

**Mr Thanawat Tiensin**  
**Committee on World Food Security (CFS), Chair**

**Reporting to ECOSOC**

**Management meeting 9 June 2021**

**UN HQ New York – virtual event**

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Role	Length of interventions	Total words (100 words per minute)
Presentation of the CFS 47 and CFS 48 reports to ECOSOC	10 min.	1013
<b>STRATEGIC GOALS FOR CFS CHAIRPERSON</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Brief our reports, raise visibility of CFS; stress role &amp; unique mandate in UN;</li><li>2. Highlight VGFSN and PRs on Innovation;</li><li>3. Draw attention to new workstreams on Gender, Youth, Data.</li></ol>	

Excellencies, delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a privilege to address the ECOSOC as Chair of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and share with you a highlight of our most recent work and achievements. A more detailed account of our work is available in the full report submitted to this committee which I encourage you to read.

The ongoing global pandemic continues to profoundly affect food systems and threaten the progressive realization of the right to food.

In the past year-plus, we have witnessed major disruptions to food supply chains. Food workers have been unable to plant, harvest, transport and sell their produce in the wake of lockdowns triggered by the global health crisis as well as the ensuing major global economic slowdown.

These crises have resulted in lower incomes and higher prices of some foods. While this has benefited some food producers, it has put healthy, nutritious foods out of financial reach for many.

The consequences for food security and nutrition are extremely serious. The most recent estimates indicate that between 83 and 132 million additional people will experience food

insecurity as a direct or indirect result of the pandemic. Already, before the outbreak of the pandemic, according to the latest State of Food Security and Nutrition report by FAO, some two billion people faced food insecurity at the moderate or severe level.

At the same time, malnutrition - including overweight and obesity - increases vulnerability to COVID-19.

Since its outbreak, we have learned more about the complex ways in which the pandemic has affected, and will affect, food security and nutrition, as well as its linkages with an increased loss of natural habitats, degradation of the environment and decreased biodiversity.

The CFS High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) has contributed to this knowledge with a comprehensive analysis and in-depth review of the main trends affecting food systems. The Panel has also provided a deeper analysis of the pandemic's implications for food security and sustainable development. I encourage you to read their Issue Paper which is available on the CFS public website.

Over the past 18 months, CFS has continued to serve as the UN's unique, multi-stakeholder platform for inclusive engagement on SDG2. We bring together governments, civil society, private sector, scientists, finance institutions, United Nations experts and others. Through this democratic process, CFS has developed a number of policy products which will very directly address the root causes of hunger and malnutrition.

First, in February, the Committee endorsed CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN). The result of five-plus years of inclusive multi-stakeholder consultation and negotiation, these Guidelines represent a concrete tool to inform policy-makers and others on practical policies and interventions to address malnutrition in all its forms through a holistic 'food systems' approach. These guidelines recognize the importance of implementing interventions within and across food systems, and their constituent elements - food supply chains, food environments, and consumers' behavior - to improve the likelihood of those food systems delivering healthy diets and positive outcomes among the three dimensions of sustainable development.

We now encourage all governments and CFS stakeholders to support and promote them at all levels, and to implement them, also in collaboration with other relevant initiatives and platforms. In this regard, I commend UN Nutrition and its member organizations for their early commitment to support the application of these guidelines, also in conjunction with commitments on the UN Decade of Action on the 2030 Agenda and the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition.

Second, during 2020, the CFS High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition issued its report entitled "Food security and nutrition: building a global narrative towards 2030". The report presented a new conceptual framework connecting food and agricultural systems to health, environmental, economic, social and other systems. The Panel proposed two new

dimensions - “agency” and “sustainability” – to the four pillars of food security. The report also calls for four specific policy shifts:

- (i) recognize the need for transformation of food systems;
- (ii) view food security and nutrition as a system interconnected with other systems and sectors;
- (iii) focus on hunger and all forms of malnutrition; and
- (iv) recognize that food security and nutrition challenges are context-specific and require diverse, local solutions.

Third, the Committee endorsed Terms of Reference for the preparation of CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls’ Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition. The Guidelines will be presented for endorsement by CFS plenary in October 2022.

In undertaking this process, the Committee stresses that advancing gender equality and women’s and girls’ empowerment is critical to achieving all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda, as well as ensuring food systems that are economically, socially and environmentally sustainable.

And finally, last week, we held a special plenary session, during which the Committee endorsed policy recommendations on “Agroecological and other innovative approaches”. The policy recommendations offer a pathway for “building back better” and moving towards sustainable and more inclusive food systems and more sustainable nutrition patterns.

The UN Secretary-General told attendees to CFS 47 that the current situation calls for “fundamental, systemic change [of the food systems] to address hunger, sustainability and malnutrition, while upholding human rights, alleviating poverty and supporting inclusive and sustainable development for all.”

The UN Food Systems Summit offers us an opportunity to undertake this transformation, and CFS policy convergence instruments and expert reports can play a crucial role. This includes our Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSYN), the Voluntary Guidelines on the Governance of Tenure (CFS VGGT), the CFS Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment (CFS RAI), the CFS Framework for Action during Protracted Crises (CFS-FFA), and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Progressive Realization on the Right to Adequate Food - to ground the Summit and implement any follow-up actions.

Transforming our food systems is not an easy goal, but one we need to accomplish if we want to realize a healthier, more sustainable and more equitable world. CFS is committed to continue playing its part in this effort.

Thank you!