



47th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Starts Today

Virtual meeting expected to endorse new [Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition](#)

Rome, 08 February 2021 - The [47th Plenary Session of the Committee on World Food Security](#) (CFS), will meet virtually at ministerial level 8-11 February to discuss ways to drive policy progress for improved food security and nutrition.

Recent data on food security and nutrition reveals that the global community is [falling short on the 2030 Agenda targets](#), especially the SDG2 goal of ending hunger and malnutrition in all its forms. [Hunger is on the rise](#). An estimated 690 million people were hungry in 2019 and an additional 130 million people have been added as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Meanwhile obesity and overweight are increasingly problematic in all regions.

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) - the world's most inclusive international and intergovernmental platform on food security and nutrition - is working to reverse the negative trends on SDG2 and mitigate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and other crises by developing policy guidance, recommendations and other tools on a wide range of pressing food security and nutrition issues.

Among other anticipated outcomes, the Committee is expected to endorse [CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition](#). These guidelines will serve as a significant reference point for countries and others in their efforts to eradicate hunger and all forms of malnutrition by utilizing a “food systems” approach. The guidelines will also be an important contribution to the UN Food Systems Summit scheduled to take place in September this year. The Committee will also initiate work to develop new Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment as related to food security and nutrition.

“Rescheduled from October 2020 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, CFS 47 is our annual event to advance the CFS mandate and approved program of work. With over 1,000 registered participants, including close to 20 ministers and deputy ministers, the plenary is a unique global platform where food security and nutrition stakeholders from all over the world agree on policy guidance, review global progress, network, and share experiences” says Mr Thanawat Tiensin, CFS Chairperson and Permanent Representative of Thailand to the UN Agencies in Rome.

The opening session **on Monday 8 February (09:30 - 12:30 CET)** will feature keynote addresses by:

- **António Guterres**, United Nations Secretary-General;
- **Thanawat Tiensin**, CFS Chairperson and Permanent Representative of Thailand to the UN Agencies in Rome;
- **QU Dongyu**, Director-General of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO);
- **Gilbert F. Hougbo**; President of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD);
- **David Beasley**, Executive Director, World Food Programme (WFP);
- **Martin Cole**, Chairperson of the CFS High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) Steering Committee.

Please visit the [CFS 47 webpage](#) for the Plenary's [branded agenda](#) and [guide](#) with more information on the sessions that are lined up over the four days. Besides the Plenary sessions, there will be 12 side events – 3 per day, in parallel during the lunch break organized by CFS partners following a competitive application and vetting process. Here is the full [schedule of side events](#).

The CFS 47 sessions will be webcast, are open for all registered participants and will be conducted in all official FAO languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish).

Resources

- [CFS47 webpage](#)
- [CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition](#)
- All sessions will be [webcast live](#)

Follow on Twitter

Connect with us [@UN_CFS](#) and use the hashtag #CFS47 in your social media outreach using this [social media toolkit](#).

Contacts

For more information, please contact the CFS Secretariat at cfs@fao.org

About CFS

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) was established in 1974 and reformed in 2009 to become the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for a broad range of committed stakeholders to work together in a coordinated manner and in support of country-led processes towards the elimination of hunger and ensuring food security and nutrition for all, for the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.

It promotes policy convergence and coherence on global food security and nutrition issues. Its processes ensure that the voices of all relevant stakeholders are heard, particularly those most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition.