

CFS workstream “Addressing multiple dimensions of inequalities: reducing inequalities for food security and nutrition”

Norway 12.04.2024

Overall comments

The priorities that we submitted in the last round still stand (see [Annex 1 Annex 1](#)). We will not repeat these here. In addition, there are some aspects that we would like to see strengthened in the current draft.

Con formato: Fuente: 11 pto

Human rights: The realization of the right to food, and its related norms, are parts of the foundation and overarching framework of CFS. Norway would like a stronger focus on how the recommendations could contribute to and strengthen a human rights-based approach, as well as how the recommendations may be integrated into local and national guidelines and legal frameworks. Norway suggests using similar language to the GEWGE: “Achieving [the recommendations] contributes to the realization of human rights, which are indivisible and interdependent. [The recommendations] are consistent with, and draw upon, international and regional instruments¹, including the SDGs that address human rights.”

Gender: The recommendations should have a stronger focus on gender equality. It is a well-documented fact that gender equality and women’s empowerment is a requirement for food security. Gender equality is not only the right thing to do, but the smart thing to do. As established in the VGTs on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girl’s Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition: “Ensuring gender equality and women’s and girls’ empowerment is critical to the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) mandate of ending hunger and ensuring food security and nutrition for all”.²

Rights-based role analysis: The rationale should provide a clearer analysis of roles and responsibilities within a rights-based framework. The current rationale refers to a joint responsibility for all actors (Governments, private sector, and civil society), but these actors play different roles in realizing human rights and addressing inequalities in food security and nutrition. It is also unclear who each of the recommendations pertain to.

Scope of the recommendations. Norway welcomes greater clarity on what the recommendations relate to, such as development of policy and regulation or implementation.

Civil society: Norway underlines the importance of recognizing the role of civil society and their role in holding states and other actors accountable. As mentioned by the HLPE report, civil society

¹ Including human rights instruments, such as UNDROP, UNDRIP, the Right to Food, the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition and various CFS guidance documents to strengthen equity-sensitivity of policies.

² [Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls’ Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition \(fao.org\)](#)

provides an important advocacy tool for FSN change. The current draft only mentions civil society twice.

Disadvantaged groups: Norway would appreciate a more explicit focus on why and how actions/recommendations will benefit disadvantaged/marginalized groups. It is important to illustrate the role of these groups as actors in value chains and food systems, and to ensure their meaningful participation.

CFS policy products: We would like to see reference to other CFS policy products in this document, incl.:

- Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition
- Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.
- Voluntary Guidelines on gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition.
- Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition.

Intersectionality: Norway would like a more explicit reference to intersectionality in the document, recognizing the finding from the HLPE report that the interaction of multiple types of inequality have a cumulative impact on the same group of people.

CFS POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ON REDUCING INEQUALITIES FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION ZERO DRAFT

Rationale

Rising inequalities within and among countries is recognized as a major challenge to sustainable development.

It is evident that inequalities across food systems and related systems affect food security and nutritional outcomes. High levels of concentration in food production, corporate concentration in food trade, transformation and distribution, and inequitable distribution of agricultural assets and access to natural resources and finance are all trends that perpetuate and deepen inequalities among different actors in agriculture and food systems.

Inequalities in food security and nutrition (FSN) reduce people's life chances and quality of life, decrease productivity, perpetuate poverty, hinder economic growth and tend to systematically disadvantage and exclude certain groups: women, farmworkers, informal workers, migrants, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities and chronic illnesses, elderly people and youth. Often multiple sources of disadvantages are compounded, amplifying marginalization and exclusion.

This vicious cycle continues as food insecurity and malnutrition further deepen inequalities through lost opportunities in other sectors such as health, education and employment.

Sustained disparities across countries and between vulnerable and other social groups can slow growth and lead to political instability, migration fluxes, with related adverse consequences on food security and nutrition and the progressive realization of the right to adequate food, in high, medium and low-income countries.

In line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which calls for "a just, equitable, tolerant, open and socially inclusive world in which the needs of the most vulnerable are met", the following CFS policy recommendations are envisioned as a focused, action-oriented document that provides guidance on developing and strengthening policies that explicitly focus on reducing inequalities and addressing their systemic drivers, in order to guarantee food security and nutrition to all.

In working towards this goal, the importance of grounding actions that address the drivers of FSN inequalities in a rights-based approach should be recognized, as well as the need to take into account national, sub-national and local contexts. Based on the understanding that all stakeholders share the responsibility to reduce inequalities in agriculture and food systems, these policy recommendations are addressed to **Governments** (relevant ministries, national, regional and local authorities and institutions), global international economic and financial institutions, the private sector (including micro, small and medium as well as larger-sized-entities), philanthropic foundations and **civil society**.

Comentado [A1]: Appreciate the inclusion of relevant actors. It is important to recognise their agency, meaningful participation and involvement to adequately deal with inequalities in food security and nutrition.

Comentado [A2]: Norway appreciates the focus on the right to food here, but we would like to see a stronger anchoring of the RtF framework, human rights instruments and language throughout the document

Comentado [A3]: It is positive that the recommendations are anchored in Agenda 2030.

Comentado [A4]: Norway appreciates that the CFS outlines the actors who are responsible for following up the guidelines. We would appreciate greater detail on the roles and responsibilities of these actors.

Comentado [A5]: Should this include Indigenous Peoples?

These policy recommendations are voluntary and non-binding. They should be applied consistently with existing obligations under national and international law. They build upon and complement relevant existing instruments of CFS and are informed by the CFS High-level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE-FSN) report on “Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition”.

A: TACKLE INEQUALITIES WITHIN FOOD SYSTEMS

Access to natural resources and access to markets

1. Promote equitable tenure rights and access to land, fisheries, forests, aquatic resources and other food production resources for all, women and men, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and vulnerable and traditionally marginalized people within the national context, in accordance with the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (CFS-VGGT) and other relevant frameworks; (tenure rights)
2. Develop and strengthen policies, laws and regulations that foster a more enabling environment for important FSN actors, including people in vulnerable and marginalized situations groups, to improve their access to markets for land, inputs, services, and water while mitigating concentration of resources; (access to resources)

Additional para:

Ensure women’s equal access to opportunities across food systems by strengthening their agency and building their collective power facilitating their access to and control over resources, and supporting their effective engagement with food systems, as well as value chain actors (gender equality and women’s access to and control over resources).³

3. Increase smallholders’, people in vulnerable and marginalized situations groups’ capacity to access markets by strengthening cooperatives, associations and networks, and other organizations which can expand their bargaining power and participation in value chains, prioritizing nutritious foods to address all forms of malnutrition; (access to markets)
4. Foster public procurement programs for public institutions, food assistance and school feeding and implement policies that prioritize family farmingers and smallholders, including farm smallholders, small-scale fishers and aquatic food producers. (public procurement)

³ Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls’ Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition (fao.org)

Comentado [A6]: We would welcome the inclusion of: The core principles from the HLPE report

We also wondered if the intention is to reference relevant international instruments?

Comentado [A7]: We would like to see reference to other CFS policy products in this document, incl.:

- Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition
- Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realisation of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.
- Voluntary Guidelines on gender equality and women’s and girl’s empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition.
- Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition.
- CFS Policy Recommendations on Strengthening Collection and Use of Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Data and Related Analysis Tools to improve decision-making in support of the progressive realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the context of National Food Security

Comentado [A8]: Important to recognise role of these actors as agents of change, as well as the need to focus actions on groups in society that are marginalised and vulnerable

Con formato: Normal

Con formato: Subrayado

Comentado [A9]: Norway appreciates the focus on the important role of farmers’ and fishers’ organisations and associations.

Comentado [A10]: Norway underlines the importance of recognising the systems dimension of family farming, in line with the UN Decade of Family Farming.

Comentado [A11]: Norway appreciates the prioritisation of family farmers and smallholders, but would like an explicit reference to the important role of fishers and aquatic food producers.

Institutions and partnerships

5. Facilitate formal and informal organizations, including cooperatives and associations, of important food security and nutrition actors, with a focus on including disadvantaged groups and build inclusive institutions and partnerships to foster their collective action and participation in decision-making processes, leaving no one behind, by empowering individuals and communities to actively participate in shaping food systems; (participation and representation)
6. Promote, strengthen and implement FSN strategies, policies and programmes for supporting and enhancing the social and solidarity economy⁴ recognizing their role in providing decent work opportunities, particularly to the most disadvantaged, and in eliminating poverty; (social and solidarity economy)
7. Promote South-South and Triangular Cooperation, as well as North-South Cooperation, to improve disadvantaged groups' productivity and capacity to engage in all markets. (cooperation for development)

Comentado [A12]: Norway appreciates the focus on active participation and facilitating formal and informal organisation of different stakeholders. We would appreciate if we could include a reference to these groups as actors and to the principle of "leaving no one behind"

Investments in supply chains and in disadvantaged areas

8. Increase investment in inclusive value chain approaches, labor rights protection, equity-sensitive storage, food processing and distribution to reduce inequalities in food supply chains, leaving no one behind, with a particular focus on local supply chains; (inclusive value chains)
9. Increase responsible investment in infrastructure, logistics and supply chains and in disadvantaged areas by adopting territorial approaches and strengthening regional and local trade and market connections; (improved connectivity)
10. Create opportunities for smallholders, women, people in vulnerable and marginalized situationgroups, and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to access finance, including through credit, savings and insurance; (access to finance)

Comentado [A13]: Norway appreciates the focus on actions across the food system to ensure inclusive value chains.

Additional para:

Create non-farm opportunities to ensure income-generating opportunities outside of agriculture and to realize sustainable food systems (access to non-farm opportunities)

Comentado [A14]: Related to HLPE-report and FAO's work with decent work: "FAO believes that ensuring the access to decent farm and non-farm employment for the rural poor in food systems is critical to realize sustainable food systems." [Decent work in food systems](#) | [Decent Rural Employment](#) | [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations \(fao.org\)](#)

⁴ Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) definition available at Resolution II, International Labour Conference – 110th Session, 2022. Additional information can also be found at: UNGA 77/281.

11. Invest in inclusive information systems across agriculture and food systems, leveraging **innovations⁵** and digital technologies – such as market price information services, weather forecasting and video-based extension – to enable all stakeholders to make informed decisions and help overcome asymmetries in access to information; (access to information)

Comentado [A15]: We suggest a slight reframing to recognise the range of innovations that extend beyond digital technologies that can help improve access to information

12. **Strengthen** responsible investments in support of agroecological and other innovative approaches that contribute to the transition to more sustainable, resilient, inclusive agriculture and food systems, while also recognizing their role in facilitating equitable access to healthy diets; (agroecological and other innovative approaches)

Comentado [A16]: Norway appreciates the focus on responsible investment for agroecological and other innovative approaches. It also important to the recognise the potential and value of applying agroecological principles across production and food systems.

13. Increase investment in research, extension, innovation, and technical assistance in collaboration with universities, research institutions, and civil society organizations, with the aim of improving linkages between institutional markets and disadvantaged groups, particularly smallholders. (inclusive **innovation**, research and extension)

Food environments including processing, retail and trade

14. Undertake proactive planning of food environments in areas of rapid demographic growth to ensure that all populations, particularly those most at risk of food insecurity and malnutrition, have equitable access to sufficient, affordable, safe and nutritious food. Depending on the specific context, this may include labelling and restricting marketing of unhealthy foods; (healthy food environments)

15. Protect the rights and recognize the role of informal vendors in meeting the food security and nutritional needs of populations and develop planning and policy tools that enhance their capacity to sell healthy, nutritious and safe foods; (informal vendors)

16. Promote better access by disadvantaged groups to knowledge and innovation (e.g through training and capacity building), markets, financial services, logistics (e.g. storage, processing, packaging, and transport) and other services which are important to reducing food losses and waste at all stages of the food chain; (FLW)

17. Develop and strengthen programs and partnerships, such as state, community, or public-private food banks and popular kitchens, that foster the recovery and redistribution of food fit-for-human consumption, in order to promote the access to healthy, **sufficient, affordable, safe and nutritious** food by disadvantaged groups. (food recovery and redistribution)

⁵ Innovation definition available in the [FAO Science and Innovation Strategy](https://www.fao.org/3/cc2273en/cc2273en.pdf) <https://www.fao.org/3/cc2273en/cc2273en.pdf>.

B: TACKLE INEQUALITIES IN RELATED SYSTEMS

Access to services and resources that impact food security and nutrition

18. Ensure universal access to services that are relevant to food security and nutrition, including primary healthcare, immunization, nutrition education, housing, sanitation and safe drinking water; (universal access to services)
19. Foster universal access to social protection as direct support to food security and nutrition among the most vulnerable. This involves analyzing specific barriers to accessing social protection systems and promoting the participation of community organizations and actors in the design, implementation, and monitoring of social protection policies and programs. including social safety nets; (social protection)
20. Promote access to decent work for all in agriculture and food systems by strengthening regulatory frameworks and the enforcement of laws and regulations in practice; (decent work)
21. Leverage fiscal space, including through progressive taxation, to prioritize basic public services and use the available resources to support those most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition. (fiscal space)

Trade, investment and debt governance related to food security and nutrition

22. Incorporate an equity focus into trade, investment and debt governance related to food security and nutrition by addressing existing disparities of opportunity, wealth and decision-making power within food systems governance; (equity focus)
23. Foster increased transparency in the negotiation of multilateral trade and investment agreements to promote access to healthy diets and healthy food environments for all, while also prioritizing the needs of the most affected; (transparency)
24. Strengthen the rules-based, non-discriminatory, open, fair, inclusive, equitable and transparent multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organization at its core; (rules-based multilateral trade)
25. Assess the food security and nutrition constraints associated with national debt and undertake appropriate measures for its restructuring, swap or cancellation; (debt relief)
26. Continue efforts to ~~decrease~~ repurpose agricultural subsidies ~~which negatively affect production, food prices, nutrition, trade and environment~~ to ensure the transition to more sustainable, resilient, inclusive agriculture and food systems. (subsidies)

C: TACKLE SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND OTHER DRIVERS OF INEQUALITIES

Systemic drivers of inequality

27. Leverage SDG 10 (Reduce inequalities within and among countries) to address the systemic drivers of inequalities by promoting inclusion and active participation of marginalized groups and the right to food in policymaking and practice; (SDG10)

Comentado [A17]: Norway would welcome greater detail on what these entail, for example in the rationale of the document

28. Promote a strong focus on reducing inequalities within interministerial and international platforms on food security and nutrition to enhance policy coherence and coordination across sectors such as agriculture, livestock, fisheries, forest, health, economy, finance, and trade; (multisectoral approach)

Comentado [A18]: Norway supports the multisectoral approach outlined in this recommendation

Additional para:

Promote inclusive spaces for dialogue, participation and coordinated action at global, national, and local levels.

Comentado [A19]: Norway underlines the importance of including different actors as participants through bottom-up approaches, and the important role of the CFS in facilitating this.

29. Identify and manage conflicts of interests, including in research, by developing and strengthening safeguards against power imbalances in agriculture and food systems, and other safeguards to prioritize public interests and promote participatory decision-making; (conflicts of interest)

30. Increase responsible and equity-sensitive investments that foster the potential of developing countries through appropriate financing instruments, such as climate financing, blended finance, sovereign risk insurance, loss and damage funds; (financing for development)

31. Develop and strengthen policies that pay specific attention to women's unequal burden of care and domestic responsibilities in food security and nutrition. These can include measures to reconcile paid work and unpaid care work responsibilities, such as flexible working arrangements for women and men and the provision of high-quality, accessible, affordable and inclusive childcare. (gender equality)

Comentado [A20]: Norway appreciates the focus on gender equality and the unequal burden of care and domestic responsibilities in food security and nutrition. However, we would like a stronger focus on gender equality in the document.

Climate, ecological, political and economic crises and FSN related actions

32. Prioritize populations whose livelihoods and safety are threatened by climate change, conflict, biodiversity loss, and other contemporary global crises through targeted policies and ensuring their tenure rights and resource allocations, including by increasing, adapting and diversifying incomes and by increasing access to early-warning systems, anticipatory actions, climate risk management services, and nature-based solutions; (protecting livelihoods)

33. Promote the participation of the most affected populations in climate action decision-making; (participation in climate action)

34. Address the multiple drivers of food security and nutrition inequalities by working across fragile contexts and the humanitarian-development-peace nexus ; (HDP_nexus)

35. Strengthen existing ~~Foster~~ funding mechanisms to support the transformation towards more equitable climate resilient food systems. (funding mechanisms)

Comentado [A21]: To avoid duplication

D: STRENGTHEN DATA AND KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS TO ENABLE IMPROVED UNDERSTANDING AND MONITORING OF EQUITY IN FSN-RELEVANT DOMAINS

FSN data collection and analysis

36. Prioritize capacity building on FSN data collection and analysis in areas where current relevant food security and nutrition data availability is poor, with a focus on those countries which are lacking resources, infrastructures, data literacy and skills, in order to guide decision-making related to FSN; (FSN data capacity building)

Comentado [A22]: Important to include disaggregated and qualitative data.

37. Identify and fill data gaps through investment in FSN collection and analysis with the aim of assessing which groups have the poorest FSN outcomes in different contexts, paying special attention to historically marginalized groups and disadvantaged regions; (closing FSN data gaps)

Additional para:

Strengthen and consider gender equality in data systems to report and collect gender-disaggregated data on the effects of measures (data and gender-equality).

Comentado [A23]: Data and reporting on gender impacts is fundamental to achieve targeted policies. Need to increase collection of disaggregated data and measurement of empowerment to enable to effective programming and policy.

38. Collect and share data to monitor agriculture and food systems market trends, including market concentration; (market trends data)

39. Promote innovative and inclusive governance frameworks for FSN data which strike the right balance between access, sharing and protection, while facilitating equitable access to data benefits. (FSN data governance)

FSN related research

40. Increase investment in agricultural and food systems research, including on FSN indicators and metrics that facilitate globally standardized reporting, with focus on inequalities in FSN outcomes and tailored to the most marginalized groups and areas, mainstreaming gender, equity and intersectionality considerations; (equity-sensitive research)

41. Promote the development and use of research that focuses on the systemic drivers of FSN inequalities, with special consideration to research carried out in and by developing countries, including qualitative research, engaging with local universities and local knowledge institutions, while also taking into account diverse knowledges, such as those of Indigenous Peoples, civil society, and local communities. (diverse knowledge)

Comentado [A24]: Norway would welcome greater detail on what these entail, for example in the rationale for the recommendations

Comentado [A25]: As highlighted in the FAO strategy on partnerships with civil society: "civil society organizations have technical and grassroots knowledge that is both context specific and globally important."

Annex 1: Priorities for Zero Draft Policy Recommendations on “Addressing multiple dimensions of inequalities: reducing inequalities for food security and nutrition”

Norwegian policy priorities and inputs

- Should have a **rights-based approach** enabling rights holders to claim their rights and their authorities to uphold those rights, including the right to food. With a particular focus on indigenous peoples’ rights, women’s rights, workers’ rights, children’s rights, and the rights of persons with disabilities.
- Underline the importance of strengthening the position of **women** as food producers and participants elsewhere in value chains and food systems.
- Should enhance value creation and business development, with a particular focus on **local value chains and small-scale food producers**. This includes farm smallholders, small-scale fishers and aquatic food producers, so that they can participate fully and meaningfully in food systems and related systems, as well as improve their access to input factors and technology.
- To adequately address inequalities in food security and nutrition, there is a need to cooperate more systematically with **civil society and with farmers’ and fishers’ organisations**, as well as business and industry, and academia.
- Address the diverse drivers of inequalities in food security and nutrition, including through **climate-resilient food production including nature-based solutions** and to strengthen **early warning systems** and **social safety nets**.
- Underlines the importance of developing **digital solutions and relevant technology**. It is necessary to give adequate consideration to gender equality and to report and collect **gender-disaggregated data** on the effects of measures.
- We would like to request the inclusion of **fisheries and aquaculture** as sectors/arenas for addressing multiple dimensions of inequalities.
- Overcoming inequalities in food systems requires a **systemic approach**. It cannot be solved by any one sector or one ‘food systems solution’ alone.