

HIGHLIGHTS

The Session celebrated the 45th Anniversary of the Committee and it focused on the theme “**Accelerating progress on SDG2 to achieve all the Sustainable Development Goals**”, in recognition of the fact that world hunger is on the rise since 2015, returning to levels not seen since 2010–2011.

The Session was attended by delegates from 126 countries and by representatives from UN agencies and bodies, civil society and private sector organizations, international finance and research organizations, philanthropic foundations and observers, reaching a record of 1 669 attendees.

► HIGH-LEVEL OPENING

Opening statements were made by Ms Maria Francesca Spatolisano, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs (on behalf of the UN Secretary General), the CFS Chairperson, Ambassador Mario Arvelo, Mr Qu Dongyu, FAO Director General, Mr Gilbert Houngbo, IFAD President, Mr David Beasley, WFP Executive Director, and Mr Patrick Caron, Chairperson of the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) Steering Committee.

They all underlined the importance of CFS as a unique body that brings together the full range of actors in the fight against hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition, actors who need to come together to support the development and application of CFS policy frameworks.

► POLICY CONVERGENCE

The agenda included an update on the process of developing *Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition*; and a discussion of the findings of the HLPE report on “Agroecological and other innovative approaches to sustainable agriculture and food systems that improve food security and nutrition.” Both policy convergence processes will conclude with endorsement at CFS 47 in October 2020.

Key messages from the food systems and nutrition session included the importance of leveraging technological innovation and multistakeholder action between public and private, smallholder producers and multinational food companies, procurers and consumers. There was a strong call for dedicated resources to implement the guidelines, which can serve as a critical building block for, and input to, both the Nutrition for Growth Summit in Japan in 2020, and a UN Food Systems Summit anticipated for 2021.



The **Committee on World Food Security (CFS)** is the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for all stakeholders to work together to ensure food security and nutrition for all. The Committee reports to the UN General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and to FAO Conference.

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The session on **agroecological and other innovative approaches** highlighted the critical need for structural changes to achieve sustainable agriculture and food systems, including more research and data metrics to fill knowledge gaps in terms of economic efficiency, environmental and social sustainability, and links to food security and nutrition.

The Committee approved a **strategic programme of work for 2020–23**, including thematic workstreams on: food systems and nutrition; agroecological and other innovative approaches; gender equality and women’s empowerment; youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems; data collection and analysis tools; and, reducing inequalities for food security and nutrition.



► INTERNATIONAL DAY OF RURAL WOMEN 2019

On 15 October, with the help of a Malian woman farmer, the session highlighted the importance of creating conditions to engage rural women in food security and nutrition-related strategies, policies and programmes, and of investing in strengthening their capacity to access information, credit, land, water and other natural resources.

A session marked the kick-off of the **UN Decade on Family Farming (2019–2028)**, with a discussion on how the Decade benefits from CFS policy guidance and how to create more synergy between the Decade and the CFS, promoting the application of CFS policy instruments.

The agenda also included sessions on lessons learned in implementing the SDGs, multi-stakeholder partnerships, as well as urbanization and rural transformation. On partnerships, speakers stressed that internal governance mechanisms were central to effectiveness in financing and improving food security and nutrition. Separately, during a session, panelists underlined the various challenges to supporting and institutionalizing CFS policy recommendations.



► YOUTH SPECIAL EVENT

On Friday morning, a “Special Event” was organized by youth delegates, detailing how achieving zero hunger will require direct youth engagement and involvement in policy-making at local and global levels.

► WORLD FOOD DAY 2019

It was celebrated on 16 October. In a video message, the UN Secretary-General expressed his hope to convene a **2021 Food Systems Summit**. Italy’s Prime Minister, Mr. Giuseppe Conte, offered to host the event during Italy’s presidency of the G20.



► SIDE EVENTS AND LAUNCHES

A total of **54 side events and 2 launch events** were held during CFS 46, including an update on the policy implications of *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019* (SOFI), and a press conference for the launch of *The State of Food and Agriculture 2019* report. Summaries of those events are located on the CFS website.



► NEW CHAIRPERSON

Mr. Thanawat Tiensin, Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations Agencies in Rome (FAO, IFAD and WFP), was elected as chairperson for the next two years along with a new 12-member Bureau.

More information on the CFS 46 Plenary Session is available on the CFS website, where you can find the **CFS 46 Final Report**, the **CFS 46 Verbatim Transcript** and the **CFS 46 Sessions Page**.

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