



## UK Representation to the UN Rome

### **Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition:** UK Priority Issues for CFS Zero Draft

The UK commends the HLPE-FSN Report, which gives a robust, evidence-based foundation for the development of Policy Recommendations on Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition. Conflict, economic crises, and climate change are increasing food and nutrition insecurity around the world, but the impacts are not felt equally. For example, in 2021, there were 126.3m more women than men who were food insecure globally. Food security and nutrition actors should work together across the agri-food and humanitarian systems to analyse, prevent, and respond to such inequalities, and so we welcome the CFS convergence process to agree relevant policy recommendations.

Ahead of the zero draft, the UK wishes to highlight the following issues of particular importance:

1. **Social Protection** systems can play a central role in preventing and responding to global food insecurity and malnutrition. Despite this, there are significant gaps in social protection systems and how they interact with agri-food systems, not least in ensuring that both systems are gender responsive, disability inclusive and can respond to shocks. In humanitarian settings, coordination between humanitarian and social protection actors is key to ensuring context-appropriate assistance reaches the most vulnerable. The policy recommendations should go into detail about integrating social protection in the design and implementation of policies and programmes.
2. As underlined by the HLPE-FSN Report in the set of Principles under code D (and the corresponding recommendations), **data, evidence and analysis** – and their successful dissemination – are crucial to reducing inequalities in the context of food security and nutrition. This includes data points from the informal and care sectors, where vulnerable groups, particularly women and girls, are disproportionately represented. This includes the use of GESI analysis during food security and nutrition programme and policy design.
3. The HLPE-FSN Report notes the role that **producer organisations** can play in offering mechanisms for improving the participation, inclusion and leverage of small-scale producers, especially in terms of bargaining power and spreading out the costs of inputs and marketing. We look forward to discussing this further and to linking this to CFS policy uptake by NSAs.
4. Equally, the HLPE-FSN references the ways in which **employment** inequalities impact access to adequate and nutritious food, and the link between food security and nutrition and decent work. Again, we look forward to discussing this in the context of global value chains, and forging action-oriented and tangible recommendations for governments and NSAs.
5. Linking a number of these themes together are agroecological approaches. **Agroecology** can play an important role in addressing a number of the intersecting causes and consequences of food security and nutrition – poverty, decent work, inequalities, climate change and power imbalances in the agri-food system. The HLPE-FSN Report draws on a significant existing evidence base in this regard but could be more ambitious in its recommendations.
6. This relates to the need to see both the **intersectionality** of inequalities and their context-specific relationship to the interdependence of crises that impact agri-food systems: climate

change, biodiversity loss, conflict, economic crises, land use and other issues. Some inequalities are inherent to the agri-food system itself, while others are a result of broader structural inequalities and inequities much wider than the agri-food system.

7. Finally, we note the **existing CFS products** relevant to this policy convergence process, and hope that they will serve as a foundation for this work (including using agreed language).<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Notably: the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, the Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches, the Policy Recommendations on Data Collection and Analysis Tools for Food Security and Nutrition, the Policy Recommendations on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment, and the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment.