



COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY
Thirty-sixth Session
Rome, 11-14 and 16 October 2010
FINAL REPORT

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

1. The Committee on World Food Security held its Thirty-sixth Session from 11 to 14 and 16 October 2010 at FAO Headquarters in Rome. The Session was attended by delegates from 126 Members of the Committee by participants from 11 United Nations Agencies and Programmes; 47 international non-governmental organizations; and observers from 15 intergovernmental organizations and other international non-governmental organizations.
2. The report contains the following annexes: Appendix A - Agenda of the session; Appendix B - Membership of the Committee; Appendix C - Countries and organizations represented at the session; and Appendix D - List of documents. Mr Jacques Diouf, Director-General, made a statement, which is attached as Appendix E. Ms Josette Sheeran, Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP) made a statement, which is attached as Appendix F. Ms Yukiko Omura, Vice-President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) made a statement on behalf of Mr Kanayo F. Nwanze, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), which is attached as Appendix G. Mr David Nabarro, Coordinator of the High Level Task Force on the Global Food Crisis (HLTF) made a statement on behalf of the UN Secretary-General, which is attached as Appendix H. Prof. Monkombu Sambasivan Swaminathan, Chairman of the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) Steering Committee, made a statement, which is attached as Appendix I. The full list of participants is available from the CFS Secretariat.
3. The Session was opened by Mr Noel De Luna as Chairperson.
4. The Committee appointed a Drafting Committee composed of Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Paraguay, USA, under the chairmanship of Mr Ibrahim Abu Atileh (Jordan).
5. The Committee was informed that the European Union was participating in accordance with paragraphs 8 and 9 of Article II of the FAO Constitution.

II. SETTING THE STAGE FOR CFS 36th SESSION

6. Opening statements delivered by the Director-General of FAO, Mr Jacques Diouf, Ms Josette Sheeran, WFP Executive Director, Ms Yukiko Omura, Vice-President of IFAD on behalf of Mr Kanayo F. Nwanze, President of IFAD, Mr David Nabarro, Coordinator of the High Level Task Force on the Global Food Crisis (HLTF) on behalf of the UN Secretary-General and Prof. Monkombu Sambasivan Swaminathan are attached as appendixes.
7. The CFS Chair made a presentation on the implementation of the CFS reform process carried out through 2009-2010.

III. THE STATE OF FOOD INSECURITY (SOFI) 2010

8. The Committee considered a presentation by Mr Hafez Ghanem, Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department, FAO on “An overview of food insecurity in the world”.
9. The Committee agreed that:
 - the reduction in world hunger is welcome but global hunger is still unacceptably high;
 - projected hunger reduction in 2010 is the result of the reversal of the high food prices and global economic crises but structural hunger is increasing;
 - recent developments related to extreme weather events in different parts of the world may jeopardize further progress;
 - the level of hunger and food insecurity is of particular concern for low-income food-deficit countries, and
 - a Round Table to review methods used to estimate the number of hungry would be arranged during 2011 by the CFS Bureau assisted by the Secretariat.

IV. GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS RELEVANT TO FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

10. The Chairperson noted the purpose of this session was to share information and explore how existing global initiatives can maximize synergies among each other and with CFS with a view to promoting greater coherence and impact.
11. The Committee welcomed presentations of five initiatives:
 - i) overview of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Summit by Ms Annika Söder, Assistant Director General, Office of Corporate Communication and External Relations, FAO;
 - ii) update on the L’Aquila Food Security Initiative (AFSI), including tracking commitments and mapping country activities, by Mr Christopher MacLennan, Director General, Thematic and Sectoral Policy Directorate, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA);
 - iii) update on the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP), the UN High Level Task Force on the Food Crisis (HLTF) and the Comprehensive Framework for Action (CFA) by Mr David Nabarro, Coordinator HLTF;
 - iv) update on the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), especially the recent reform, by Mr Carlos Perez Del Castillo, Chair of the CGIAR Consortium Board, and
 - v) update on the United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition (SCN), and the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) initiative, by Mr Alexander Muller, Chair of the United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition.

12. The Committee decided to:
- include the SCN into the Advisory Group of the CFS in addition to the present Advisory Group members, taking into account SCN's special nature as a UN coordination mechanism and platform in its own right, with its own stakeholder consultation mechanisms;
 - entrust the CFS Bureau with looking into ways to invite and include the SCN or one of its member organizations in the Joint Secretariat of the CFS;
 - suggest that the SCN works in coordination with the CFS to establish synergy and close coordination between their respective processes, mechanisms and proposals.
13. The Committee decided to invite submission of progress reports on these and other key initiatives to future sessions of the CFS.

V. REGIONAL INITIATIVES FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

14. The Chairperson noted the purpose of this session was for the Committee to build, strengthen and maintain linkages with relevant actors at all levels and to ensure that its work is based on the reality on the ground.
15. The Committee welcomed presentations of nine regional initiatives and fora: the FAO Regional Conference for Africa (ARC); the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP); the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC); the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' (ASEAN) Initiative on Food Security; the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Ministerial Meeting on Food Security; the Pacific Food Summit on behalf of the Food Secure Pacific Working Group (FSPWG); the "Hunger Free Latin America and The Caribbean 2025 Initiative"; the Specialized Meeting on Family Farming of MERCOSUR (REAF) and the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD) Initiative for Food Security.
16. The Committee recognized the importance of the following points that emerged from the discussion:
- i) food security and nutrition are cross-cutting issues which require a multidisciplinary and multi-stakeholder framework at the national and the regional level;
 - ii) regional initiatives add value and support national efforts in addressing food insecurity and malnutrition;
 - iii) regional and inter-regional cooperation provides a valid tool for sharing knowledge and best practices as well as enhancing South-South cooperation;
 - iv) mobilization of required resources to operationalize regional frameworks is a key pre-requisite.
17. The Committee decided to build, strengthen and maintain linkages with such initiatives and fora in the intersessional period.
18. The Committee welcomed the offers from the regional initiatives to support communication with the CFS over the intersessional period including the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative 2025, and through the Chairmanship of the FAO Africa and the Latin America and Caribbean Regional Conferences as well as APRC and ASEAN Secretariat.

VI. OVERVIEW BY THE CHAIR OF COUNTRY REQUESTS TO THE CFS

19. The Chairperson noted that no country requests have been submitted to his attention. He also proposed that for the 37th Session of the CFS, this agenda item could be used to offer countries the chance to present their current and planned activities for development partnerships in the area of food security and nutrition. Opportunities for South-South and triangular cooperation could also be explored under this agenda item.

VII. NATIONAL INITIATIVES FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION – CASE STUDIES

20. The Committee welcomed the presentation of four country case studies to (a) enable countries to identify common themes and best practices to improve food security and (b) ways for the reformed CFS to strengthen its support to those food security and nutrition initiatives. The topics and presenting countries included: “A Comprehensive approach to food security: the National Food Policy Plan of Action” (Bangladesh); “CAADP from the perspective of a country” (Rwanda); “Achieving food security in protracted crisis” (Haiti); “Best practices in safety nets, nutrition and their links to supporting local production” (Jordan).

21. All four case studies clearly referred to the CFS as the platform capable of bringing to light country level needs in the areas of technical cooperation, capacity building and resource mobilization. Common features regarding national approaches to addressing food security and nutrition arising from the four case studies included:

- a) a comprehensive approach to food security and nutrition;
- b) strong coordination, cooperation and joint planning among ministries;
- c) constructing and financing viable safety nets ;
- d) capacity building and training;
- e) gender Mainstreaming;
- f) South-South cooperation.

22. The CFS requested the Secretariat to elaborate a document to be forwarded to the next session of the CFS that would include a consolidation and analysis of lessons learnt and suggestions with respect to further case studies that could complement these lessons.

VIII. POLICY ROUNDTABLES

23. The Committee welcomed the outcomes from three policy round tables on the following topics: (i) “Addressing food insecurity in protracted crises: Issues and Challenges”; (ii) “Land tenure and international investment in agriculture”; and, (iii) “Managing vulnerability and risk to promote better food security and nutrition”. The following are the outcomes of the Committee’s deliberations:

Addressing food insecurity in protracted crises

24. Bearing in mind that issues related to conflict resolution go beyond the CFS mandate, the Committee endorsed the spirit of the three recommendations contained in the background document:

- i) support further analysis and deeper understanding of people’s livelihoods and coping mechanisms in protracted crises in order to strengthen their resilience and enhance the effectiveness of assistance programmes;
- ii) support the protection, promotion and rebuilding of livelihoods, and the institutions that support and enable livelihoods, in countries in protracted crisis;

- iii) examine the procedures for external assistance to countries in protracted crisis to match the needs, challenges and institutional constraints on the ground taking into consideration best practices.
25. More specifically the CFS recommended:
- i) adopting a comprehensive approach to food security in protracted crises encompassing both emergency response and support to sustainable livelihoods;
 - ii) that the UN system promotes better coordinated multi-stakeholder participation in the development and implementation of country led, comprehensive plans of action in a small number of countries affected by protracted crises;
 - iii) developing mechanisms to engage local organizations in strengthening key institutions (i.e. markets, social kinships);
 - iv) establishing mechanisms for stronger partnerships and collaboration with regional institutions;
 - v) supporting mechanisms for consultation and policy dialogue to increase understanding and collaborative efforts to deal with food and nutrition security in protracted crises. In that regard the Bureau in consultation with the Advisory Group will explore the possibility of organizing a High-Level Expert Forum on Protracted Crises no later than 2012 with a view of discussing the elaboration of a new Agenda for Action for Food Security in Countries in Protracted Crises in collaboration with other specialized agencies and humanitarian partners;
 - vi) that an addendum to the SOFI be published with a revised table 2 to include all countries and territories in protracted crises and that the list be expanded to include the Palestinian Territories¹, West Bank and Gaza strip.

Land tenure and international investment in agriculture

26. The Committee:
- i) encouraged the continuation of the inclusive process for the development of the Voluntary Guidelines (Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land and Other Natural Resources – VG) building on existing regional processes with a view to submitting the guidelines for the consideration of the 37th session of CFS and decided to establish an open-ended working group of the CFS to review the first draft of the voluntary guidelines;
 - ii) taking note of the ongoing process of developing Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investments that Respect Rights, Livelihoods and Resources (RAI), and, in line with its role, decided to start an inclusive process of consideration of the principles within the CFS;
 - iii) urged governments and other stakeholders involved in the drafting process of both the VG and the RAI to ensure consistency and complementarity between the two processes;
 - iv) requested the HLPE to undertake studies, to be presented at the 37th Session of the CFS, on the following important issues, in accordance with the CFS reform document agreed in 2009, and the Rules and Procedures for the work of the HLPE:
 - the respective roles of large-scale plantations and of small-scale farming, including economic, social, gender and environmental impacts;
 - review of the existing tools allowing the mapping of available land;
 - comparative analysis of tools to align large scale investments with country food security strategies
 - v) encouraged member state support for capacity building toward effectively addressing land governance.

¹ Members of the Near East Group and some members of the Committee expressed their reservation to not referring to “Occupied Palestinian Territories” as per agreed terminology in the UN system.

Managing vulnerability and risk to promote better food security and nutrition

27. The Committee requested HLPE to undertake studies, to be presented at the 37th session of the CFS, on the following important issues, in accordance with the CFS Reform Document agreed in 2009 and the Rules and Procedures for the Work of the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition:

- i) ***Price volatility***: all of its causes and consequences, including market distorting practices and links to financial markets, and appropriate and coherent policies, actions, tools and institutions to manage the risks linked to excessive price volatility in agriculture. This should include prevention and mitigation for vulnerable producers, and consumers, particularly the poor, women and children, that are appropriate to different levels (local, national, regional and international) and are based on a review of existing studies. The study should consider how vulnerable nations and populations can ensure access to food when volatility causes market disruptions.
- ii) ***Social protection***: ways to lessen vulnerability through social and productive safety nets programs and policies with respect to food and nutritional security, taking into consideration differing conditions across countries and regions. This should include a review of the impact of existing policies for the improvement of living conditions and resilience of vulnerable populations, especially small scale rural producers, urban and rural poor as well as women and children. It should also take into account benefits for improving local production and livelihoods and promoting better nutrition.
- iii) ***Climate change***: review existing assessments and initiatives on the effects of climate change on food security and nutrition, with a focus on the most affected and vulnerable regions and populations and the interface between climate change and agricultural productivity, including the challenges and opportunities of adaptation and mitigation policies and actions for food security and nutrition.

28. The CFS Bureau, in consultation with the Advisory Group and Secretariat, shall determine how best to take forward the process of developing recommendations or options for the 37th Session of CFS.

IX. GLOBAL COORDINATION FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL PROCESSES

A. Development of a Global Strategic Framework

29. The Secretariat introduced document CFS: 2010/2 Global Strategic Framework for *Food Security and Nutrition – A Concept Note*. The Committee agreed to launch a consultative and inclusive process to be conducted by the CFS Bureau with the assistance of the Joint Secretariat and in close collaboration with the Advisory Group and involvement of all stakeholders, with the aim to develop the first version of the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF) by October 2012, which will be subject to regular updates reflecting the outcomes and recommendations of the CFS. The first step of this inclusive consultation process will be to find agreement on GSF purposes, basic principles and structure, taking into account existing frameworks. During the process, the HLPE may provide input on priority issues identified by the CFS.

B. Mapping Food Security Actions at Country Level

30. The Secretariat introduced document CFS: 2010/3 *Mapping Food Security Actions at Country Level*. The Committee agreed to:

- endorse the proposed development and implementation plan contained in this document;
 - encourage interested stakeholders to participate in the further development of the initiative at country level;
 - request the Secretariat to continue facilitating, and with the support of stakeholders in the CFS Advisory Group, the development and implementation plan contained in this document as one of the core activities of the CFS 2010/11 work programme with a view to providing an update of the process, including experiences from countries, at the CFS session in 2011;
 - recommend that 4 to 6 national governments present the results of mapping at the CFS session in 2011 and inform discussions on national actions and investments, lessons learnt, good practice and the benefits thereof, and the need for international assistance.
31. The Committee underlined that the mapping initiative should also consider actions related to nutrition.

X. THE WAY FORWARD FOR CFS – THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REFORM

32. The Committee acknowledged the document CFS:2010/9 “Proposal for an International Food Security and Nutrition Civil Society Mechanism for Relations with CFS”, and encouraged other stakeholders to proceed along the same lines.
33. The Committee endorsed the recommendation contained in document CFS:2010/4 “Revised Rules of Procedure” that at the end of 2010 and throughout 2011, a Bureau Working Group continue to review and revise the CFS Rules of Procedure, Rule XXXIII of the GRO and the FAO Constitution, in light of the Reform Document (CFS:2009/2 Rev.2) and according to the process and timetable proposed in Section III of the document.
34. In addition, the Committee agreed that in the transitional period until October 2011, the existing Rules of Procedure and Article XXXIII of the General Rules of the Organization can only be applied in so far as those rules are in full conformity with the text and spirit of the CFS Reform Document².
35. The Secretariat introduced document CFS:2010/5 “CFS Programme Work and Budget”. The Committee:
- endorsed the PWB for 2010-2011;
 - recommended that the proposed 2012-2013 PWB be further reviewed by the Bureau;
 - decided to submit them to the consideration of FAO, IFAD and WFP in accordance with their respective financial rules and regulations;
 - endorsed the proposal to develop a results-based framework for CFS that is consistent with the organizational priorities of the Rome Based Agencies (and others) in the shape of a detailed MYPOW (Multi-year Programme of Work) to be preferably presented at the 37th session of the CFS in 2011.

² The Committee took note of the position of the Representative of the Legal Counsel of FAO reflected in paragraph 6 of document CFS:2010/4 with respect to Article XXXIII of General Rules of the Organization.