is essential to the transition to more sustainable, resilient and inclusive food systems.

With the overarching objective of eliminating hunger and malnutrition, ensuring food security and nutrition for all, and contributing to the progressive realization of the right to food, the Committee agreed to hold a CFS Plenary discussion in October 2024 on promoting decent Work in Agriculture and Food Systems to highlight the key role of decent work in agriculture and food systems from a right to food perspective. The session will also provide its platform for relevant stakeholders to discuss potential synergies and complementarities between CFS and the International Labour Organization (ILO) policy convergence work.

Session Rollout:

Introductory remarks by the CFS Chair, will be followed by:

- Keynote presentation by ILO representative
- Panel discussion, moderated by Ms Christine Campeau, Global Policy Director, Food and Nutrition Systems, CARE with relevant stakeholders such as government representatives from Asia and the Pacific, (TBC) and Africa (TBC), as well as from CSIPM, namely Ms Svetlana Boincean, agricultural coordinator, International Union of Food workers (IUF), and from PSM, Mr Chris Hogg, Global Head of Public Affairs (VP), Nestle.
- Floor interventions

Delegates are invited to share views on the basis of the following guiding questions:

In your experience, what have been/are the challenges and good practices in advancing decent work in agriculture and food systems, and how the ILO policy guidance for the promotion of decent work in the agri-food sector can complement the recommendations included in the CFS policy agreements in addressing this issue?

At the end of the session, Draft Conclusions will be presented for discussion and endorsement by Plenary.

Background Documents:

- CFS 2024/52/10 – Promoting Decent Work in Agriculture and Food Systems -Draft Conclusions
- CFS 2024/52/Inf.22 - Promoting Decent Work in Agriculture and Food Systems – Information note

IX. FORUM ON THE UPTAKE OF THE CFS VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION (*for information and discussion*)

As foreseen in the Committee on World Food Security's (CFS) Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) 2024-2027, this forum will provide an opportunity to discuss and mobilize political commitments by governments, donors, civil society, private sector, and the UN system for further promotion and implementation of the Guidelines that were adopted in 2023. The forum will bring together different actors to:

- Share plans and ideas concerning the uptake of the Voluntary Guidelines;
- Focus on how the Guidelines present a useful tool in the hands of policy makers and development partners;
- Explore how the Guidelines can be used at regional, country, and local levels;
- Discuss the role of different stakeholders and coordination mechanisms in promoting their uptake;
- Discuss how to mobilize commitment of stakeholders to drive the uptake and context-specific operationalization of the Voluntary Guidelines.

Session Rollout:

- Introduction by the Ambassador Nosipho Nausca-Jean Jezile, CFS Chairperson
- Panel discussion with interventions of representatives and practitioners from among CFS stakeholders, including Member Representatives
- Moderated Q&A session between the audience and panelists based upon the guiding questions below.

The following questions will help guide the discussion, along with the questions/comments from the floor:

1. What concrete actions and strategies your government/constituency can implement to promote the uptake of the Voluntary Guidelines on the ground?
2. What forms of multi-sectoral collaboration and coordination mechanism are foreseen to promote policy coherence and reduce policy fragmentation among gender equality, food security, and nutrition agendas and related sectors?
3. How can stakeholders' commitment be mobilized to drive context-specific operationalization of the Voluntary Guidelines?
4. How do you expect the Voluntary Guidelines to support policy makers as well as the activities of the UN and other international organizations at a technical, programmatic and operational level?

Draft conclusions will be presented for discussion and endorsement by Plenary.

Background documents:

- CFS 2024/52/11 – Forum on the uptake of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and

Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition – Draft Conclusions

- CFS 2024/52/Inf.23 – Forum on the uptake of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition – Concept Note
- CFS 2024/52/Inf.24 – CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition

X. OTHER MATTERS (*for decision*)

During this item, amendments in the Bureau composition will be agreed and arrangements for the CFS 53 Plenary Session in October 2025 will be discussed. The CFS 52 Final Report, as presented by the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee, will also be adopted (advance electronic copies of the Final Report will be made available during the early afternoon of Friday 25 October 2024).

NOTE ON SIDE EVENTS

To enrich and complement the CFS 52 Plenary and give partners and other stakeholders an opportunity to highlight their work, CFS invited its Members, Participants and other global food security and nutrition stakeholders to apply for side events:

- Monday from 13:30 to 14:45 Rome time
- Tuesday to Friday from 8:30 to 9:45 and 13:30 to 14:45 Rome time
- Friday 10:00 to 13:00 – special three-hour slot for side events

Side events will be selected by the CFS Chairperson from among the number of applications received. A full schedule of all side events will be made available on the [CFS 52 webpage](#).