



# COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

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**TOWARDS A FRAMEWORK FOR MONITORING CFS DECISIONS  
AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**REPORT ON THE FINDINGS OF THE  
CFS EFFECTIVENESS SURVEY**

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

CAADP: Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme

CFS: Committee on World Food Security

CSM: International Food Security and Nutrition Civil Society Mechanism

ECOSOC: United Nations Economic and Social Council

EU: European Union

FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

FSN: Food Security and Nutrition

G20: Group of Twenty

GSF: Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition

HLPE: High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition

ICN2: Second International Conference on Nutrition

IFAD: International Fund for Agricultural Development

M&E: Monitoring & Evaluation

MYPoW: Multi Year Programme of Work

NGO: Non-Governmental Organization

OECD/DAC: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC)

OEWG: Open-Ended Working Group

Principles: Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems

PSM: Private Sector Mechanism of the Committee on World Food Security

RBAs: Rome-Based Agencies (i.e. FAO, IFAD and WFP)

UNSCN: United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition

SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals

SUN: Scaling Up Nutrition

TST: Technical Support Team

UN: United Nations

UNCTAD: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

UNFCCC: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

UNGA: United Nations General Assembly

VGGT: Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security

WFP: World Food Programme of the United Nations

WHA: World Health Assembly

WHO: World Health Organization

UNGA: General Assembly of the United Nations

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) was set up in 1974 as an intergovernmental body to serve as a forum for review and follow up of food security policies. In 2009, the Committee went through a reform process to ensure that the voices of other stakeholders were heard in the global debate on food security and nutrition. The vision of the reformed CFS is to be the most inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for all stakeholders to work together in a coordinated way to ensure food security and nutrition for all<sup>1</sup>. One of the roles identified in the CFS Reform document was to promote accountability and share best practices at all levels.

2. At the 40th session of CFS in October 2013, in the context of CFS monitoring, the Committee underlined the important role of CFS as a platform for stakeholders to regularly share experiences and practices on monitoring work in strategic areas at all levels (global, regional and national) and the need to use monitoring and evaluation (M&E) to improve the work of CFS, including the formulation of future CFS recommendations. One of the recommendations endorsed at CFS 40 was to conduct periodic assessments of CFS effectiveness in improving policy frameworks, especially at country level, and in promoting participation of and coherence among stakeholders on food security and nutrition. Specifically, CFS 40 recommended carrying out a baseline survey to assess the current situation as the base of assessing progress<sup>2</sup>.

3. At its 41st session in October 2014, CFS decided to carry out an opinion survey to gather perceptions about its effectiveness, in accordance with the methodology outlined in the document “Towards a framework for monitoring CFS decisions and recommendations” (CFS 2014/41/11).

4. The CFS Effectiveness Survey was implemented during the first quarter of 2015. The focus of the exercise was on soliciting opinions and perceptions by CFS stakeholders against the following assessment criteria:

- 1) Relevance of CFS
- 2) Inclusiveness & Participation
- 3) Coordination and engagement
- 4) Promotion of policy convergence
- 5) Evidence-based decision-making
- 6) CFS Communication strategy
- 7) CFS Responsiveness
- 8) CFS Influence
- 9) Capacity for uptake

5. Overall, a total of 470 individuals responded to the survey, of which 32% were nominated by CFS Member Countries and CFS Advisory Group members. The surveyed sample covers all CFS constituencies.

6. This report provides the main findings from the survey and is at the disposal of CFS Members and Participants for informing discussions on possible areas for improvement and further analysis. Section II describes the methodological approach adopted in implementing the exercise. Survey demographics are provided in Section III. The results of the survey are presented in Section IV, which highlights relative CFS strengths and weaknesses focusing on each of the addressed assessment criteria. Final conclusions and recommendations are provided in Section V. Annex 1 provides charts and tables that complement those included in the main report. The survey questionnaire is provided in Annex 2.

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<sup>1</sup> CFS:2009/2 Rev.2 - Reform of the Committee on World Food Security final version - [http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/cfs/Docs0910/ReformDoc/CFS\\_2009\\_2\\_Rev\\_2\\_E\\_K7197.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/cfs/Docs0910/ReformDoc/CFS_2009_2_Rev_2_E_K7197.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Ref. page 10 of CFS 40 Final Report (2013) - <http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/029/mi744e.pdf>.

## II. SURVEY METHODOLOGY

7. The CFS Secretariat, in consultation with the CFS Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Monitoring, developed the methodological proposal outlined in the document “Towards a framework for monitoring CFS decisions and recommendations”<sup>3</sup>, which was endorsed at CFS 41 in October 2014.

8. The methodology endorsed at CFS 41 defines the concept of CFS effectiveness as “the extent to which CFS Outcomes are achieved, or are expected to be achieved”, based on the Committee’s three major roles as defined in the CFS Reform Document<sup>4</sup>. The three expected outcomes, as agreed in the 2014-15 Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW)<sup>5</sup> document are:

**Outcome A:** Enhanced global coordination on food security and nutrition questions

**Outcome B:** Improved policy convergence on key food security and nutrition issues

**Outcome C:** Strengthened national and regional food security and nutrition actions

9. Based on the description of the CFS outcomes and consistent with the spirit of the CFS Reform Document, the endorsed methodology identified a set of 9 complementary criteria (or key drivers of success) against which the assessment of CFS effectiveness should focus. Those are presented in Table 1<sup>6</sup>. The methodology indicated that complementary methods should be considered for assessing the effectiveness of CFS, including: a) opinion surveys of CFS stakeholders; b) voluntary in-depth country level assessments; c) sharing of best practices at all levels – including at CFS plenary and inter-sessional events; d) other assessment methods - including a full scope evaluation of CFS Effectiveness.

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<sup>3</sup> CFS 2014/41/11, <http://www.fao.org/3/a-ml074e.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> CFS:2009/2 Rev.2 -

[http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/cfs/Docs0910/ReformDoc/CFS\\_2009\\_2\\_Rev\\_2\\_E\\_K7197.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/cfs/Docs0910/ReformDoc/CFS_2009_2_Rev_2_E_K7197.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> CFS 2013/40/9 Rev. 1 - <http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/029/MI036e.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Each assessment criterion is associated with a specific CFS Outcome but in fact some criteria may apply to more than one Outcome. In general, criteria related to CFS Outcomes A and B (criteria 1 to 6) are mainly addressing the capacity of the CFS platform to promote consultative processes and deliver products aimed at enhancing attitudinal change of key stakeholders, encouraging commitments from states and other actors, and securing procedural change. Assessing the criteria associated with Outcome C is mainly referring to the analysis of the extent to which CFS is responding to requests and influencing policy processes, at regional and national levels, aimed at improving policy content and influencing behaviour change in key stakeholders.

<b>Table 1: CFS effectiveness assessment criteria</b>		
<b>CFS Outcomes</b>	<b>Assessment Criteria (key drivers of success)</b>	<b>Definitions (what the assessment criteria measure)</b>
<b>Outcome A:</b>  <b>Enhanced global coordination on food security and nutrition issues</b>	<b>1 Relevance of CFS</b>	Extent to which the CFS platform is able to address relevant FSN priorities at global, regional and national levels
	<b>2 Inclusiveness &amp; Participation</b>	Extent to which CFS includes and has active participation from all relevant stakeholders
	<b>3 Coordination and Engagement</b>	Extent to which CFS promotes global coordination on FSN and is engaging with relevant global and regional fora and initiatives
<b>Outcome B:</b>  <b>Improved policy convergence on key food security and nutrition issues</b>	<b>4 Promotion of Policy Convergence</b>	Extent to which CFS produces and promotes outputs (such as policy recommendations, strategies and guidelines) aligned with global, regional and national priorities
	<b>5 Evidence-based Decision-Making</b>	Extent to which CFS decisions and recommendations are based on evidence
	<b>6 CFS Communication Strategy</b>	Extent to which CFS effectively communicates and raises awareness of CFS main outputs and FSN issues with decision-makers and other relevant stakeholders at all levels
<b>Outcome C:</b>  <b>Strengthened national and regional food security and nutrition actions</b>	<b>7 CFS Responsiveness</b>	Extent to which CFS facilitates effective support and advice in response to requests by regions and countries
	<b>8 CFS Influence</b>	Extent to which CFS is positively influencing policy processes and enhancement at regional and national levels through the delivery and promotion of its main outputs
	<b>9 Capacity for Uptake</b>	Extent to which CFS Members and other stakeholders have capacity to apply CFS main outputs at the regional and national levels

10. CFS 41 decided “to conduct a baseline assessment of CFS effectiveness, beginning with the implementation of an opinion survey of CFS stakeholders”. In response to that, the CFS Secretariat, in consultation with the OEWG on Monitoring and with the assistance of a Technical Support Team (TST) comprising representatives from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), World Food Programme (WFP) and International Food Security and Nutrition Civil Society Mechanism (CSM), developed and implemented the “CFS Effectiveness Survey<sup>7</sup>” during the first half of 2015.

11. The Survey was implemented using a structured questionnaire (attached in Annex 2) aimed at soliciting opinions and perceptions on some critical aspects related to the assessment criteria listed in Table 1.

12. Following a piloting phase<sup>8</sup>, the survey was sent to a group of respondents nominated by CFS Member Countries and Advisory Group members<sup>9</sup> according to selection criteria agreed by the

<sup>7</sup> Henceforth, the CFS Effectiveness Opinion Survey will be referred to as “the survey”.

<sup>8</sup> During the first half of February 2015, the on-line English version of the survey was tested by RBA HQ and decentralized staff who were not involved in its design. Their comments on the clarity of the survey questionnaire, the editing of the web page where the survey was posted, and on other issues were incorporated into the final survey version which was translated into CFS official languages. The Spanish and French versions of the survey were tested for language accuracy with the assistance of representatives from Argentina and Haiti.



OEWG on Monitoring. Each CFS Member and Participant was requested to nominate at least 6 individuals as potential respondents to the survey, according to the following criteria: a) individuals who have participated in any of the CFS inter-sessional meetings or plenary sessions since the reform in 2009; b) individuals who are experts or operate in the field of food security and nutrition working in regional institutions or at regional level; c) individuals who are experts or operate in the field of food security and nutrition working at country level. As recommended by the OEWG on Monitoring, the survey was also open to the public through websites and mailing lists relevant to Food Security and Nutrition. Details on the survey sample demographics are provided in Section III.

13. The survey was posted on the web in three languages<sup>10</sup> between the 8th and the 22nd of March 2015, using a web-based survey administration platform. Responses were not compulsory, which resulted in different response sizes for different questions, as indicated in Section IV where survey results are reported. In order to enhance the quality of survey results, consistency checks of the responses were carried out<sup>11</sup>. Responses were treated anonymously, so as to ensure that no individual can be identified from the findings reported here.

14. Despite applying a rigorous approach in collecting, analysing and consolidating respondents' individual opinions and perceptions, the survey presents some limitations that may affect the validity of its results. The main weaknesses come from: a) the small sample size of respondents and, in particular, the limited number of nominated respondents who actually took the survey; b) wide variance in the number of respondents across the different CFS constituencies (though all CFS constituencies are represented in the survey sample); and c) wide variance in the sample sizes from different geographic regions.

15. While the choice of assessing CFS effectiveness through a survey instrument presents limitations already acknowledged in the methodology endorsed at CFS 41<sup>12</sup>, the implemented exercise provides, as intended, a snapshot of the current perception of CFS effectiveness rapidly and at low cost. Survey findings identify potential gaps, weaknesses and strengths of CFS and this can inform CFS decisions on possible areas for improvement and/or further exploration. The survey also provides a baseline against which to assess progress and change over time through similar exercises in the future.

### III. SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

16. The total number of individuals that responded to the survey was 470, of which 43% were women and 57% were men. Respondents fall into two main groups. The first group is composed of respondents that were nominated by CFS Member Countries and Participants (i.e. "nominated respondents"). The second group (i.e. "non-nominated respondents") includes those who took the

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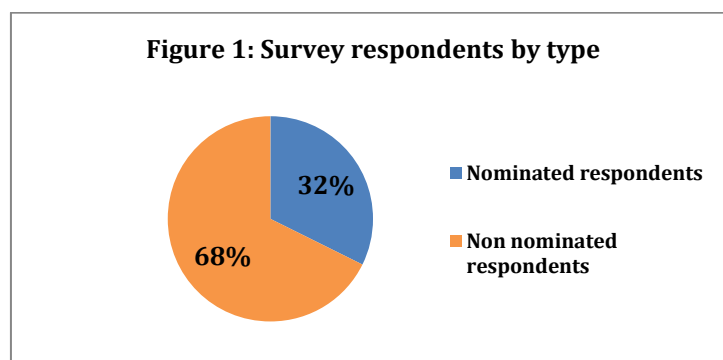
<sup>9</sup> CFS Reform Document, CFS:2009/2 Rev.2, Sec. III describes the eligibility criteria for CFS members and the composition of its Advisory Group.

<sup>10</sup> The survey was posted on-line in English, French and Spanish. The survey questionnaire was also available in Arabic, Chinese and Russian. Only one request for the Arabic version of the survey was received and none for Chinese or Russian.

<sup>11</sup> In particular, unclear or irrelevant responses have been eliminated from the database.

<sup>12</sup> CFS 2014/41/11, Table 5 - <http://www.fao.org/3/a-ml074e.pdf>.

survey after being informed about it via relevant websites<sup>13</sup> or networks<sup>14</sup>. As shown in Figure 1 below, the group of nominated respondents represents 32% of the total survey sample<sup>15</sup>.



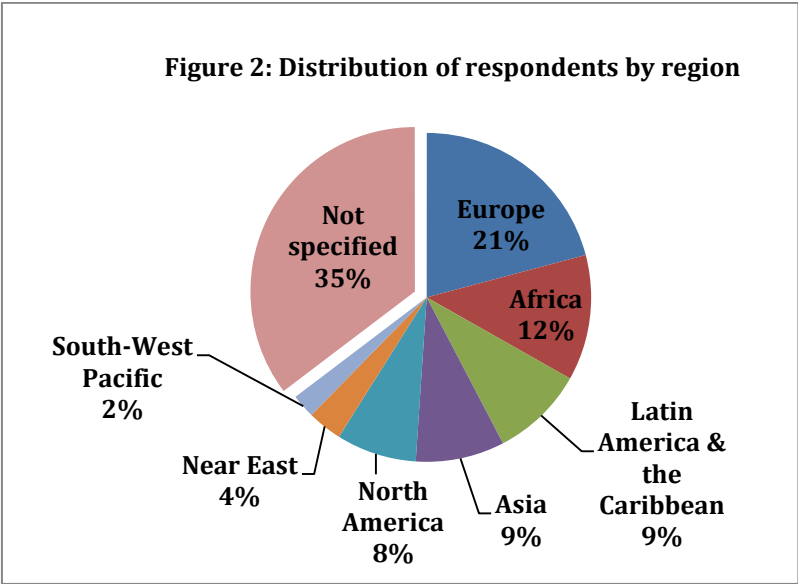
17. Respondents from both of the above indicated groups described themselves as having relevant FSN experience and were generally affiliated with various CFS stakeholder groups. For these reasons, both groups can be considered relevant for the purposes of the survey, which was intended to collect opinions and perceptions of individuals among different CFS stakeholder groups. Table 2 and Figure 2 below provide the distribution of respondents by region of nationality.

<b>Table 2: Survey respondents by region of nationality</b>		
<b>Regions</b>	<b>Respondents by region as a %</b>	<b>Number of respondents by region</b>
Europe	21%	98
Africa	12%	58
Latin America & the Caribbean	9%	43
Asia	9%	41
North America	8%	37
Near East	3%	16
South-West Pacific	2%	11
Not specified	35%	166
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>470</b>

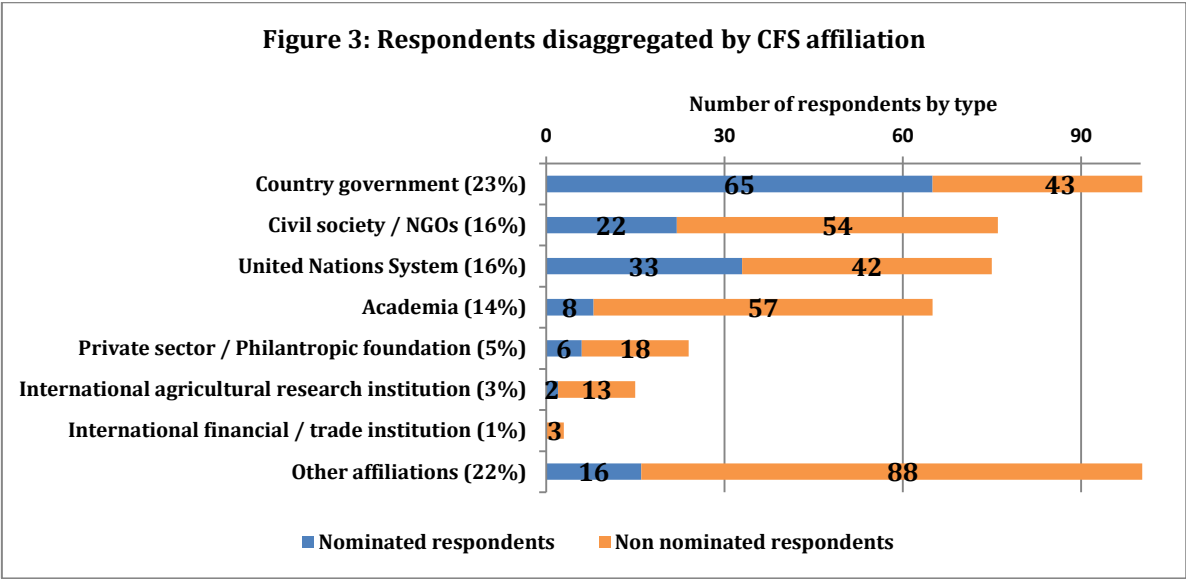
<sup>13</sup> The survey was posted on the websites of CFS, IFAD and the United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN).

<sup>14</sup> The survey was circulated through the following networks: Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition (FSN Forum), which is a worldwide online community facilitated by FAO; CFS HLPE Steering Committee members; the FAO Members Gateway (network of Permanent Representatives to FAO).

<sup>15</sup> The total number of individuals that were nominated by CFS Member Countries and Participants to take the survey was 374. All of them were invited to take the survey. The response rate was 40.6% (152 of those nominated responded to the survey). Nominations were provided by 40% of CFS Member Countries.



18. Respondents were asked to indicate their affiliation, according to CFS constituency categories. Figure 3 provides the distribution of respondents by affiliation and type of respondents (i.e. “nominated respondents” and “non-nominated respondents”). While 22% of respondents identified themselves as having “other affiliations”, 87% of them did not specify their affiliation<sup>16</sup>.



19. Of the total sample of respondents, 30% (or 141 respondents) indicated they had attended a CFS Plenary Session or otherwise participated in CFS since the 2009 reform, while 39% (or 181 respondents) had not attended any CFS session or activity. The remaining 31% did not specify. In presenting survey findings, in several cases results have been disaggregated according to whether respondents had or had not attended a CFS session or otherwise participated in its work since the CFS reform. This helps to identify different trends between the opinions expressed by “insiders”, i.e. people who should be familiar with the work processes and discussions that take place in CFS, and “outsiders” i.e. those that might not be very familiar with CFS. The differences between the perceptions of the two groups in some cases provide interesting insights regarding CFS effectiveness,

<sup>16</sup> When asked to specify, the most frequent “other affiliations” were: a) “Independent consultancy firm” (8 respondents); b) “International organization different from the UN” (4 respondents); c) “National research institution” (2 respondents).

in particular regarding communication and outreach activities. Additional details on the survey demographics are provided in Annex 1 (Figures 1, 2 and 3).

20. Due to the low number of respondents in the CFS category “International financial/trade institution” (3 respondents) that group has been merged with “Other affiliations” for the presentation of survey findings. For the same reason, respondents affiliated with “International agriculture research institution” (i.e. 15 respondents) have been merged with “Academia”.

#### IV. SURVEY RESULTS





21. This section provides the main results of the survey, focusing on the nine assessment criteria in the methodology endorsed at CFS 41 and presented in Section II. Results are reported based on the different pool sizes that were recorded across the addressed dimensions recorded<sup>17</sup>. Responses have been disaggregated by type of respondent (i.e. whether or not they have participated in CFS since the 2009 reform) and respondent’s affiliations. Additional results, with information disaggregated by region of respondent’s nationality, are provided in Annex 1.

##### *Relevance of CFS*

22. The “Relevance of CFS” was addressed in survey questions 4 to 6, aimed at collecting respondents’ opinions on global FSN priorities and how well those are addressed by CFS.

23. In question 6, respondents were asked to rate, in general terms, whether CFS is addressing the most relevant global FSN issues on a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 is “not relevant at all” and 5 is “very relevant”.

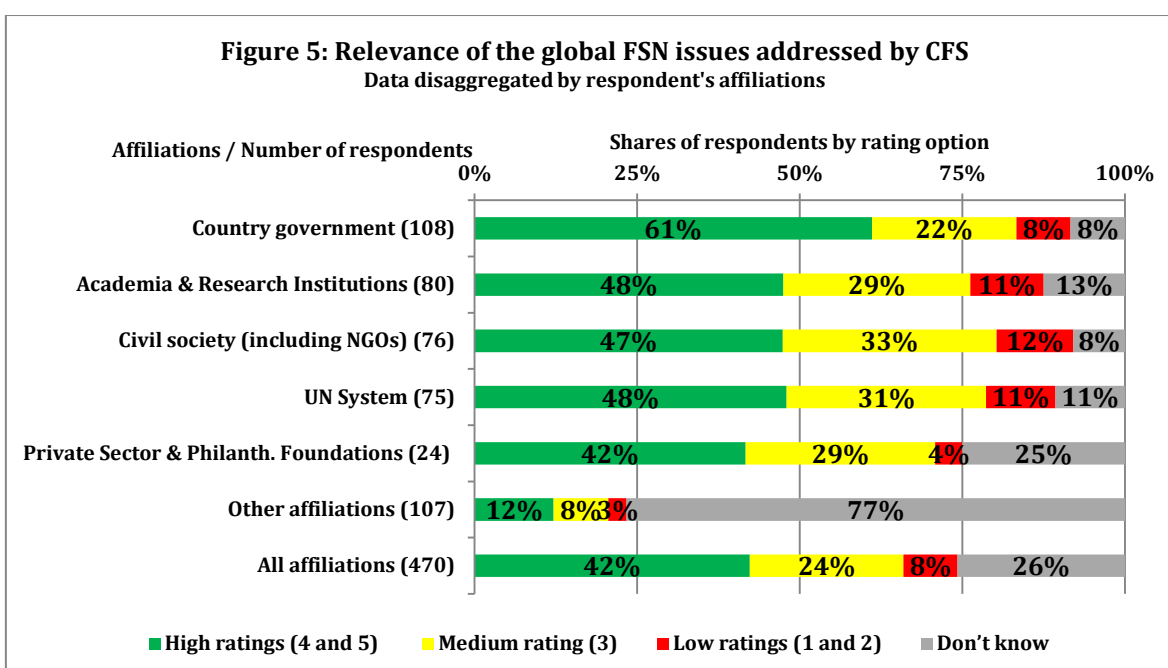
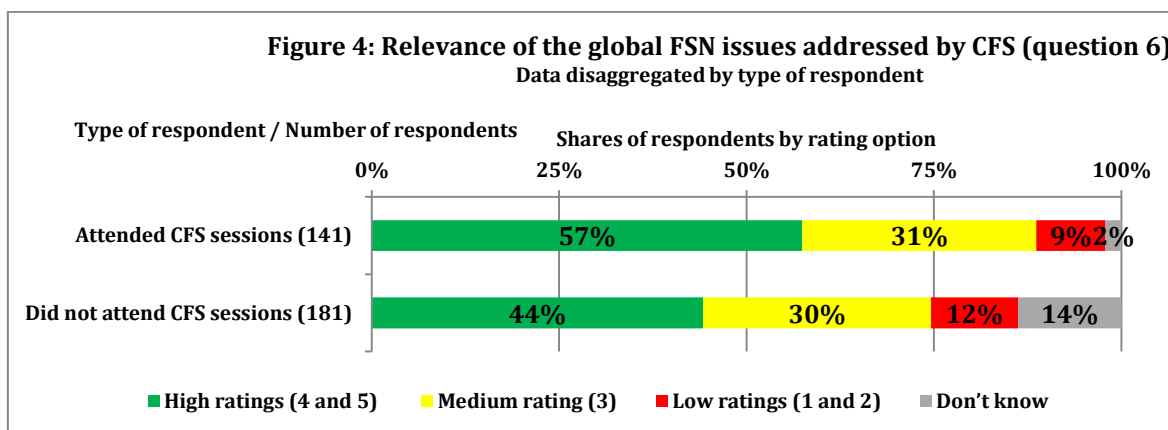
**Table 3: Relevance of global FSN issues addressed by CFS**

Ratings	Frequency of responses (%)		Frequency of responses (count)
1 (not relevant at all)	1%	8% 	6
2	7%		33
3	24%	24% 	111
4	29%	42% 	136
5 (very relevant)	13%		63
Don't know	26%	26% 	121
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>470</b>

24. As shown in Table 3, high ratings (i.e. “4” and “5”) have been selected by the largest share of respondents (42% of the overall sample), while low ratings (i.e. “1” and “2”) have been selected by only 8% of respondents. The following two bar charts show the same data disaggregated by type of respondent (Figure 4)<sup>18</sup> and by respondents’ affiliations (Figure 5).

<sup>17</sup> As indicated in Section II, that is due to the fact that responses were optional in the survey questionnaire.

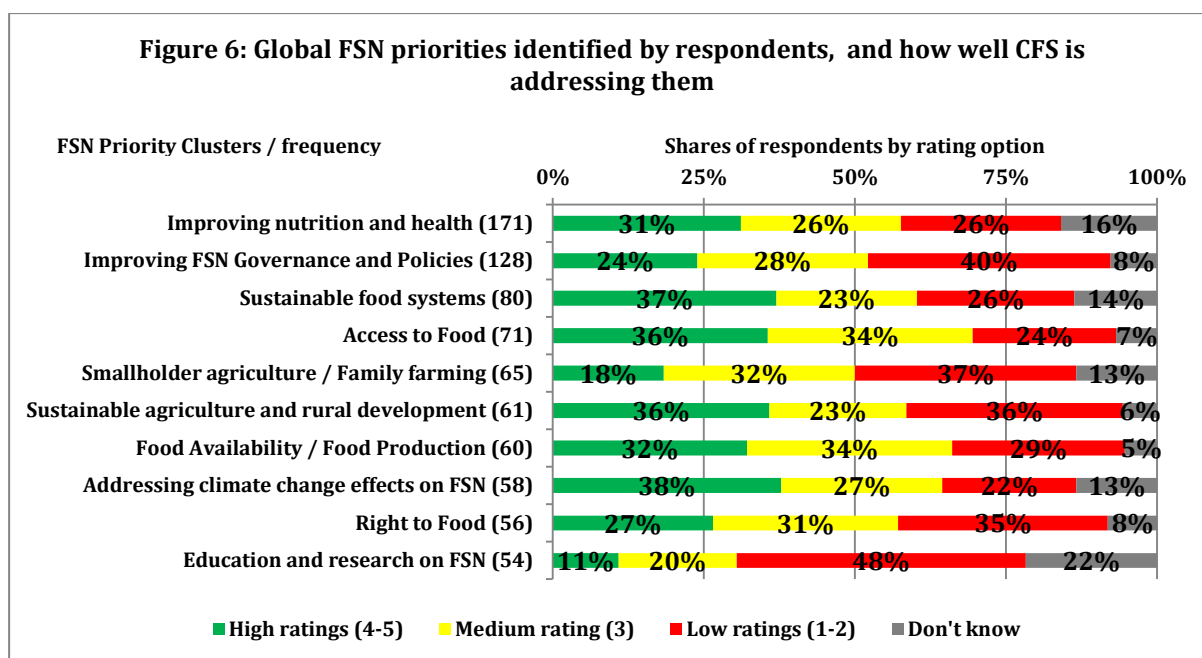
<sup>18</sup> Respondents who did not specify whether they have attended a CFS plenary session or not (i.e. 31% of the overall sample) are not considered in Figure 3.



25. Respondents were also asked to indicate three global issues or topics related to food security and nutrition that they consider as priorities (question 4), and to rate how well CFS is addressing each of them on a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 is “not addressed at all” and 5 is “very well addressed” (question 5). The combination of these two questions, in conjunction with the range of issues CFS has produced guidance or recommendations on since the 2009 reform, was seen as a proxy for assessing CFS relevance.

26. Overall, a total of 1,141 open-ended submissions indicating “global FSN priorities” were recorded. Those have been grouped into 37 “FSN priority clusters”<sup>19</sup>. Figure 6 shows the 10 clusters most frequently identified as being priorities on the vertical axis (indicating their frequency), and respondents’ ratings of how well CFS is addressing each of them on the horizontal axis.

<sup>19</sup> The full list of FSN priority clusters and their frequency is provided in Annex 1.



27. As shown in Figure 6, the most frequent FSN priority cluster is “Improving nutrition and health”, which has been mentioned 171 times in respondent’s comments (i.e. 11.6% of total frequency of clusters). The second most frequent cluster is “Improving FSN Governance and Policies” (frequency over total clusters is 8.7%). In practical terms, CFS can be assessed as having addressed, to some extent, the main priorities identified. This is evident both in the perceptions of survey respondents but also by canvassing the main contents of existing CFS policy instruments and reports of the CFS High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE)<sup>20</sup>.

28. How well respondents feel CFS is addressing the FSN issues they considered priorities varies by specific topic. Overall, between one quarter and one third of respondents provided low ratings (with the exception of “Education and Research” where nearly half assigned low ratings). Based on the survey limitations it is not possible to assess whether the low ratings relate to a perception that CFS should be doing more work or higher quality work on these issues (or both). It also cannot be assessed whether medium ratings (i.e. rating “3”) were perceived as adequate (e.g. “well enough”) or neutral (e.g. “no opinion”). If the medium and high ratings are taken together, the share of potentially positive ratings is above 50% for all clusters.

29. Based on the above results, it can be concluded that there is an overall positive perception about the relevance of the global FSN issues being addressed by CFS, but greater variance in respondents’ satisfaction levels over how well they are being addressed. Further work is required to deepen the understanding of how CFS could improve its relevance, or the quality of its work on relevant topics.

<sup>20</sup> CFS major policy instruments available at the time of the survey were: Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT); Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (Principles); Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF). The HLPE studies available at the time of the survey were: Price volatility and food security, 2011; Land tenure and international investments in agriculture, 2011; Food security and climate change, 2012; Social protection for food security, 2012; Biofuels and food security, 2013; Investing in smallholder agriculture for food security, 2013; The role of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition, 2014; Food losses and waste in the context of sustainable food systems, 2014.

**Box 1: Quotes from respondents' comments on CFS relevance**

*"The CFS, and certainly the HLPE should not shy away from "difficult" subjects, as for example the role of food companies and retailers in influencing diets, the influence of certain Agricultural and fisheries practises on the environment etc."*





*"CFS thinks primarily in terms of national-level food systems. It should fully recognize its privileged position for assessing and strengthening the GLOBAL food system. Few agencies are willing and able to "see" that system. There are serious concerns to be addressed, such as (1) the fact that overall food trade is based on having the poor feed the rich, (2) there are food safety issues that are beyond the capacity of national regulatory agencies to manage, (3) there are serious environmental issues relating to the global food system, raising hard questions regarding sustainability, equity, etc."*

***Inclusiveness & Participation***

30. The "Inclusiveness and Participation" assessment criterion has been addressed through survey questions 8 to 12. These were aimed at collecting respondents' opinions on the extent to which all relevant stakeholders are included and able to participate in CFS processes.

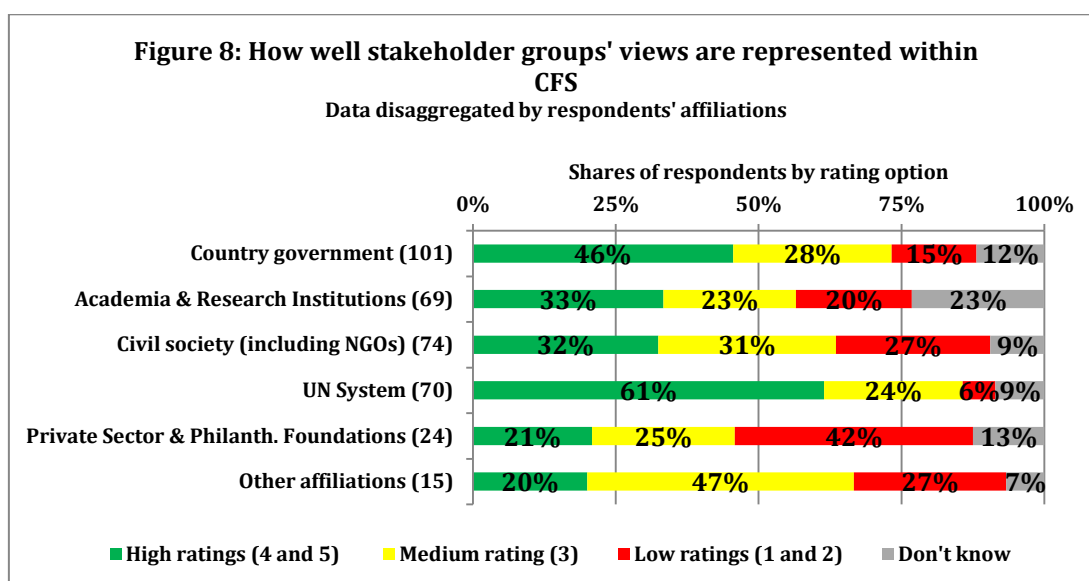
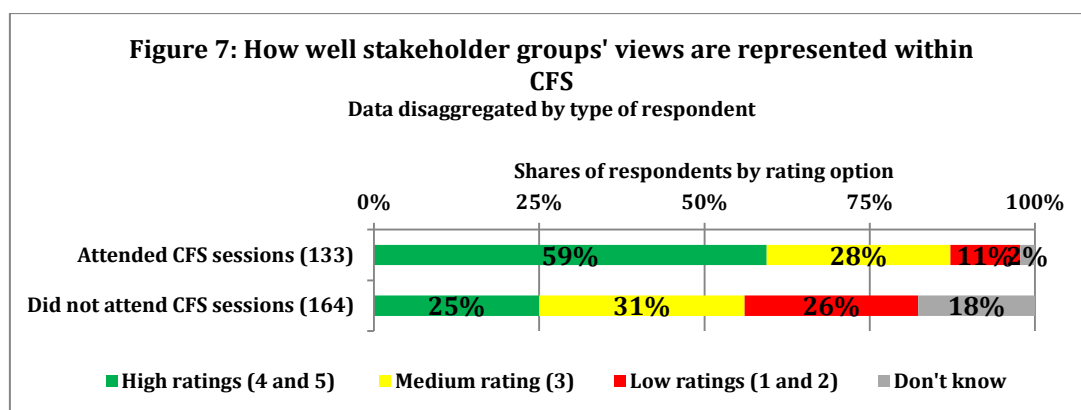
31. Respondents were asked to rate how well the views of the stakeholder groups they belong to are represented within CFS through their affiliation delegates. The results are presented in Table 4.

**Table 4: How well stakeholder groups' views are represented within CFS**

Ratings	All respondents		
	Frequency of responses		
	%	%	count
1 (very poorly represented)	5%	14% 	25
2	9%		42
3	21%	21% 	97
4	17%	30% 	80
5 (very well represented)	13%		64
Don't know	10%	10% 	45
Not applicable	5%	5%	24
Did not answer	20%	20%	93
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>470</b>

32. The bar charts below show the overall frequency of the ratings selected by respondents disaggregated by type of respondent (Figure 7) and respondent's affiliations (Figure 8)<sup>21</sup>.

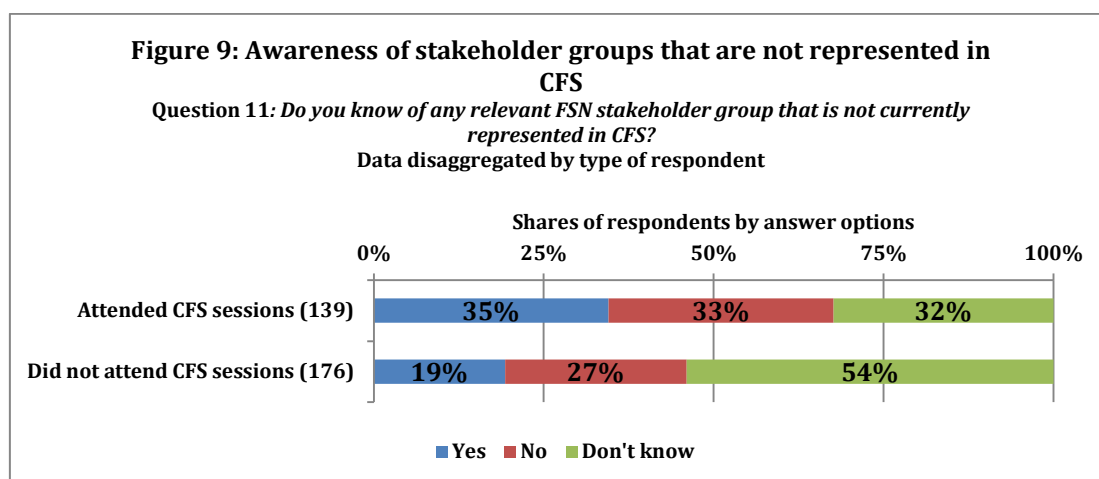
<sup>21</sup> It is noted that the 93 respondents who did not answer question 8 are not considered in Figures 6 and 7.



33. As shown above, 14% of the overall survey sample (i.e. 67 respondents) selected low ratings (1 or 2) in responding to question 8. Those respondents were asked to indicate the reasons why they believe the views of their stakeholder group(s) are not adequately represented within CFS, by selecting one or more options of a predefined list. Of the 67 respondents who answered, the most frequent option that was selected was “my affiliation is not aware” (36 respondents), followed by “my affiliation does not have financial resources” (33 respondents) (see Figure 7 in Annex 1 for full information).

34. In question 11, respondents were asked to indicate whether they know of any relevant food security and nutrition (FSN) stakeholder group that is not currently represented in CFS. That question was answered by a total of 371 respondents (i.e. 79% of the overall sample). Figure 9 shows the results, focusing on those respondents who attended or did not attend CFS sessions.





35. Overall, 24% of the total number of respondents who answered question 11 (i.e. 88 respondents) indicated they are aware of stakeholder groups not currently represented in CFS. These respondents were asked to specify which groups should be represented in CFS (question 12). The most frequently recurring groups were clustered and are shown in Table 5.

Groups	Frequency (count of responses)
Nutrition and health-focused organizations	20
Farmers	19
Multilateral policy / development organizations	16
Academia	14
More and diverse Civil Society	12
More and diverse Private Sector	10

36. Based on the above results, particularly in Figure 8, it can be said that the perception of CFS inclusiveness and capacity to represent the views of relevant stakeholder groups is quite variable, depending on respondent's affiliations, though overall the opinions of those who participated in CFS sessions or activities tend to be significantly more positive than of those who have not (Figure 7). The stakeholder groups identified as predominantly missing in CFS reflects discussions raised within CFS during the first half of 2015, including following the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2). This suggests further discussions within CFS may be warranted, to ensure CFS is suitably inclusive to deliver on its objectives.

<p><i>"Design of reformed CFS gives space to civil society and recognizes its right to self-organization. However, problems persist in terms of operationalizing this inclusivity".</i></p> <p><i>"The conversation feels dominated by voices that are sceptical of the private sector's role. This makes it an uncomfortable space for the private sector to share its needs and challenges, and yet it is the private sector that will drive improved food production (whether at small or large scale)."</i></p> <p><i>"We do not fit in the CSM, and not very well in the PSM. It would be better if the 'private sector' group was further differentiated as was done for ICN2..."</i></p>
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### *Coordination and Engagement*

37. The “Coordination and Engagement” criterion is intended to assess the extent to which CFS is effectively engaged in promoting global coordination on FSN processes, with emphasis on strategic coordination with other global and regional fora. This has been addressed through survey questions 13 and 14. In question 13, respondents were asked to indicate three global and regional processes, initiatives or fora that CFS should coordinate with. In question 14, respondents were asked to rate how well CFS is coordinating with each of them. Question 13 was answered by 275 respondents (59% of the overall sample). A total of 647 global and regional processes, initiatives or fora were referenced, which were grouped into 15 clusters shown and ranked by frequency in Table 6.

**Table 6: Global and regional processes, initiatives or fora that CFS should coordinate with**

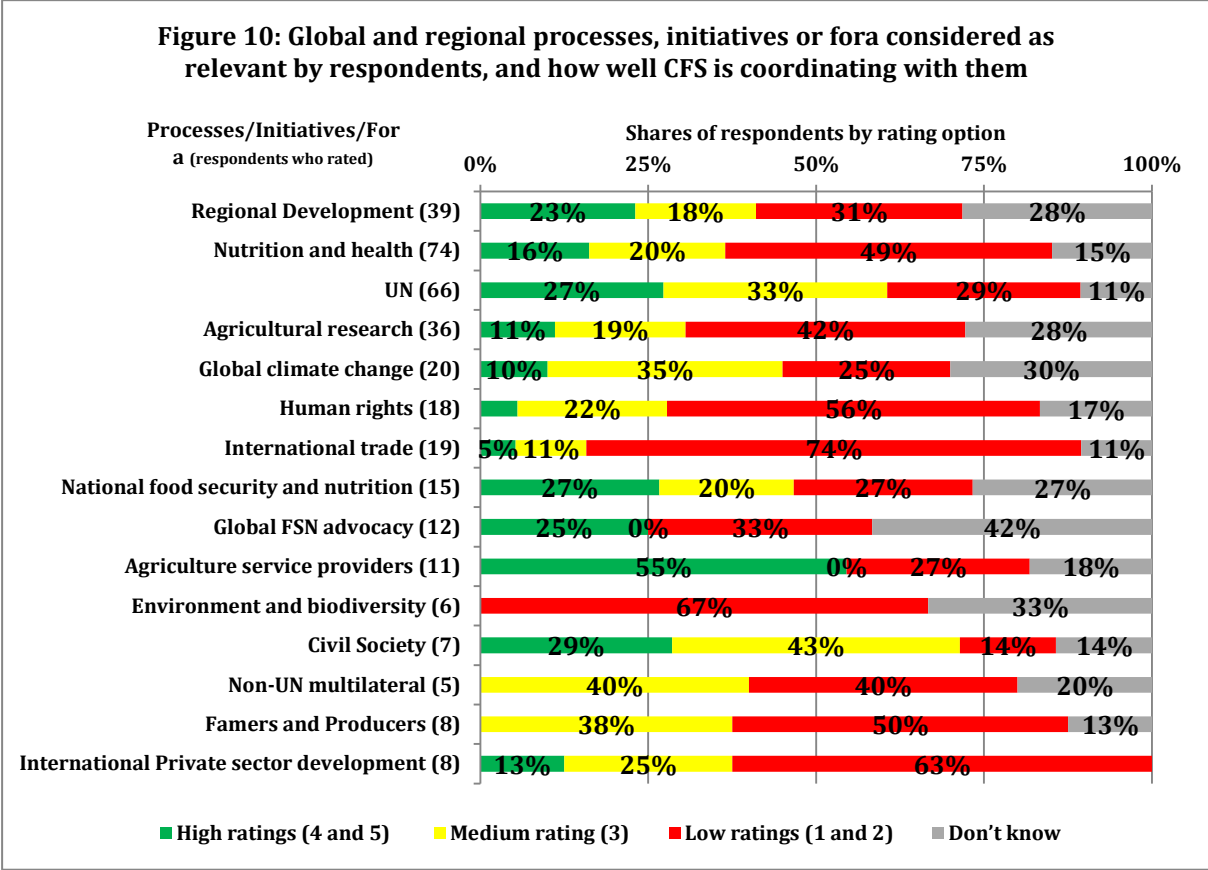
Clusters		Frequency of clusters	
		count	% over total
1	Regional Development	120	19%
2	Nutrition and health	106	16%
3	UN	98	15%
4	Agricultural research	65	10%
5	Global climate change	37	6%
6	Human rights	37	6%
7	International trade	33	5%
8	National food security and nutrition	25	4%
9	Global FSN advocacy	24	4%
10	Agriculture service providers	22	3%
11	Environment and biodiversity	19	3%
12	Civil Society	18	3%
13	Non-UN multilateral	17	3%
14	Famers and Producers	13	2%
15	International Private sector development	13	2%
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>647</b>	<b>100%</b>

38. Responses to question 13 introduce new insight on the respondents’ clear interest in CFS coordinating with regional development institutions. While many respondents indicated the area of regional development generically (including references to regional conferences, regional institutes etc.), others named specific regional fora. Among the latter, African (notably the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)) and Latin American institutes were by far the most frequently mentioned. However this can, at least partially, be attributed to the fact that a large share of respondents indicated they worked on those two regions. The high priority given to the thematic “Nutrition and health” area stresses the appetite to see CFS addressing nutrition more thoroughly, which is also reinforced by comparable responses to other survey questions (namely,

responses on the global FSN priorities as summarized in Figure 6, and responses on which relevant FSN stakeholder groups are not represented in CFS shown in Table 5). A few institutions or platforms were mentioned recurrently in responses, including the World Health Organization (WHO)/World Health Assembly (WHA) (16 responses), the UN Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN) (16 responses) and Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) (15 responses).

39. It should be noted that the cluster named “UN” captures those UN organizations and platforms that do not fall into the identified thematic clusters. Thus, for instance, WHO is included under “Nutrition and Health”, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is under “Global Climate Change”, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is under “Trade”, and the UN Human Rights Council is included under “Human Rights”. The “UN” cluster includes the RBAs, the UNGA, ECOSOC and related platforms/processes of a cross-cutting nature, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)/Post 2015 discussions. Similarly the cluster “Non-UN Multilateral” includes institutions such as the G20, OECD/DAC and the EU that do not naturally fall into the thematic clusters but do occasionally work on FSN issues.

40. About half (146 respondents) of those who answered question 13 provided a rating of how well CFS is coordinating with the global and regional processes, initiatives or fora they indicated were priorities (question 14). The results are shown in Figure 10, following the same sequence of clusters shown in Table 6.



41. As shown in Figure 10, respondents’ opinions on how well CFS is coordinating with the processes they identified as priorities are variable, and the overall response rate to question 14 is

relatively low<sup>22</sup>. However, the information suggests that there is substantial potential for improvement, which warrants further discussion within CFS.

### *Promotion of Policy Convergence*

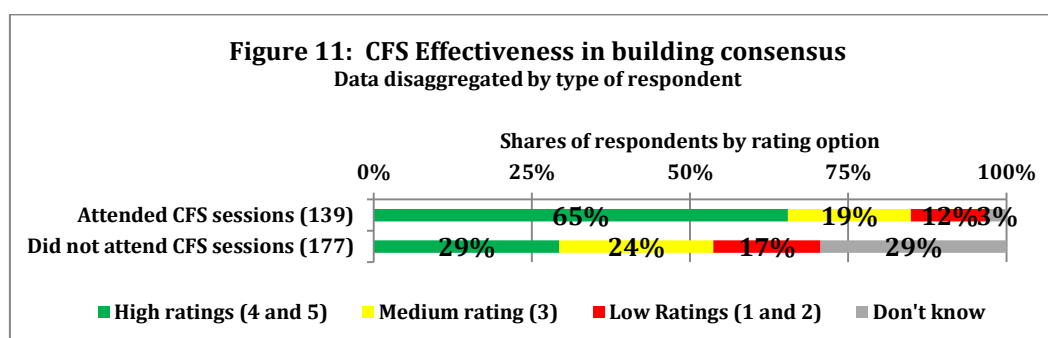
42. The “Promotion of Policy Convergence” criterion is intended to assess the extent to which CFS promotes coherence of FSN policies, successfully capturing inputs from all relevant stakeholders. In question 19, respondents were asked to rate “how effective CFS is in building consensus at global level on food security and nutrition issues”. The question was answered by 69% of the overall sample (322 respondents). Table 7 below shows the frequency of the rating options that were selected by respondents.

**Table 7: CFS Effectiveness in building consensus**

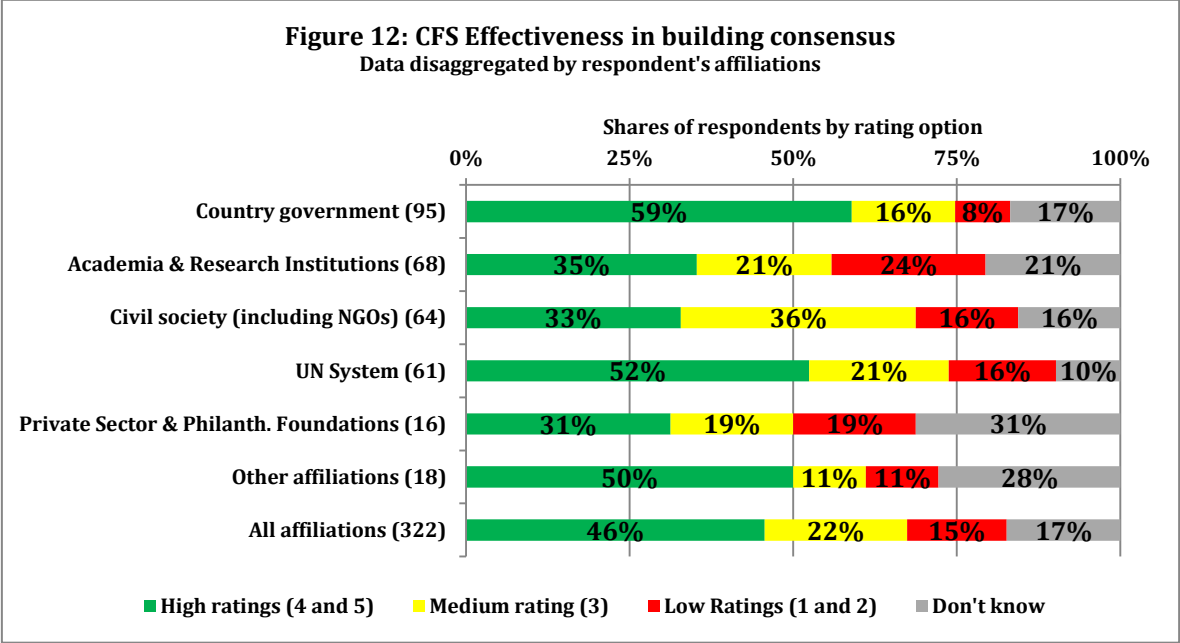
**Question 19: In your opinion, how effective is CFS in building consensus at global level on food security and nutrition policies, on a scale from 1 (not effective at all) to 5 (very effective)?**

Ratings	All respondents		
	Frequency of responses		
	%	%	count
1 (not effective at all)	3%	15% <span style="color:red">■</span>	9
2	12%		40
3	22%	22% <span style="color:yellow">■</span>	70
4	34%	46% <span style="color:green">■</span>	110
5 (very effective)	11%		37
Don't know	17%	17% <span style="color:gray">■</span>	56
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>322</b>

43. The bar charts below show the frequency of the answer options selected by respondents disaggregated by type of respondent (Figure 11) and respondent’s affiliations (Figure 12).



<sup>22</sup> It is noted that question 13 did not specify whether the initiatives, fora or processes to be indicated should be those with which CFS had engaged so far or not. That ambiguity can account to some extent for the low ratings and/or the low response rate.



44. The above results show a generally positive perception of the capacity of CFS to build consensus on global FSN policies among those respondents who have attended one or more CFS sessions since the reform in 2009, as well as among country government respondents. To understand better why other respondents perceive limitations in CFS consensus building requires further investigation. The capacity to build global consensus, as addressed through survey question 19, is but one aspect of the “Promotion of Policy Convergence” criterion. Other critical aspects include the capacity of CFS to promote policy integration and coherence horizontally (among countries, organizations, stakeholders, etc.) and vertically (from local to global levels and vice versa). Survey responses relating to “CFS influence” on policy dialogue and to “Capacity for uptake” of CFS policy recommendations by CFS stakeholders at regional and global levels, which are presented in the following pages and summarized in Figures 21 and 22, can also provide some limited insight into these aspects. Nevertheless, the ability of CFS to promote policy convergence warrants further assessment.

***Evidence-based Decision Making***

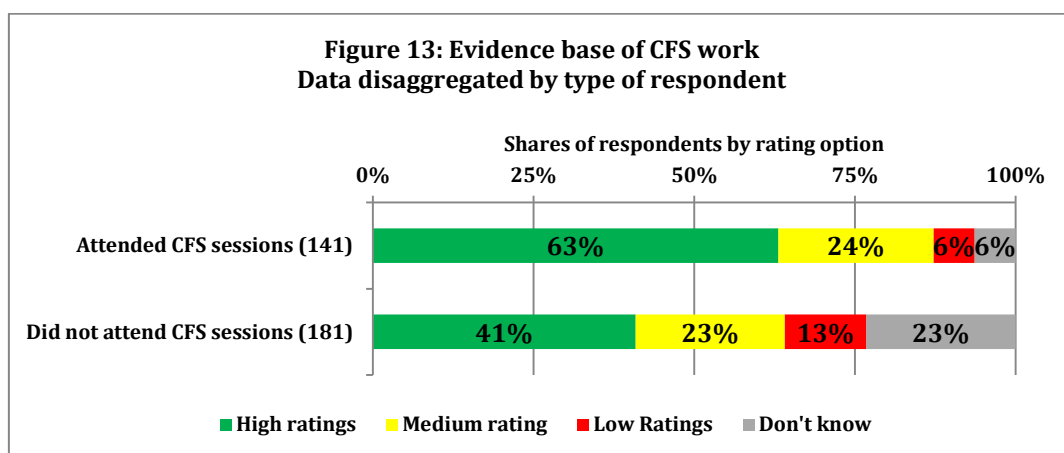
45. An important pillar of the reformed CFS, is the use of a sound evidence-base to facilitate negotiations and reach consensus on policy recommendations. The survey assessed to what extent CFS decisions and recommendations are informed by evidence (question 15), and how effectively the reports of the HLPE, the independent body of international experts that produces evidence based reports at the request of CFS, are used to support CFS work (question 17). Table 8 provides the results of responses on the first aspect.

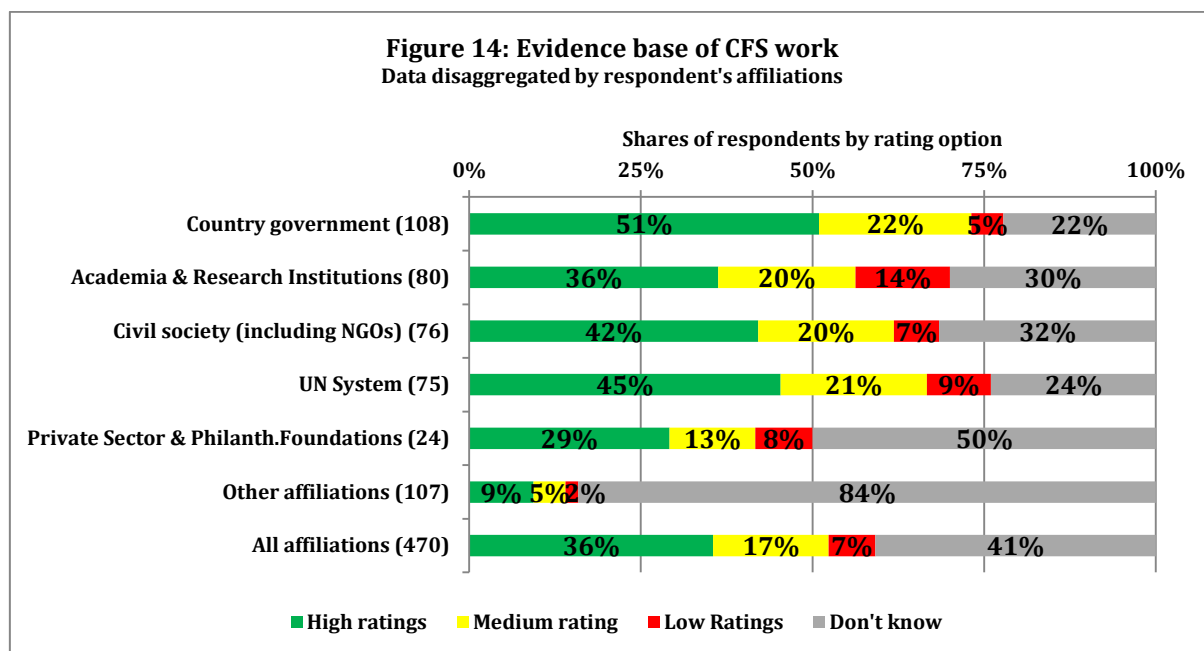
**Table 8: Evidence base of CFS work**

**Question 15** *In your opinion, how well informed by evidence is the work of CFS, on a scale from 1 (not well at all) to 5 (very well)?*

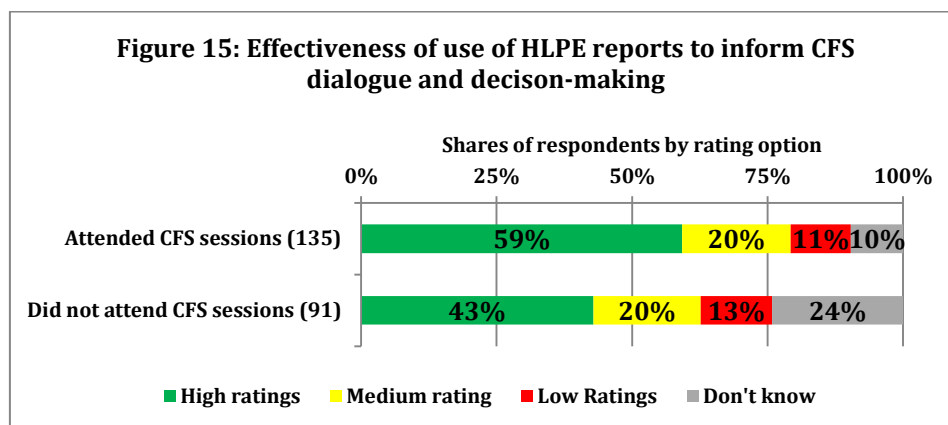
Ratings	All respondents		
	Frequency of responses		
	%	%	count
1 (not well at all)	1%	7% <span style="color:red">■</span>	4
2	6%		28
3	17%	17% <span style="color:yellow">■</span>	79
4	24%	36% <span style="color:green">■</span>	112
5 (very well)	12%		55
Don't know	41%	41% <span style="color:gray">■</span>	192
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>470</b>

46. The bar charts below disaggregate responses based on type of respondent (Figure 13) and respondent's affiliations (Figure 14). These charts show that those who attended CFS sessions have the greatest satisfaction in the evidence base quality of CFS work. Only a low share of respondents gave low ratings. Among affiliations, academia and research institutions gave the highest share of low ratings (14%). Within the limitations of the survey, there is insufficient nuanced data to determine whether the low ratings relate to a poor perception of the evidence base made available for CFS work, or a poor perception of CFS' ability to use the evidence base in its decision making (see also figure 15 on this issue). However, in general terms, the evidence base of CFS work is one of the features with the highest satisfaction score in the survey and, therefore, it can be considered as a relative CFS strength. .





47. Survey questions 16 to 18 focus on the work of the HLPE. In responding to question 16, about 50% of the overall sample (or 234 respondents) indicated they are aware of the work of the HLPE (figure 16). Those respondents were asked to rate how effectively HLPE reports are used to inform CFS dialogue and decision making. Overall, 53% (i.e. 123 respondents) assigned high ratings (see Annex 1, Figures 12, 13 and 14 for more detailed information). Figure 15 provides the responses disaggregated by type of respondent, showing how the share of those who assigned high ratings is about 60% within the group of respondents with previous CFS experience.



48. Overall and as already indicated, the evidence base of CFS work can be seen as a relative strength among the addressed CFS effectiveness assessment criteria. Of the 101 respondents who gave valid comments on the knowledge base of CFS work (under question 18), 52 had a positive view on the quality of the evidence base, 31 were neutral while 18 were sceptical. It is worth noting that among the 52 positive responses, 22 added that the HLPE reports should be better known (more communication and outreach should be done), 10 indicated that while the reports were good they did not seem to have practical application, and another 9 indicated that HLPE recommendations were not adequately reflected in CFS decisions. Aside from the 52 positive reactions, another 31 valid responses were non-committal on the issue of evidence-base or quality of scientific work but recommended broader consultation/peer review of reports among diverse academic communities, UN agencies and others, including “voices from the ground”.

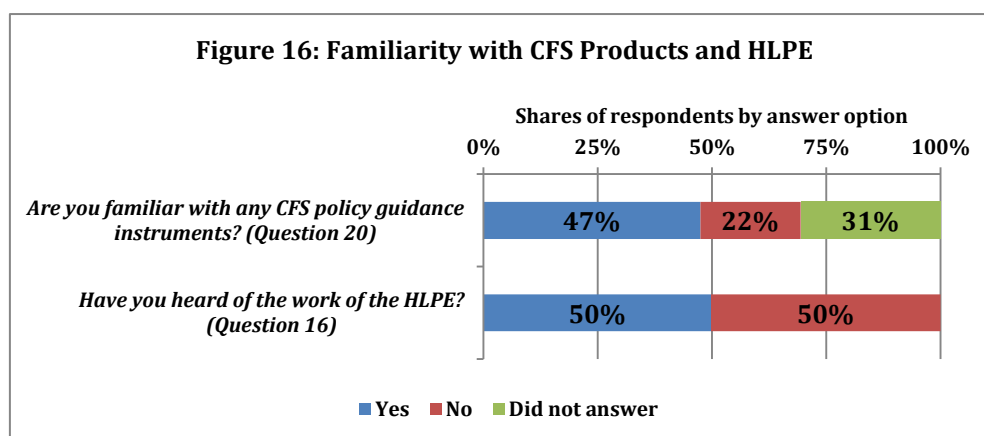
**BOX 3: Quote from respondents' comments on evidence-based decision making**

*"CFS had done a good job overall with bringing knowledge to bear on decision making, such as through the HLPE process. CFS should further strive to bring the experiences and knowledge of small scale food producers -- fishers, pastoralists, workers, indigenous peoples, as well as farmers -- to all levels of decision making. Aside from HLPE, this could be done through special forums, knowledge sharing vehicles, video, social media and other creative and interactive ways that truly bring those who are most affected, and also should have the most agency in enhancing food security for all."*

### **CFS Communication Strategy**

49. The "CFS Communication Strategy" criterion is defined as "the extent to which CFS effectively communicates awareness of CFS main outputs and raises awareness of FSN with decision-makers and other relevant stakeholders at all levels"<sup>23</sup>. Its assessment has been addressed in the survey from different angles: directly through questions on respondent's awareness of CFS policy instruments and HLPE work; and indirectly by analysing the shares of "don't know" responses.

50. Respondents were asked whether they are familiar with any CFS policy guidance instruments; previously and in a separate question, they were asked whether they have heard of the work of the HLPE. The overall results are provided in Figure 16.



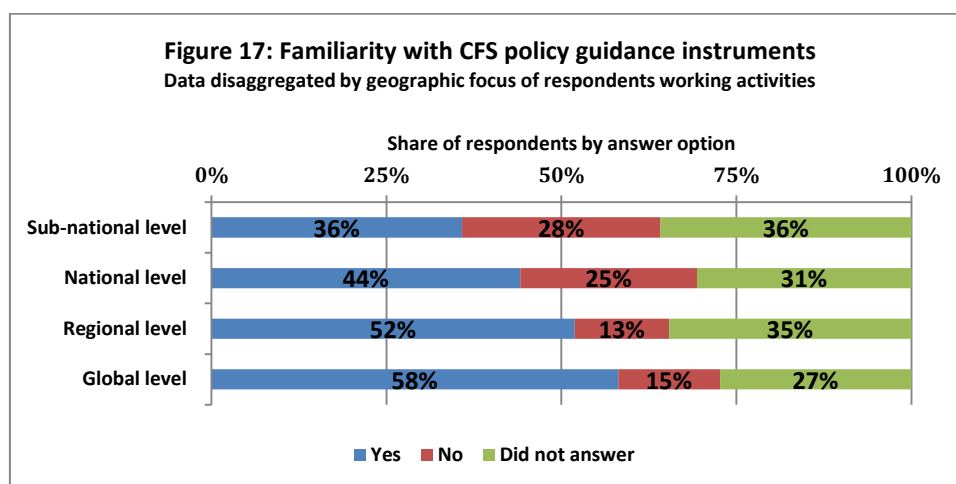
51. Figure 16 shows that about half of the overall sample of respondents are not aware of any CFS policy guidance instruments (53% of respondents) nor have heard of the work of the HLPE (50% of respondents). The results change by disaggregating the information by type of respondent. Among the group of nominated respondents, more than 70% selected "yes" under both questions. Of those who had attended a CFS session, more than 90% selected "yes" under both questions. By disaggregating the results by affiliation, it is interesting to note that 27% of "Country Government" respondents and 38% of "Academia and International Research Institutions" respondents are not aware of any CFS policy guidance instruments (see Annex 1, Tables 3 and 4 and Figures 15, 16, 17 and 18 for details).

52. With regards to CFS capacity to raise awareness of FSN issues, it is noted that significant shares of the overall sample did not answer or selected "don't know" in answering some relevant questions. For example, about one quarter of respondents (i.e. 26% of the overall sample or 121 respondents) selected "don't know" in answering question 6 on whether CFS is addressing the most relevant global FSN issues. Similarly, 40% of total respondents were not able to rate how well informed by evidence is the work of CFS (under question 15).

<sup>23</sup> CFS 2014/41/11



53. The reasons for the above results could be in part attributed to the outreach of CFS communication efforts, which, not surprisingly, seems to be lower among the groups of non-nominated respondents and those who had not attended CFS sessions. A higher proportion of respondents who indicated they work at global level are aware of CFS and had lower “don’t know” response rates overall. Figure 17 below shows how awareness of CFS policy instruments tends to be higher among respondents who primarily work at the global level, compared to those who primarily work at the regional, national and subnational levels.



54. Based on the above, it can be concluded that there is more work to be done by all CFS stakeholders aimed at increasing awareness of CFS and its products, particularly at regional and national levels. Comments received under question 18 (knowledge-base of CFS work) and question 21 (usefulness CFS policy products), in which respondents indicated that CFS products need to be better known, reinforce that enhancing CFS communication efforts should be considered.

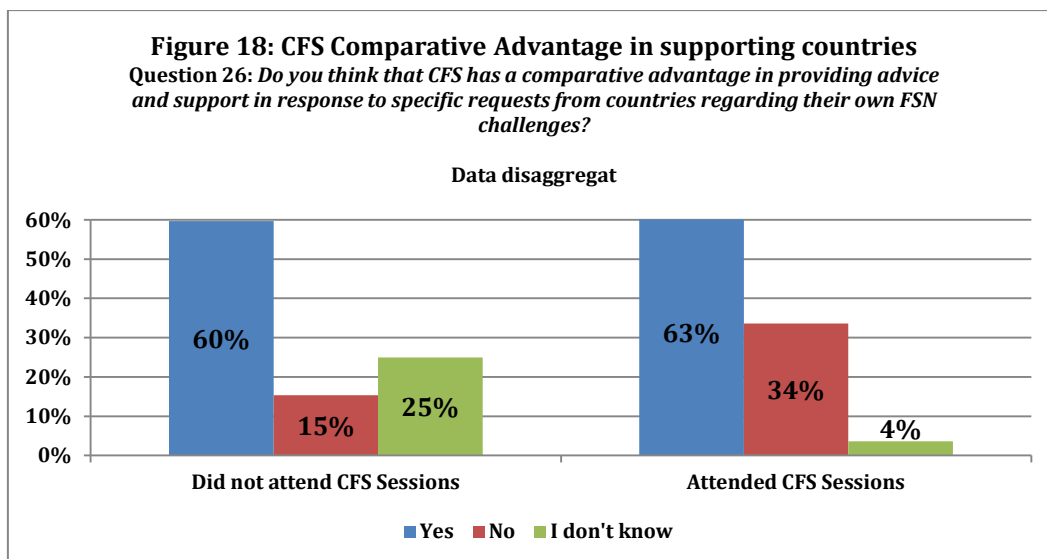
**BOX 4: Quote from respondents’ comments on CFS communication strategy**

*“Get your name and aims out there. People don’t know you – and they should!”*

*“In developing countries ... most groups and organisations that are directly involved in food security are less informed about opportunities to share their ideas in forums like the CFS, so knowledge sharing is very limited. This situation can be improved through the involvement of local organisations that are involved in C4D (Communication for Development, like CECOSDA) for information flow and knowledge gathering.”*

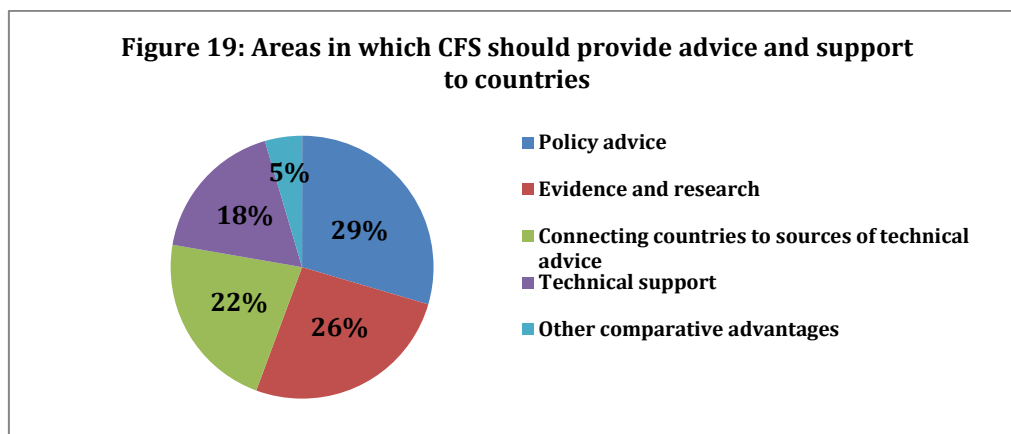
### ***CFS Responsiveness***

55. The “CFS Responsiveness” assessment criterion is associated with CFS Outcome C on strengthened national and regional FSN plans and, in particular, to the role of CFS in facilitating support to them. Respondents were asked to indicate whether “CFS has a comparative advantage in providing advice and support in response to specific requests from countries regarding their own food security and nutrition challenges” (question 26). A total of 315 valid answers were recorded, of which 61% (or 191 respondents) indicated “yes”. The overall results disaggregated by type of respondent are shown in Figure 18 below.

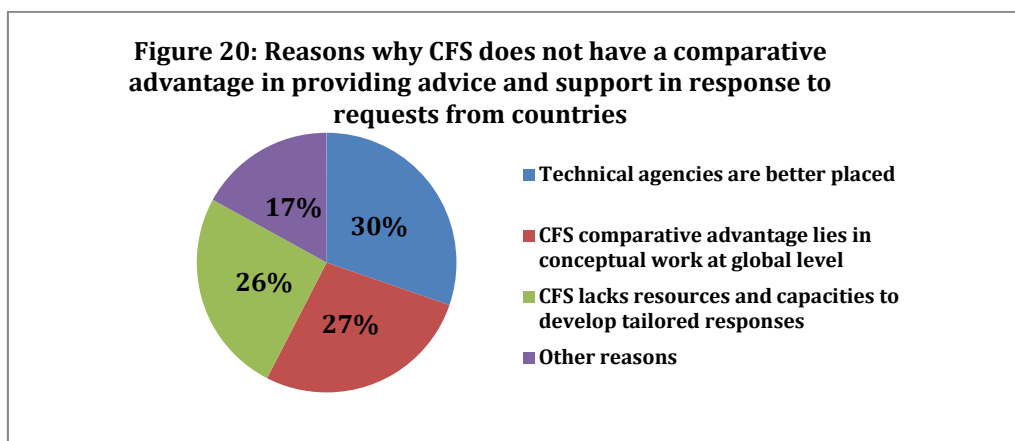


56. Given the fact that CFS has not received any requests from a country or region for provision of support and advice, the high proportion of respondents who believe CFS does have a comparative advantage in this area is surprising. This may suggest respondents had different perceptions of what the provision of advice entails (e.g. that CFS plays this role presently through its global policy convergence role, providing advice to countries and regions indirectly through discussions, lessons learned, experience sharing, etc.). Or it may suggest respondents believe CFS does in fact have potential to provide demand-based support to countries and regions. Notably, a higher proportion of respondents who have attended a CFS session did not think CFS had a comparative advantage in this area (34%).

57. Respondents who believed CFS had a comparative advantage in supporting or providing advice to countries (i.e. 191 respondents) were asked to further indicate in what area/s CFS had a comparative advantage (question 27). Respondents were able to select more than one of the provided answer options. Results are shown in Figure 19.



58. About one quarter of respondents who answered question 26 (i.e. 75 respondents) indicated that CFS has no comparative advantage in providing demand-based advice and support to countries regarding FSN challenges. They were asked to indicate the reasons why. Figure 20 shows the frequency of the pre-defined answer options that were selected by respondents.



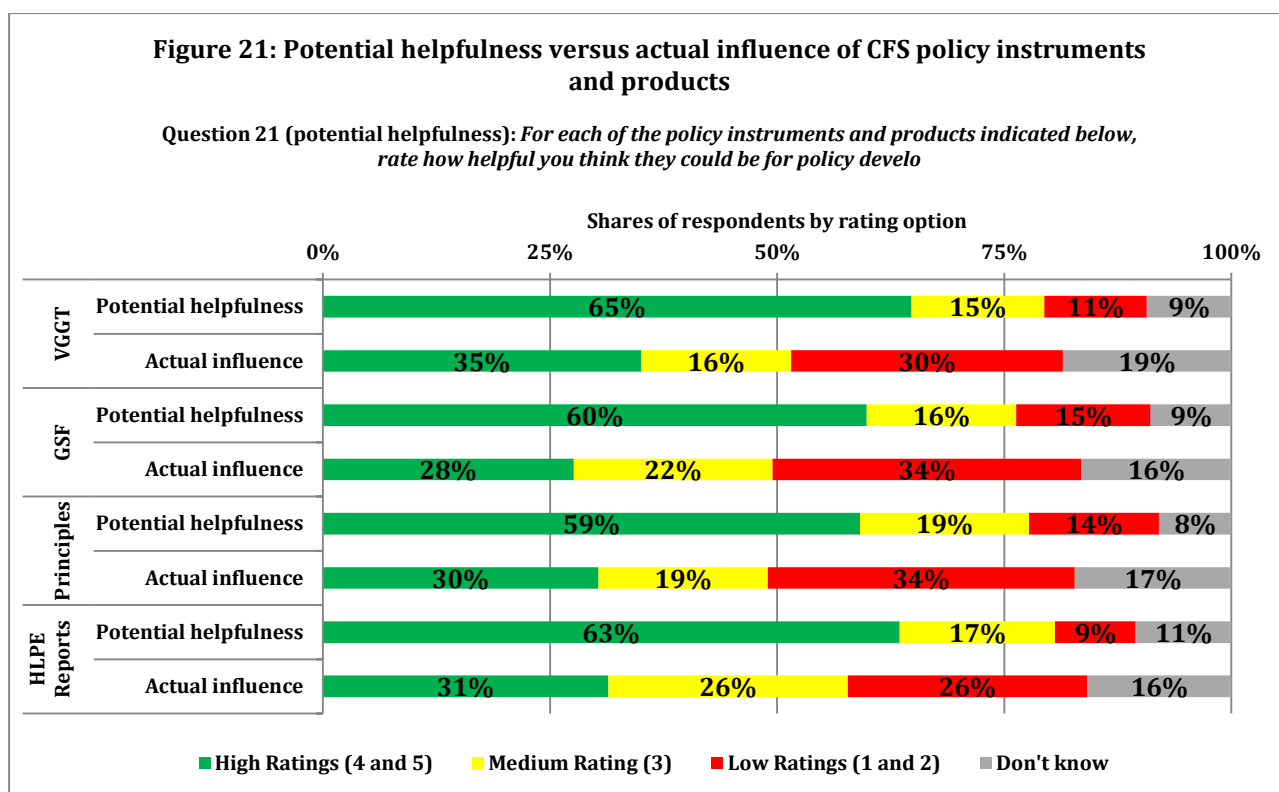
59. Based on the above results, it seems there is an inconsistency between the fact that a significant share of respondents indicated that CFS has a comparative advantage in providing support and advice to regions and countries (focusing in particular on policy advice as shown in Figure 19) and the fact that such requests haven't been so far submitted to CFS. The reasons for that potential inconsistency, which are limiting progress towards CFS Outcome C, should be further explored, together with the feasibility of a UN global committee providing demand-driven advice to specific country requests. Overall, the assessment of CFS Outcome C should consider the additional aspects presented in the following sub-section.

### *CFS Influence/Capacity for Uptake*

60. Together with "CFS Responsiveness", the "CFS Influence" and "Capacity for Uptake" assessment criteria are associated with CFS Outcome C. They are intended to assess the extent to which CFS is positively influencing policy processes through the delivery and promotion of its main outputs, and the extent to which CFS members and other stakeholders have the capacity to apply CFS policy products at the regional and national levels. Those aspects have been addressed in the survey through questions 21 to 25.

61. Respondents were asked to express their opinions on the potential helpfulness of CFS policy instruments and products for supporting policy development in their regions (question 21). The question focused on the following items: Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT); Global Strategic Framework (GSF); Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (Principles); HLPE reports; CFS Policy recommendations. Respondents were also asked to rate how influential the VGGT, GSF, Principles and HLPE Reports have been in their country/organization/area of activity (question 22).

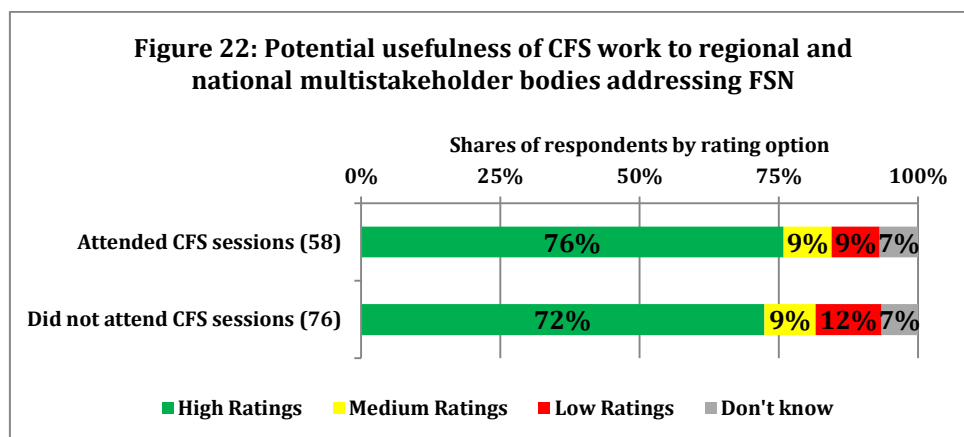
62. The results of the above two questions have been combined in Figure 21, which associates respondents' ratings on the potential helpfulness of CFS policy instruments and products for policy development, with the ratings on the actual influence the same instruments and products have had so far.



63. Figure 21 shows how all of the referenced CFS policy instruments and products were considered as potentially helpful for policy development by the majority of respondents (about 60% of respondents). Nevertheless, the actual influence those policy instruments and products have had was rated as high by an average of only about 30% of respondents. The reason for that difference could be in part attributed to the fact that the CFS policy products and instruments are relatively new and that their up-take in policy development processes at regional and national levels requires time and commitment. Such results are expected to be observable in the medium/long term.

64. In question 23, respondents were asked to comment on whether they know of any other way in which CFS has had an influence in their countries, regions or organizations/areas of work. Of the 38 comments received, 11 mentioned that CFS non-traditional (multi-stakeholder and cross-sectoral) approach has been "inspirational", 17 said that knowledge of CFS outputs is being disseminated through their constituencies. The remaining 10 comments related to challenges in translating CFS influence at the global level to country level. In question 24, respondents were asked to indicate multi-stakeholder bodies addressing FSN at regional and national levels and, in question 25, to rate how useful CFS work could be to them. These questions were answered by a total of 134 respondents (29% of the overall sample). The responses were grouped by type of body, thematic focus and geographic area. The highest number of responses indicated international bodies, who may also be active at the regional and national levels, followed by African and Latin American organizations. Overall, a significant number of the responses included inter-governmental/inter-ministerial bodies, UN agencies, or donor groups which indicates a diversity of perspective on what 'multi-stakeholder' means. The most commonly named bodies were SUN, FAO, CAADP, the National Council of Food and Nutrition Security (CONSEA), Le Comité Permanent Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel (CILSS), and Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).

65. More than 70% of those who answered question 24 provided high ratings on the potential helpfulness of CFS work to the regional and national multi-stakeholder bodies addressing FSN they indicated. Figure 22 shows the overall results disaggregated by type of respondents.



66. Based on the above results, it can be concluded that there is an overall positive perception about the potential usefulness of CFS work and products to policy dialogue and multi-stakeholder bodies addressing FSN at regional and national levels. This serves as a good basis of comparison for assessing over time how these products have actually been taken up at regional and country level, through more in depth analysis.

**Box 5: Quote from respondents' comments on CFS influence/capacity for uptake**

*"Penetrating ground level institutions working in countries can boost CFS' effectiveness."*

*"CFS has to add value to what has already been addressed and build on it. More strategic partnerships with those that have implementation capacity would be encouraged."*

## V. CONCLUSIONS

67. The survey has provided a snapshot of the current perceptions and opinions on CFS effectiveness. The analysis focused on the key drivers of success represented by the assessment criteria presented in Section II. Some relative strengths and weaknesses across the addressed assessment criteria have been identified, which enable some preliminary, general conclusions on how well CFS is progressing towards the vision defined in the CFS Reform Document. In particular, the results of the survey point to possible areas for improvement and areas where more in-depth types of assessments may be targeted.

68. With regards to the assessment criteria associated with CFS Outcome A (Enhanced global coordination on food security and nutrition issues), an overall positive perception about the relevance of CFS has been recorded. Only a small share of respondents (8% of the overall sample) rated negatively the capacity of CFS to address relevant global FSN issues. Therefore, it can be concluded that CFS is on the right track in incorporating in its agenda relevant issues concerning global FSN. CFS performance with respect to the Inclusiveness and Participation criterion seems to be more problematic as significant variation in the opinions expressed by respondents associated to different affiliation categories has been recorded. Deeper analysis is required in order to identify the causes of those differences and to determine how CFS can be more inclusive, ensuring participation of all relevant stakeholder groups. Similarly, the Coordination and Engagement criterion should be further assessed to identify how CFS could improve coordination and establish strategic linkages with relevant actors and institutions, especially at the regional and national levels.

69. With regards to CFS Outcome B (Improved policy convergence on key food security and nutrition issues), an overall positive perception has been recorded for both the Promotion of Policy Convergence and the Evidence-based Decision Making assessment criteria. In particular, the majority of respondents (65%) who attended CFS sessions rated positively the capacity of the CFS to be effective in building consensus on global FSN policy issues, which is envisioned as a fundamental feature of the reformed CFS. Nevertheless, the survey was not considered as a suitable instrument to

assess CFS capacity to promote policy coherence horizontally (among countries, organizations, stakeholders, etc.) and vertically (from local to global levels and vice versa), which should be analysed through more in depth assessment approaches, taking into account CFS capacity (potential and actual) to influence policy dialogue at regional and national levels. The CFS Communication Strategy criterion was associated with CFS Outcome B, but it is recognised effective communication should be considered as critical to support the achievement of all three CFS Outcomes. The results of the survey have shown that about 50% of respondents are not familiar with any CFS policy guidance instrument nor CFS work in general. That suggests that increasing the outreach of CFS communication efforts should be considered by all stakeholders, in particular focusing on enhancing the awareness of CFS work modalities and products at regional and national levels.

70. The assessment of the criteria associated with CFS Outcome C (Strengthened national and regional food security and nutrition actions) revealed possible inconsistencies in the way the role of CFS is envisaged as contributing to national and regional FSN actions. In particular, under the CFS Responsiveness criterion, the majority of respondents indicated that CFS has a comparative advantage in providing support and advice in response to requests by countries and regions facing FSN challenges. However, no requests for such support have been so far made and it remains unclear how effectively a global committee could respond to specific country requests for assistance. It would be useful to further discuss the kind of advice CFS is perceived to have a comparative advantage in and identify gaps not covered by existing knowledge-providing, convening or implementing bodies. With regards to CFS Influence and Capacity for Uptake, the results of the survey have shown that most of respondents have a positive perception about the potential usefulness of CFS work to regional and national bodies addressing FSN. However, the uptake at country and regional levels of policy products and instruments delivered by CFS requires time and commitment, and most of the products are still quite ‘young’.

71. In terms of perceptions by different regions, respondents from Europe generally rated CFS highly, while among other regions there was more variation. For example, respondents from the Near East rated CFS highly in terms of relevance, but low in terms of inclusiveness and participation. In general, stakeholders that have attended CFS events rated CFS more highly than those who haven’t. Overall, respondents associated with “country governments” and “UN System” affiliation categories rated CFS higher than respondents from “civil society” and “private sector”.

72. Some broad conclusions are summarized in Table 9, which provides some key impressions for each of the assessment criteria addressed through the survey.

**Table 9: Summary of key findings from the CFS effectiveness survey**

CFS Outcomes	Assessment Criteria	Key impressions
<b>Outcome A</b> <b>Enhanced global coordination on food security and nutrition issues</b>	<b>1 Relevance of CFS</b>	CFS is on track in considering in its agenda the most relevant aspects of global FSN.
	<b>2 Inclusiveness &amp; Participation</b>	Significant variation in the opinions expressed by different affiliation categories has been recorded. Deeper analysis is required in order to identify the causes of those differences.
	<b>3 Coordination and Engagement</b>	Further consideration may be warranted to identify how CFS could improve coordination with relevant actors and institutions, focusing initially on the regional level.
<b>Outcome B</b> <b>Improved policy convergence on key food security and nutrition issues</b>	<b>4 Promotion of Policy Convergence</b>	The majority of respondents (65%) who attended CFS sessions rated positively the capacity of CFS to be effective in building consensus on global FSN policy issues. CFS capacity to promote policy coherence horizontally and vertically should be analysed through more in depth assessment approaches.
	<b>5 Evidence-based Decision-Making</b>	The evidence base of CFS work is a general strength within the survey findings.

	<b>6 CFS Communication Strategy</b>	About 50% of respondents are not familiar with CFS policy guidance instruments and CFS work in general. Increasing the outreach of CFS communication efforts should be considered by all stakeholders.
<b>Outcome C</b>  <b>Strengthened national and regional food security and nutrition actions</b>	<b>7 CFS Responsiveness</b>	It will be important to assess the expectations and understanding of the CFS role in supporting regions and countries on FSN issues.
	<b>8 CFS Influence</b>	Most respondents have a positive perception of the potential usefulness of CFS work to regional and national bodies addressing FSN, while actual influence is lower.
	<b>9 Capacity for Uptake</b>	The up-take at country and regional levels of policy products and instruments delivered by CFS requires time and commitment.

73. The above findings were reinforced by the answers to the open question 33, through which respondents were given the opportunity to provide suggestions on how the CFS could improve its overall effectiveness. A total of 105 valid comments were recorded. These have been grouped based on the topics addressed. Table 10 provides the areas that received the largest attention, indicating their frequency.

<b>Clusters</b>	<b>Frequency (number of comments)</b>
<b>Improve linkages and interaction, particularly at the regional and national level</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Inclusiveness/new voices/concern about mechanisms</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Address a specific policy issue of interest to the respondent</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Communication and dissemination</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Others</b>	<b>Below 7 each</b>

74. The text box below provides some quotes from respondents’ comments on how to improve CFS.

**BOX 6: Quotes from respondents' comments of how to improve CFS effectiveness**

*"Greater collaboration with regional and national bodies. Greater dissemination of CFS work".*

*"Develop a clear and simple reason for the CFS to exist. Maintain a constant presence, raising awkward questions, setting agendas, facilitating consensus and collective action on key issues. Communicating the difference CFS makes"*

*"...a key role for the CFS should be to stand apart from individual agencies, including the FAO, and provide critical perspectives on the performance of bilateral and multilateral donors, and of the CGIAR system, in the field of food security and nutrition. This would be of considerable value to those agencies and to the G20 in its capacity as a body responsible for ensuring the provision of certain international public goods essential for global stability and development."*

*"The CFS is not connected to other forums".*

*"CFS effectiveness could be improved by bringing more organizations to collaborate with them even at small levels. They should also get more ways of circulating their documents and ensuring their presence is felt more."*

*"...[m]embers do not internalize the work and recommendations of CFS... If the greatest asset of the CFS is its multi-stakeholder platform, then the CFS needs to do a much better job of promoting the discussion of diverse views. The private sector and civil society mechanisms have been a useful experiment, but do not appear to be helping to ensure that the diverse views of these groups are heard. At the moment, it seems that too many voices are being stifled. It may be useful to ask participants how they would categorize themselves in relation to promoting food security and nutrition and seeing if there are some more natural divisions among participants than the overly broad concept of 'civil society' and 'private sector', e.g. advocacy organization, human rights organization, farmers organization, local or indigenous rights organization, development practice organization, food processor, food trader, etc."*

*"Attract more and better relevant private sector participation & improve farmer and food producer groups' participation."*

*"Keep up the good work, multi-stakeholder and partnerships is the future! CFS is an example to the UN!"*



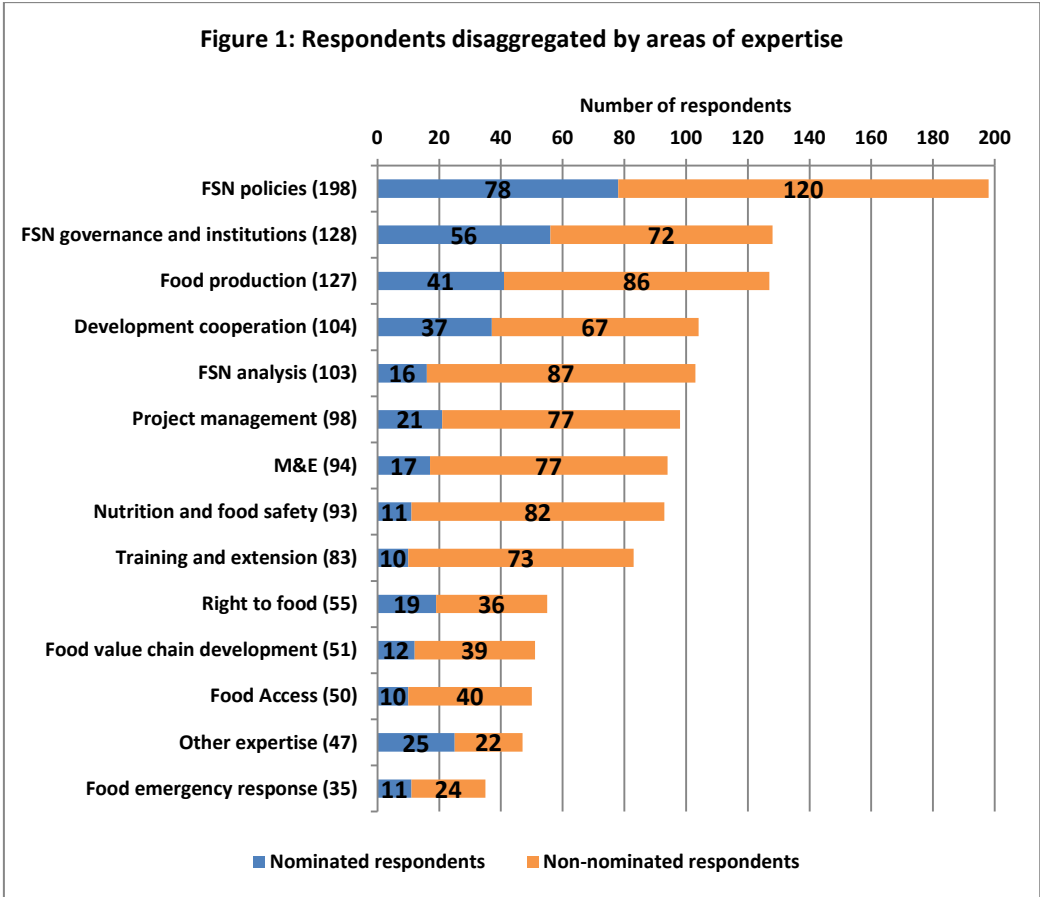
# ANNEX 1 COMPLEMENTARY TABLES AND CHARTS ON CFS SURVEY FINDINGS

The main report provides a selection of charts and tables on survey results. This Annex provides complementary charts and tables. In particular, the same information presented in the main report has been disaggregated by type of respondent, geographical region of respondents' nationality and other criteria.

### Survey demographics

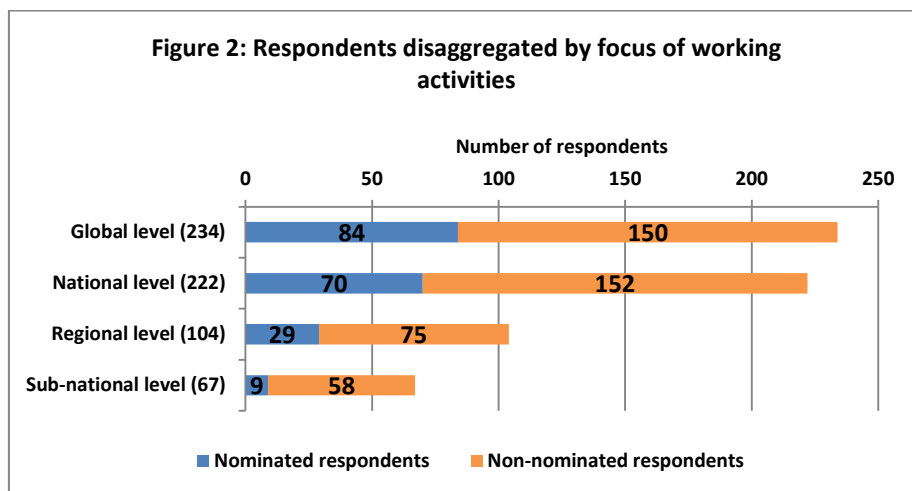
Respondents were asked to indicate: a) their main area(s) of expertise; b) at which level or levels (global, regional, national and sub-national) they primarily work; and c) the geographical region or regions that are most relevant to their work. The responses are shown in the following three bar charts. Respondents were able to select more than one option<sup>24</sup>.

**Question 1:** *What is your main area of expertise?*

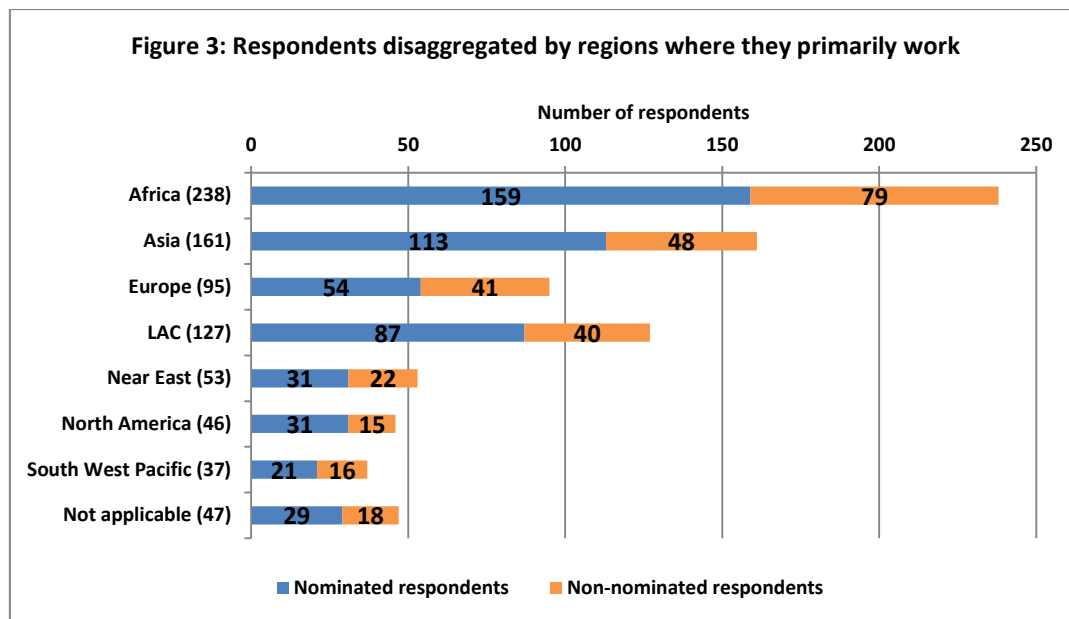


<sup>24</sup> As respondents were enabled to select more than one geographical region, the total frequency of responses (i.e.: 804) is higher than the total number of survey respondents.

**Question 2:** *At what level do you primarily work?*



**Question 3:** *Indicate the region(s) most relevant to your work*



## Relevance of CFS

**Question 4:** *What are three global issues or topics related to food security and nutrition that you think are priorities?*

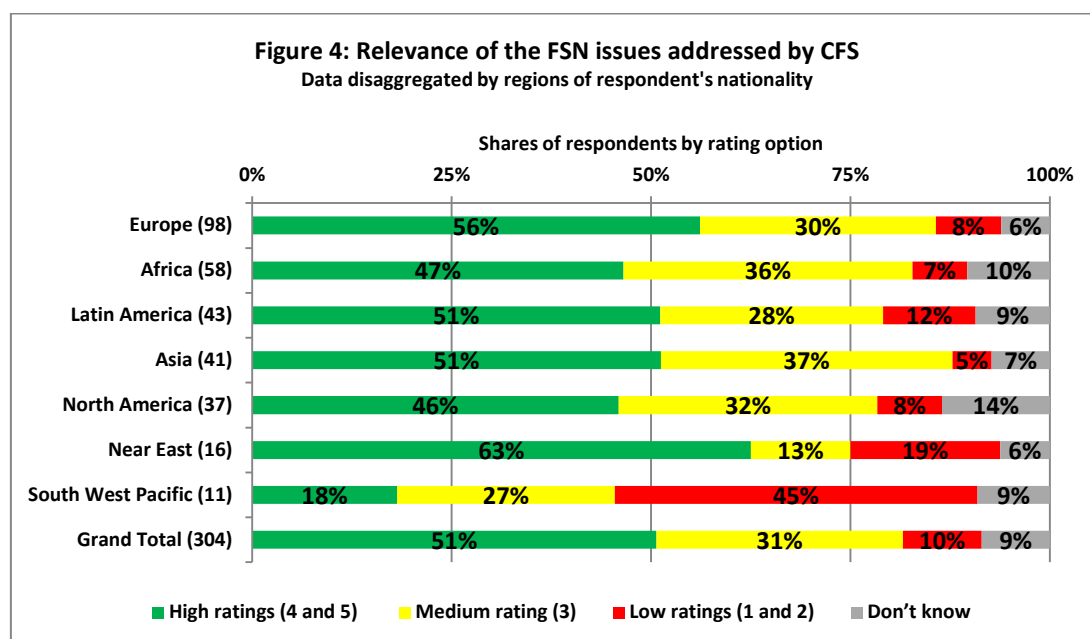
A total of 1,141 valid answers (open-ended comments) indicating “FSN priorities” were recorded. Based on the analysis of the key issues addressed, those have been grouped into 37 “FSN clusters”. Table 1 below provides the identified FSN clusters and their frequency in respondent’s answer.

<b>Table 1: FSN priorities indicated by respondents, by cluster</b>			
<b>Identified clusters in respondents FSN priorities</b>		<b>Frequency of Clusters</b>	
		<b>count<sup>25</sup></b>	<b>% over total</b>
1	Improving nutrition and health	171	11.6%
2	Improving FSN Governance and Policies	128	8.7%
3	Sustainable food systems	80	5.4%
4	Access to Food	71	4.8%
5	Smallholder agriculture / Family farming	65	4.4%
6	Sustainable agriculture and rural development	61	4.1%
7	Food Availability / Food Production	60	4.1%
8	Addressing climate change effects on FSN	58	3.9%
9	Right to Food	56	3.8%
10	Education, research and FSN	54	3.7%
11	Land tenure / Access to resources	51	3.5%
12	Food waste and losses	46	3.1%
13	Food Safety	44	3.0%
14	Sustainable natural resources management	37	2.5%
15	Investments in agriculture and FSN	36	2.4%
16	Linking nutrition, agriculture and food systems	36	2.4%
17	Participation, Multisectoriality and Public-private partnerships	36	2.4%
18	Trade and FSN	35	2.4%
19	Food Crisis / Vulnerability / Risks	32	2.2%
20	Gender and FSN	28	1.9%
21	Agroecology	26	1.8%
22	Food prices / Price volatility	25	1.7%
23	Water	25	1.7%
24	Reducing child malnutrition	22	1.5%
25	Genetic resources / Traditional agriculture	21	1.4%
26	FSN M&E / Accountability	20	1.4%

<sup>25</sup> In some cases, the FSN priorities indicated by respondents have been associated to two clusters instead of only one. This is why the total frequency of clusters provided in Table 1 (i.e. 1473) is higher than the total number of respondent's open ended comments that were recorded (i.e. 1,141).

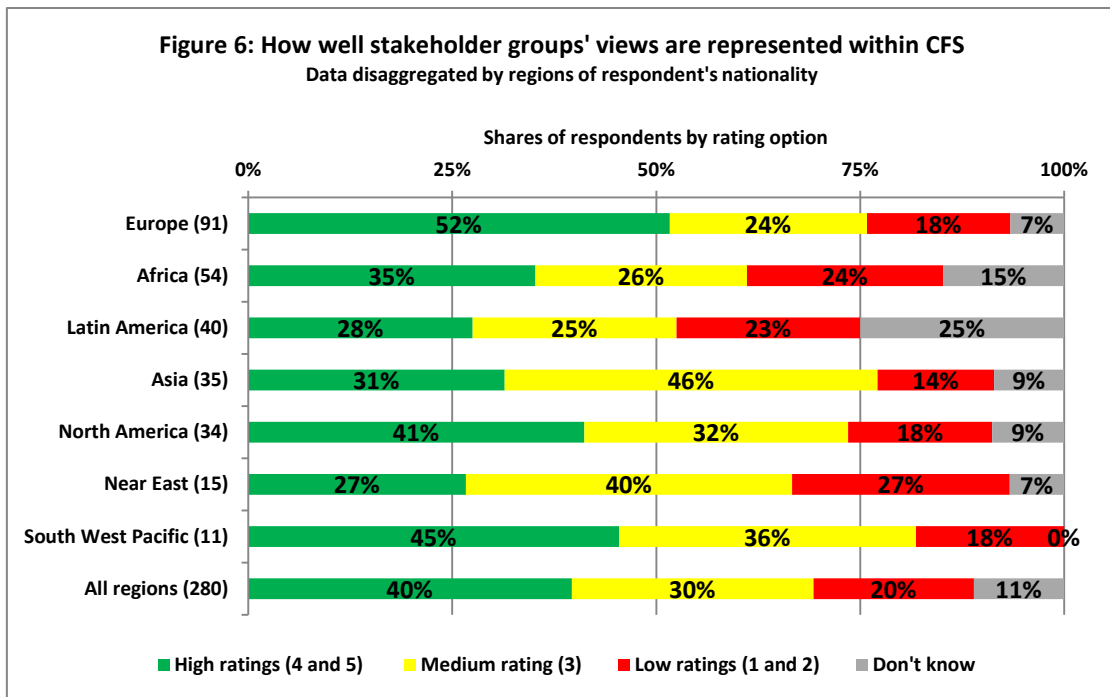
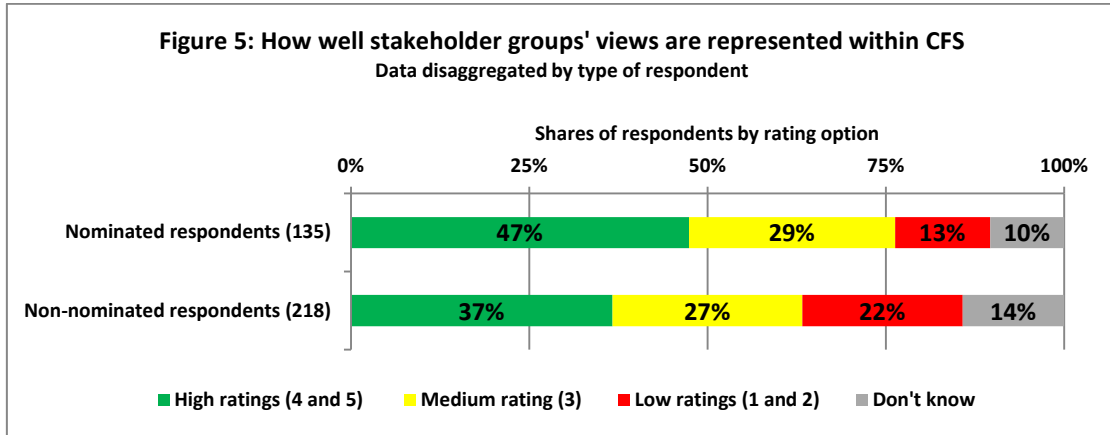
27	Migration, urbanization and population growth	20	1.4%
28	Poverty reduction	20	1.4%
29	Access to Markets	18	1.2%
30	Social protection and safety nets	17	1.2%
31	Food Diversification	16	1.1%
32	Soil fertility / Land degradation	15	1.0%
33	Fishery and Aquaculture	13	0.9%
34	Post 2015 agenda	9	0.6%
35	Production and marketing of agricultural inputs	9	0.6%
36	Forestry and FSN	6	0.4%
37	Youth and FSN	6	0.4%
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>1473</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Question 6:** *In general terms, rate whether CFS is addressing the most relevant global food security and nutrition issues, on a scale from 1 (not relevant at all) to 5 (very relevant).*



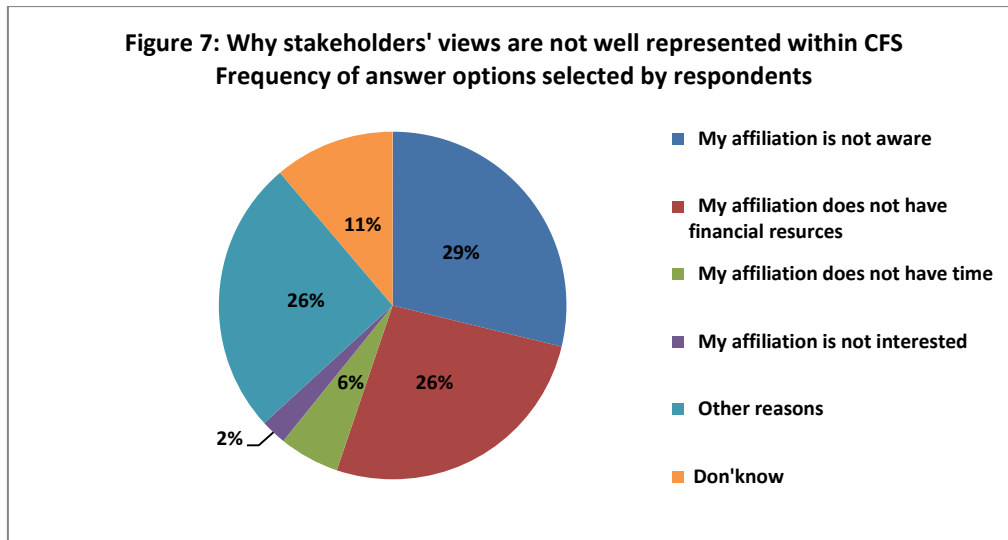
**Inclusiveness & Participation**

**Question 8:** Rate how well your stakeholder group’s views are represented within CFS through your affiliation, on a scale from 1 (very poorly represented) to 5 (very well represented).



**Question 9:** If you selected options “1” or “2” under question 8, indicate the reason(s).

A total of 67 respondents (i.e. 14% of the overall survey sample) selected low ratings (1 or 2) in answering question 8. They were asked to indicate the reason or reasons for assigning low ratings. Figure 7 below shows their main results.

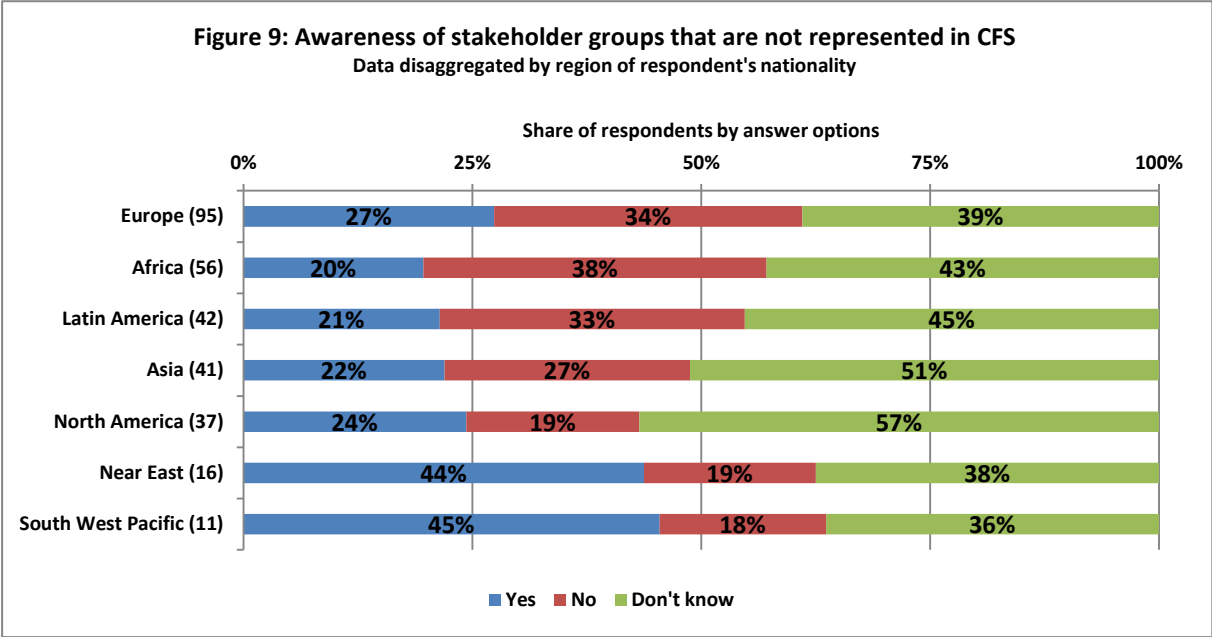
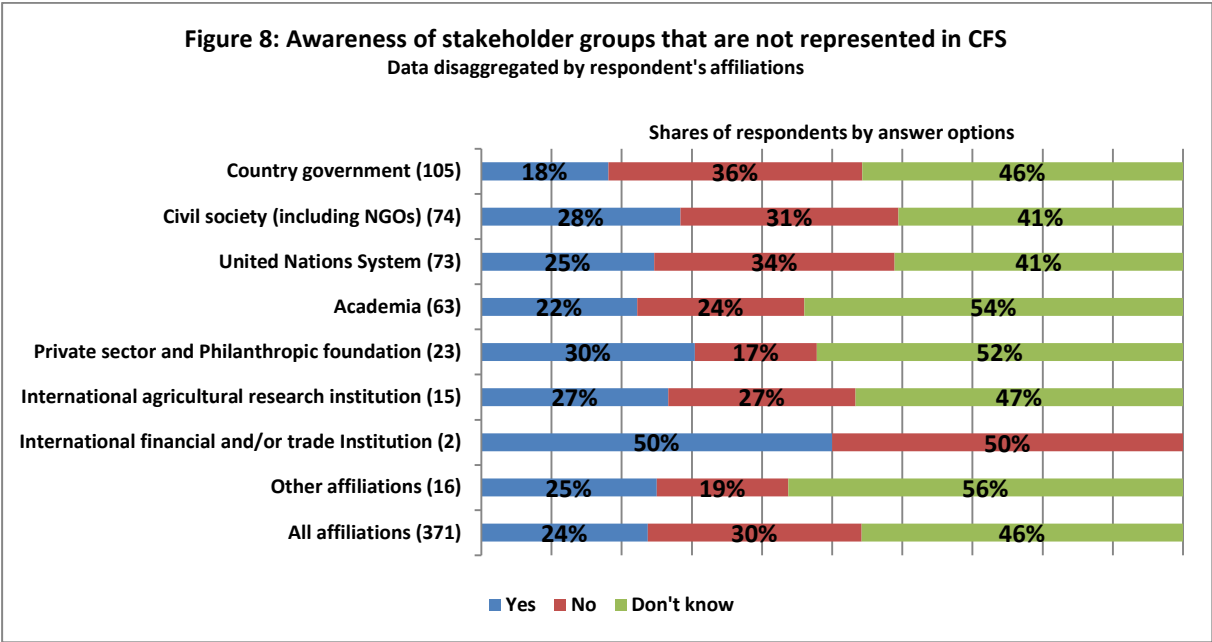


**Question 11:** *Do you know of any relevant Food Security and Nutrition stakeholder group that is not currently represented in CFS?*

**Table 2: Awareness of stakeholder groups that are not represented in CFS**

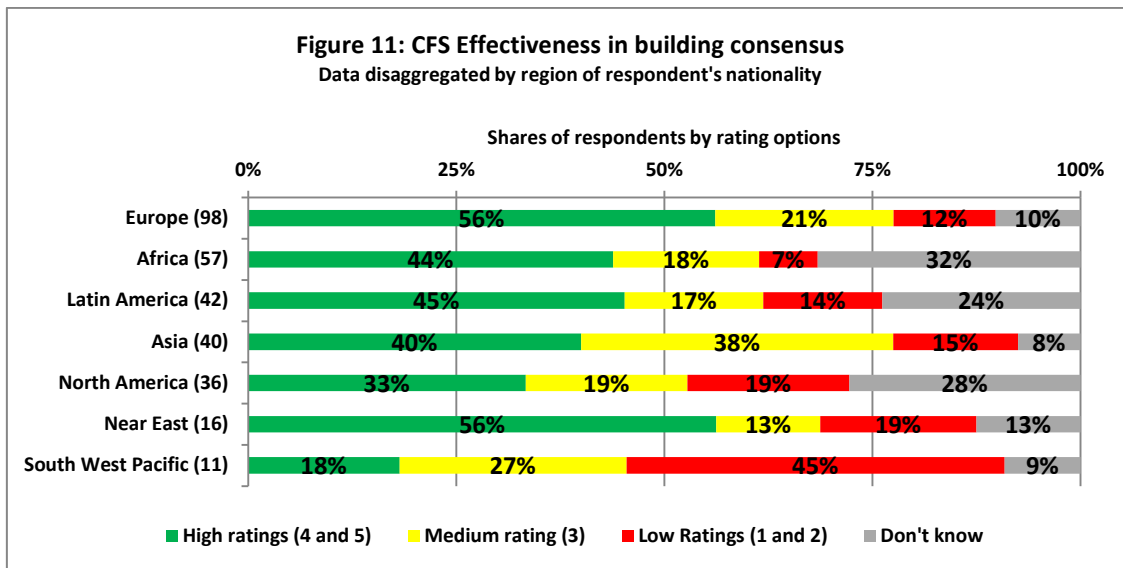
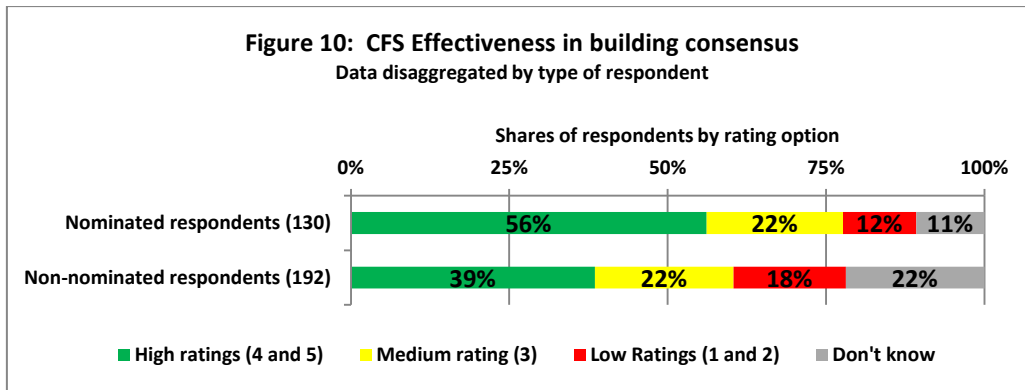
**Do you know of any relevant FSN stakeholder group that is not represented in CFS?**

Answer options	All respondents	
	Frequency of responses	
	%	count
Yes <span style="color: blue;">■</span>	24%	88
No <span style="color: red;">■</span>	30%	113
Don't know <span style="color: green;">■</span>	46%	170
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>371</b>



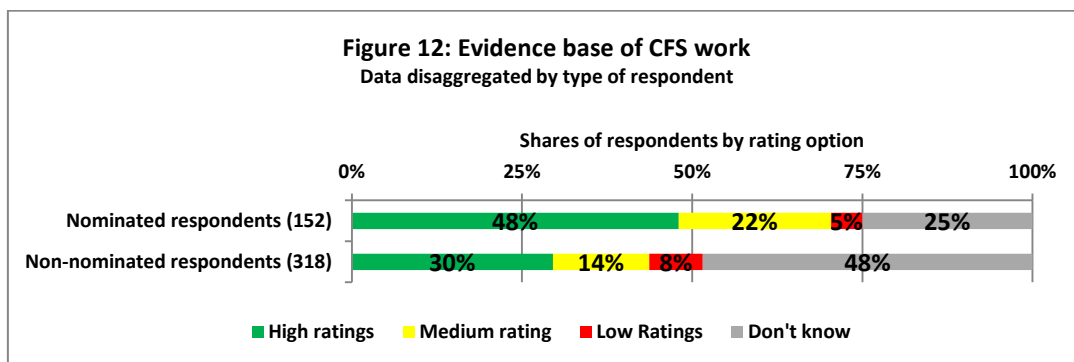
**Promotion of Policy Convergence**

**Question 19:** *In your opinion, how effective is CFS in building consensus at global level on food security and nutrition policies, on a scale from 1 (not effective at all) to 5 (very effective)?*

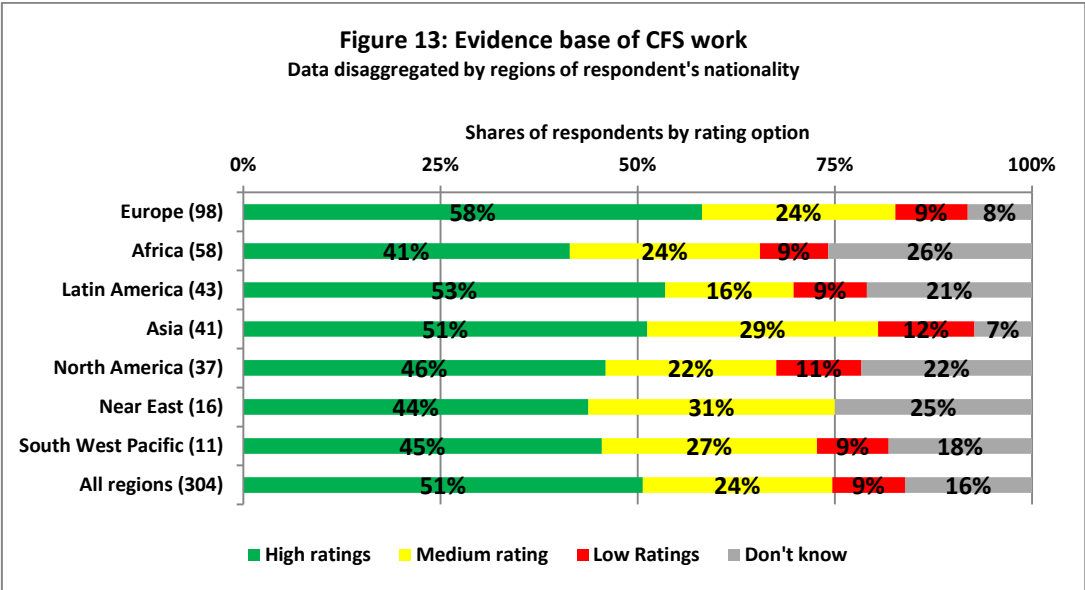


**Evidence-based Decision Making**

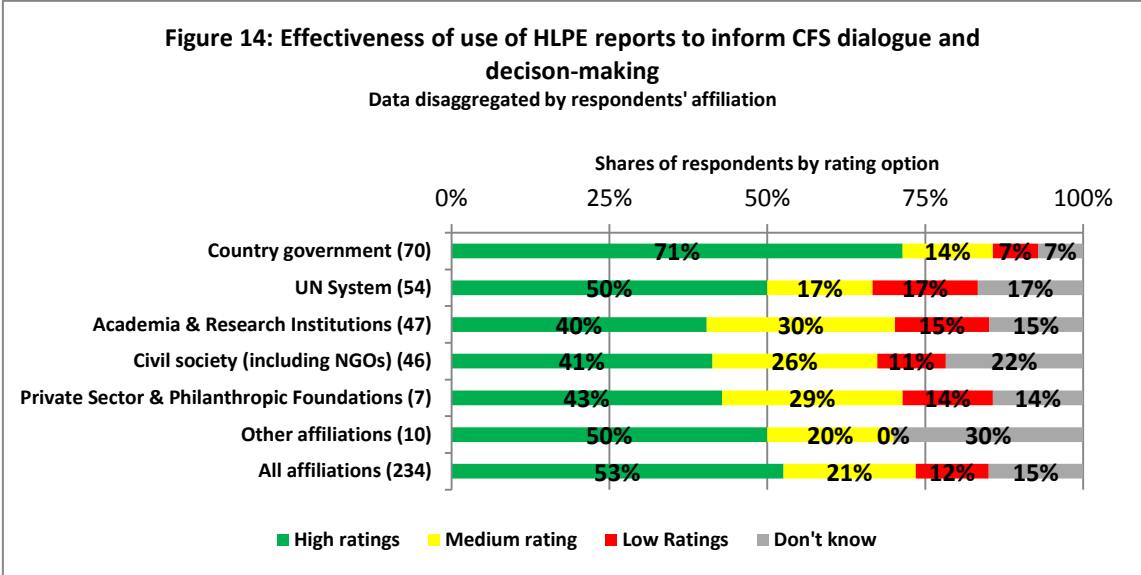
**Question 15:** *In your opinion, how well informed by evidence is the work of CFS, on a scale from 1 (not well at all) to 5 (very well)?*







**Question 17:** *how effectively are HLPE reports used to inform CFS dialogue and decision making, on a scale from 1 (not effectively at all) to 5 (very effectively)?*





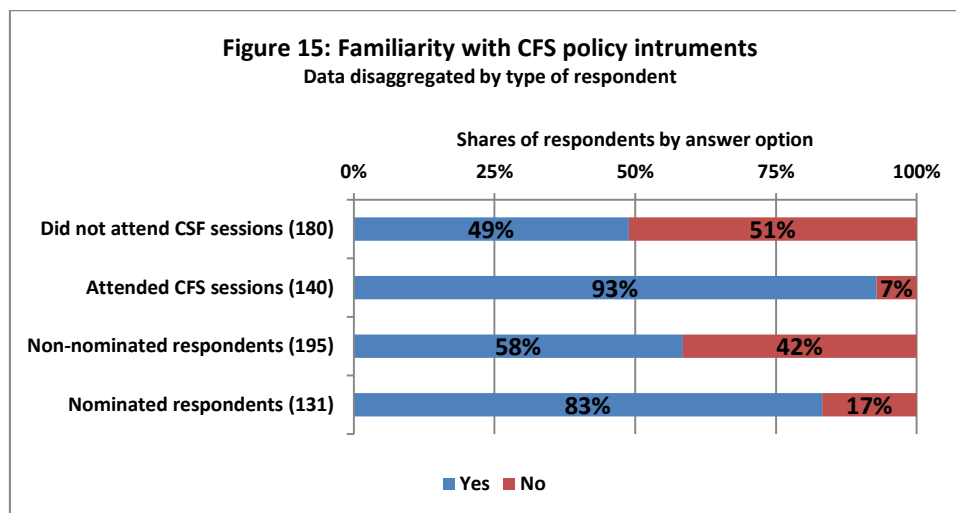
## CFS Communication Strategy

**Question 20:** *Are you familiar with any CFS policy guidance instruments?*<sup>26</sup>

**Table 3: Familiarity with CFS policy instruments**

*Are you familiar with any CFS policy guidance instruments?*

Answer options	All respondents	
	Frequency of responses	
	%	count
Yes 	68%	223
No 	32%	103
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>326</b>



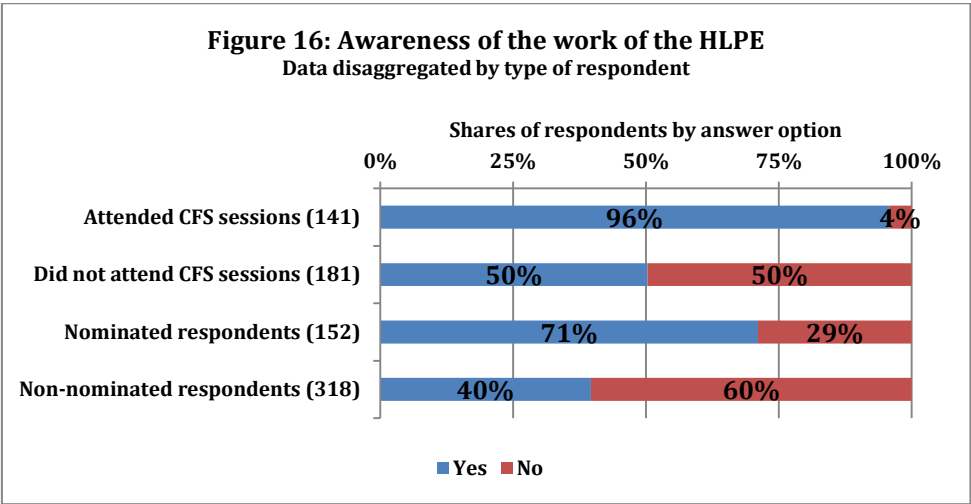
<sup>26</sup> The share of respondents who did not answer question 20 is not shown in Table 3 and Figure 15.

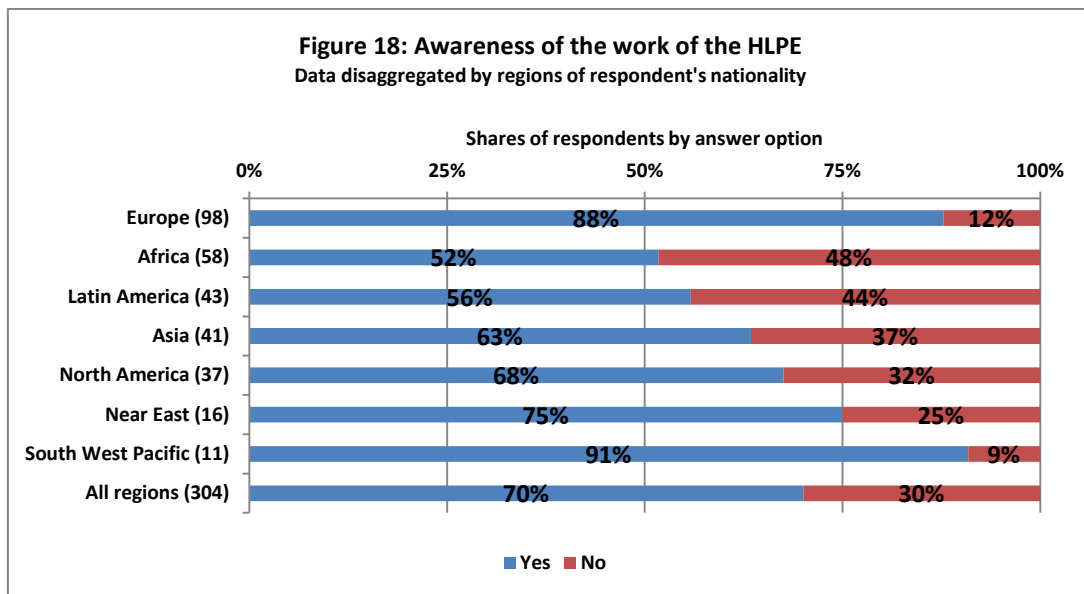
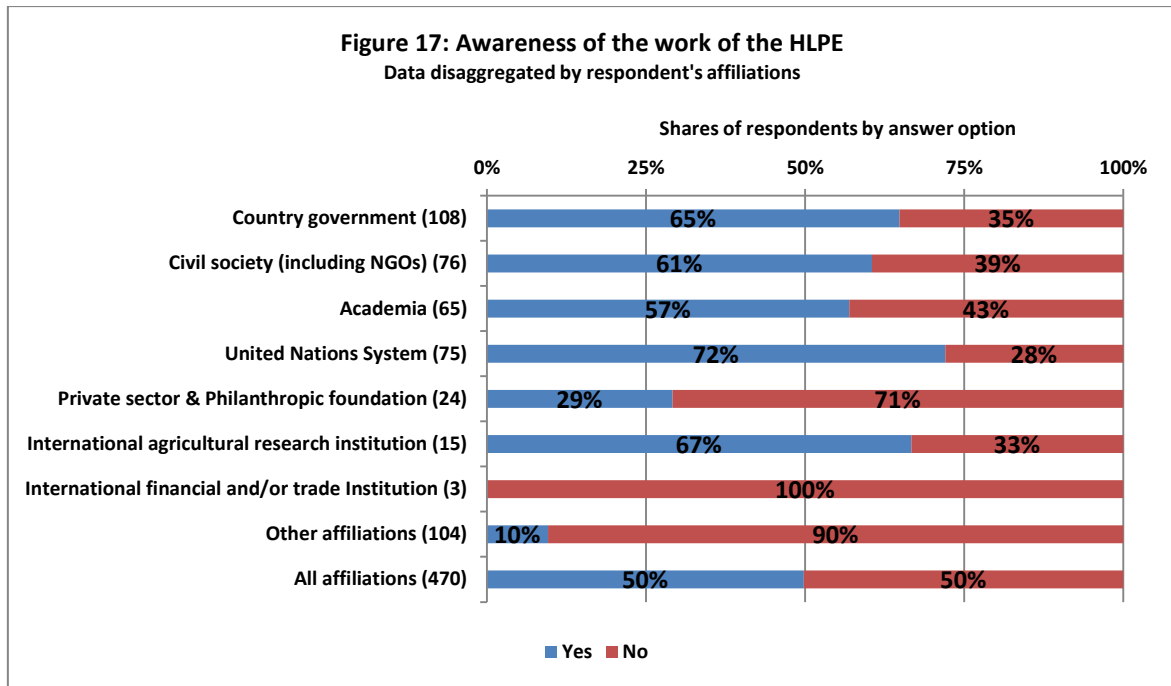
**Question 16:** *CFS has established the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE), an independent body of international experts that produces evidence based reports at the request of CFS. Have you heard of the work of the HLPE?*

**Table 4: Awareness of the work of the HLPE**

*Have you heard of the work of the HLPE?*

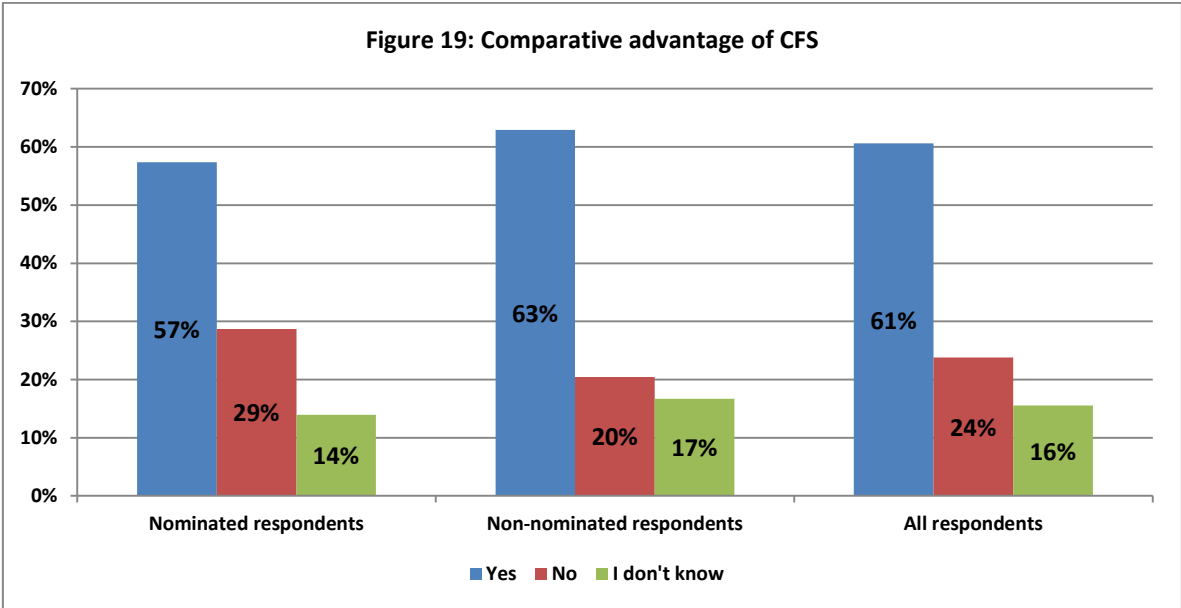
Answer options	All respondents	
	Frequency of responses	
	%	count
Yes <span style="color: blue;">■</span>	50%	234
No <span style="color: red;">■</span>	50%	236
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>470</b>





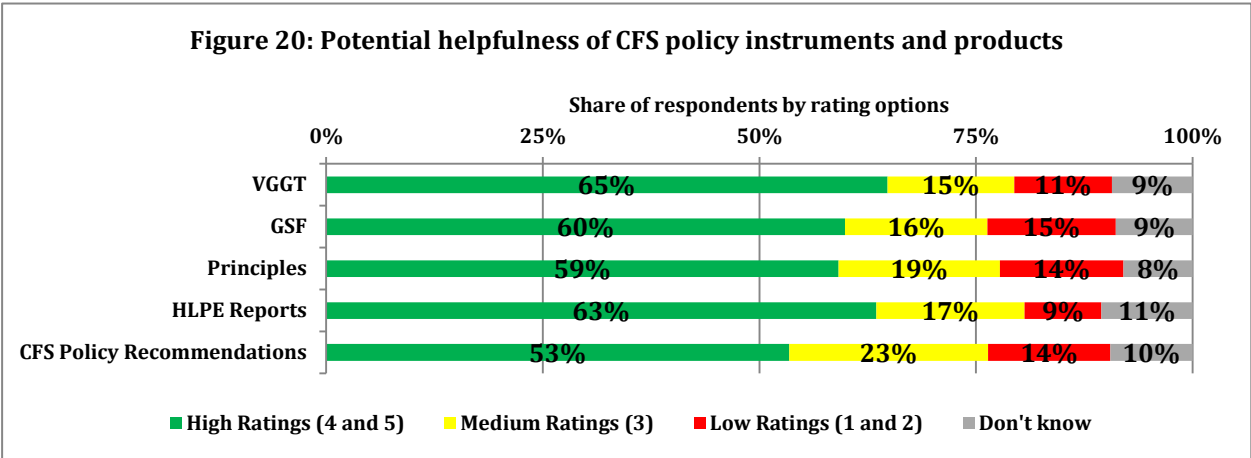
**CFS Responsiveness**

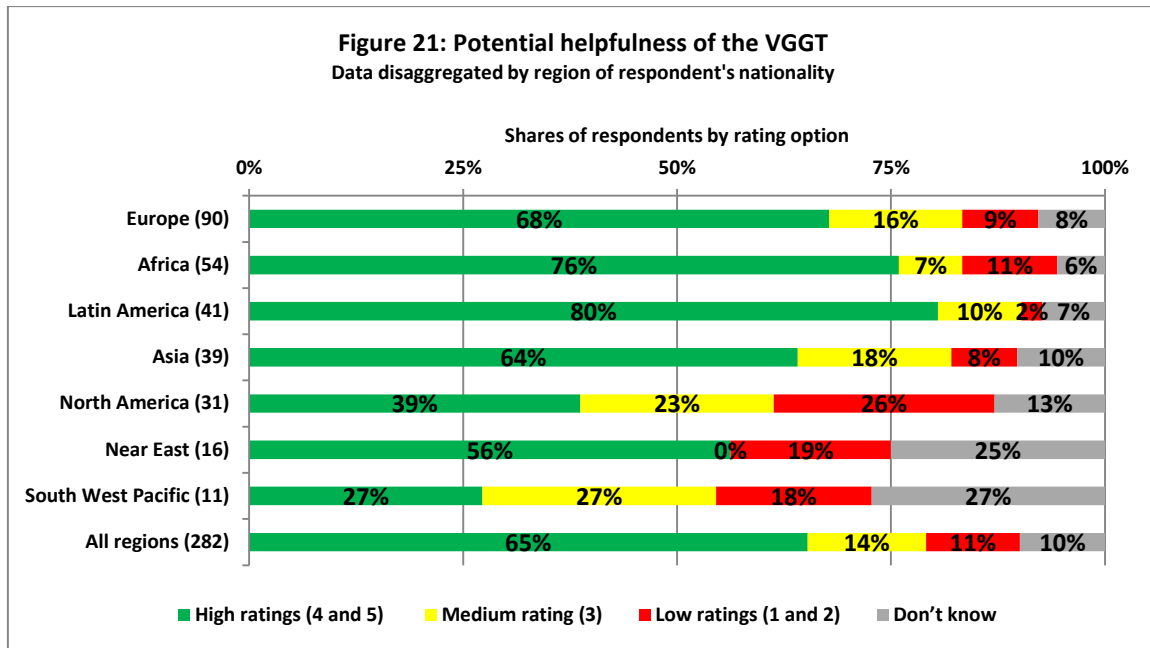
**Question 26:** *Do you think that CFS has a comparative advantage in providing advice and support in response to specific requests from countries regarding their own food security and nutrition challenges?*



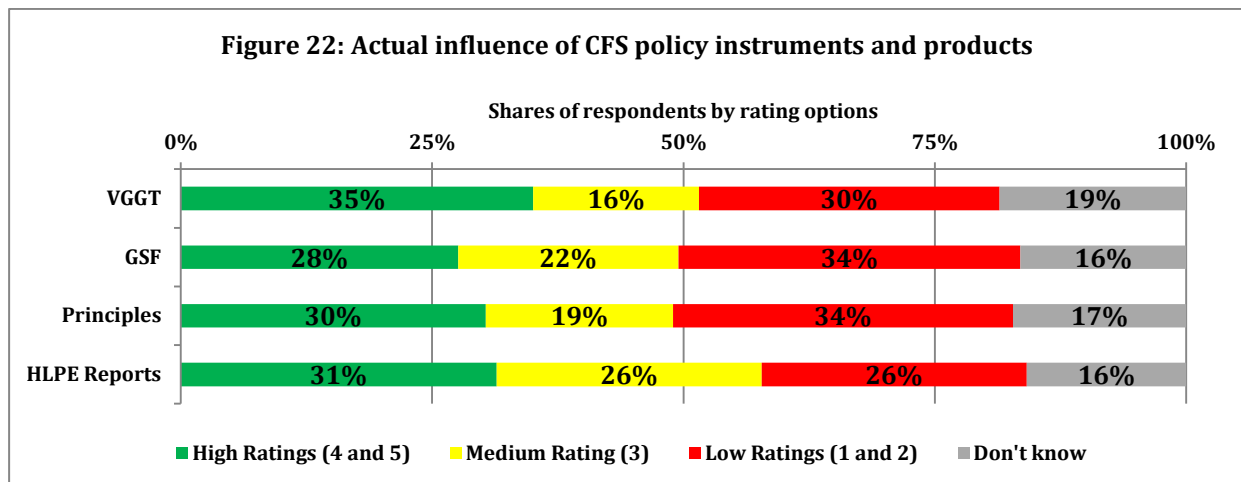
**CFS Influence/Capacity for Uptake**

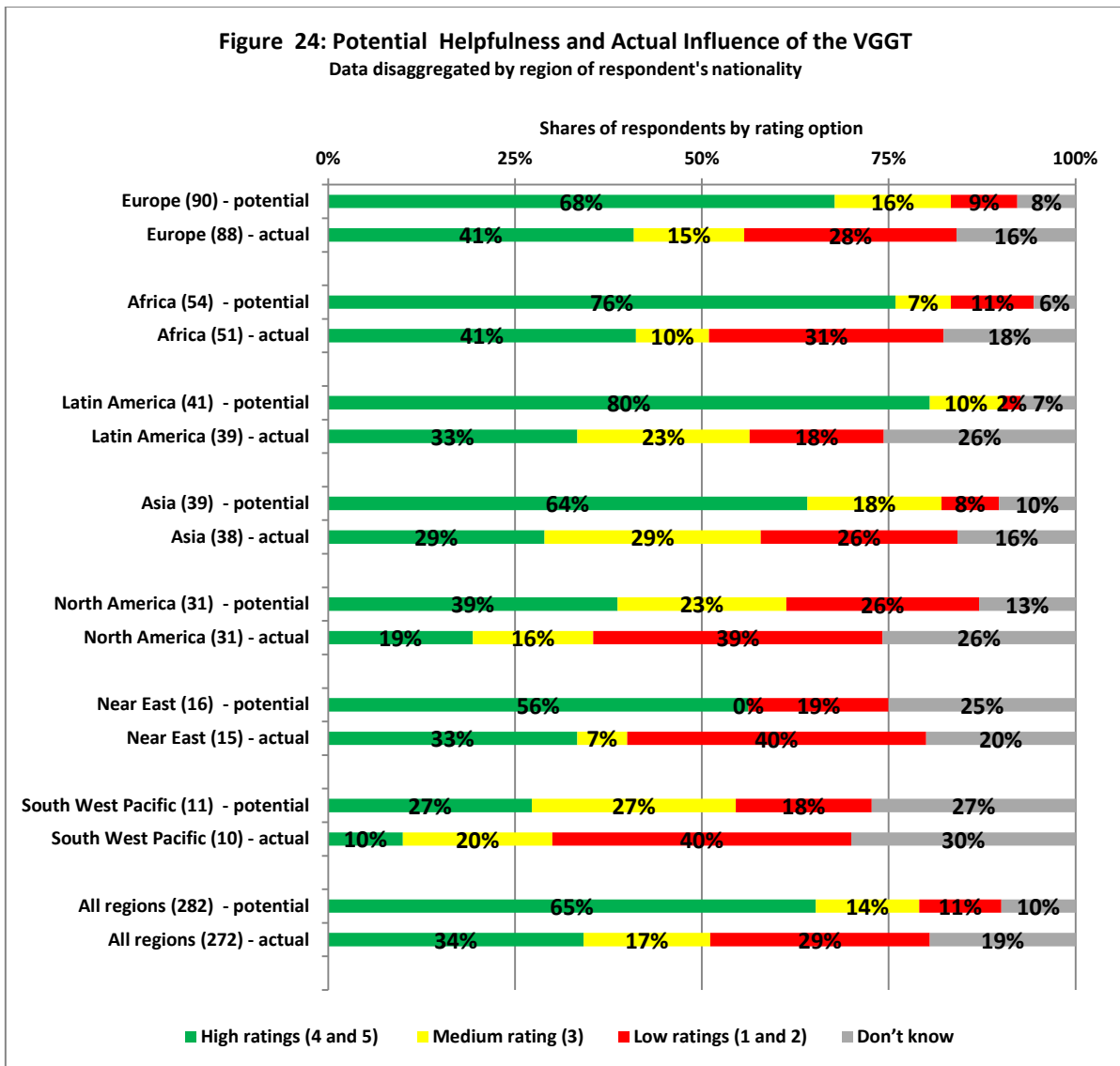
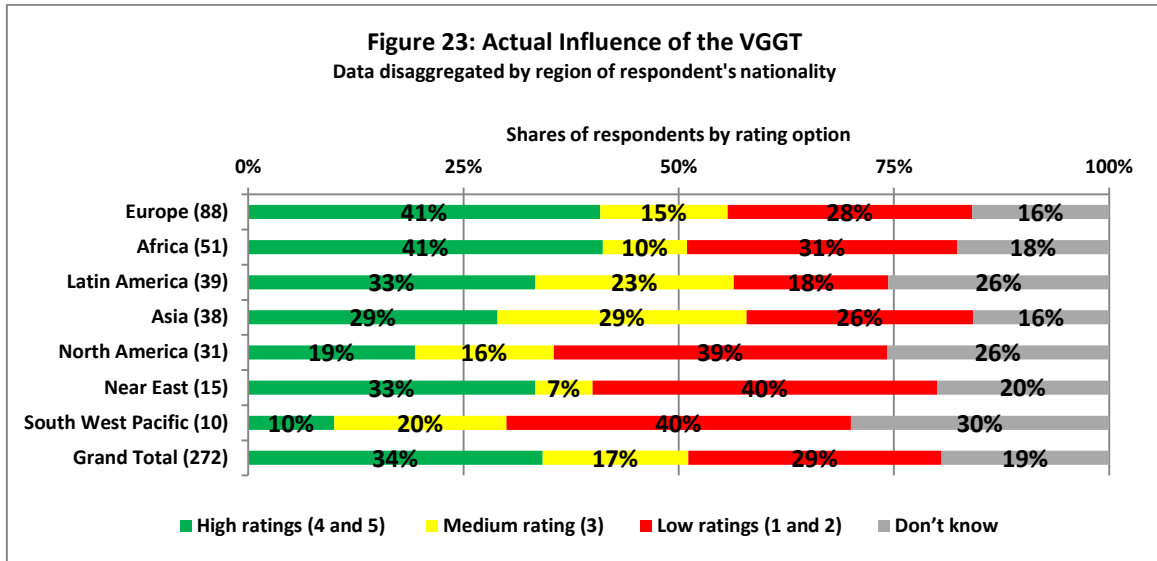
**Question 21:** For each of the policy instruments and products indicated below, rate how helpful you think they could be for policy development in your region on a scale from 1 (not helpful at all) to 5 (very helpful).





**Question 22:** Please rate how influential each of the following items has been in your country/organization/area of activity on a scale from 1 (not influential at all) to 5 (very influential).





## ANNEX 2: SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

### Opinion survey of CFS Effectiveness

Welcome!

**Welcome and thank you for taking this survey! It should take between 10-15 minutes to complete.**

**With the following questions, we aim to solicit your opinions, perceptions and comments on the effectiveness of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS).**

**Your responses will be treated as confidential. Responses will be handled in a manner to ensure that no individual can be identified from the findings. The results of this survey will be analysed, summarized and presented to the 42nd Plenary Session of the CFS in October 2015 in Rome.**

1. What is your main area of expertise?

- Food Security and Nutrition policies
- Food Security and Nutrition governance and institutions
- Development cooperation
- Right to Food
- Food production (Agriculture, Livestock, Fishery, Forestry, etc.)
- Food access and distribution
- Food value chain development
- Nutrition and food safety
- Food Security and Nutrition analysis
- Food emergency response and management
- Project management
- Monitoring & Evaluation
- Training and extension
- Other

Other (please specify in the text box below)

2. At what level do you primarily work?

- Sub National level
- National level
- Regional level
- International/global level



3. Indicate the region(s) most relevant to your work

- Africa
- Asia
- Europe
- Latin America & the Caribbean
- Near East
- North America
- South-West Pacific
- Not applicable

## Opinion survey of CFS Effectiveness

### About food security and nutrition priorities

4. What are three global issues or topics related to food security and nutrition that you think are priorities? Indicate the priorities in the text boxes below, not necessarily in order of importance.

Priority A

Priority B

Priority C

5. Rate how well CFS is addressing each of the topics that you considered as priorities under question 4, on a scale from 1 (not addressed at all) to 5 (very well addressed).

	1 (not addressed at all)	2	3	4	5 (very well addressed)	Don't know
Priority A	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Priority B	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Priority C	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6. In general terms, rate whether CFS is addressing the most relevant global food security and nutrition issues, on a scale from 1 (not relevant at all) to 5 (very relevant).

- 1 (not relevant at all)
  2
  3
  4
  5 (very relevant)
  Don't know

## Opinion survey of CFS Effectiveness

### About CFS inclusiveness

7. Indicate your affiliation.

- Country government
- United Nations System
- Civil society (including non-governmental organizations)
- International agricultural research institution
- International financial and/or trade Institution
- Private sector
- Philanthropic foundation
- Academia
- Other

If you selected "Other", please indicate your affiliation in the text box below

8. Rate how well your stakeholder group's views are represented within CFS through your affiliation, on a scale from 1 (very poorly represented) to 5 (very well represented).

- 1 (very poorly represented)    2    3    4    5 (very well represented)    Don't know    Not applicable

9. If you selected options "1" or "2" under question 8, indicate the reason(s).

- My organization or affiliation is not interested
- My organization or affiliation is not aware
- My organization or affiliation does not have time
- My organization or affiliation does not have financial resources
- Don't know
- Not applicable
- Other (indicate the reason(s) in the text box below)

10. If you selected options “4” or “5” under question 8, please indicate the reasons in the text box below.

11. Do you know of any relevant Food Security and Nutrition stakeholder group that is not currently represented in CFS?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

12. If you selected “Yes” under question 11, indicate in the text box below the group(s) that in your opinion should be represented in CFS.

## Opinion survey of CFS Effectiveness

### About global and regional food security coordination

**CFS aims to provide a platform to promote global coordination on Food Security and Nutrition policies and issues.**

13. Indicate three major global and/or regional processes, initiatives or fora that you think CFS should coordinate with, and the reason why (enter your answer in the text boxes below, not necessarily in order of importance)

A

B

C

14. Rate how well CFS is coordinating with each of the processes, initiatives or fora you indicated under question 13, on a scale from 1 (not at all) to 5 (very well).

	1 (not at all)	2	3	4	5 (very well)	Don't know
A	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
B	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
C	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## Opinion survey of CFS Effectiveness

## CFS evidence based policy work

### CFS places importance on promoting evidence based policy work.

15. In your opinion, how well informed by evidence is the work of CFS, on a scale from 1 (not well at all) to 5 (very well)?

- 1 (not well at all)    2    3    4    5 (very well)    Don't know

16. CFS has established the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE), an independent body of international experts that produces evidence based reports at the request of CFS. Have you heard of the work of the HLPE?

- Yes  
 No

17. If you selected “Yes” under question 16, how effectively are HLPE reports used to inform CFS dialogue and decision making, on a scale from 1 (not effectively at all) to 5 (very effectively)?

- 1 (not effectively at all)    2    3    4    5 (very effectively)    Don't know

18. If you would you like to make any additional comments on the knowledge base of CFS work, please use text box below.

## Opinion survey of CFS Effectiveness

### CFS products and policy recommendations

**A key role of CFS is to help improve global, regional and national food security and nutrition policies, including by building consensus among the relevant stakeholders at all levels.**

**CFS produces policy guidance instruments such as the “Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VG GT)”, the “Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF)” and the “Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (RAI)”, as well as policy recommendations on a wide range of food and nutrition related topics.**

19. In your opinion, how effective is CFS in building consensus at global level on food security and nutrition policies, on a scale from 1 (not effective at all) to 5 (very effective)?

- 1 (not effective at all)   
  2   
  3   
  4   
  5 (very effective)   
  Don't know

20. Are you familiar with any CFS policy guidance instruments?

- Yes  
 No

21. For each of the policy instruments and products indicated below, rate how helpful you think they could be for policy development in your region, on a scale from 1 (not helpful at all) to 5 (very helpful).

	1 (not helpful at all)	2	3	4	5 (very helpful)	Don't know	Not applicable
Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VG GT)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (RAI)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) Reports	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CFS Policy Recommendations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you wish to provide additional comments (for example, why you consider a specific CFS policy instrument, HLPE report or CFS recommendation useful or not), use the text box below.

22. Rate how influential each of the following items has been in your country/organization/area of activity, on a scale from 1 (not influential at all) to 5 (very influential).

	1 (not influential at all)	2	3	4	5 (very influential)	Don't know	Not applicable
Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VG GT)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (RAI)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) Reports	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you wish to provide any additional comments (for example on how the above CFS policy instruments or products have been influential), use the text box below.

23. If you are aware of any other way in which CFS has had an influence in your country/region/organization/context of work, please provide us some details using the text box below.

## Opinion survey of CFS Effectiveness

### CFS and the multi-stakeholder approach

**CFS has adopted a multi-stakeholder approach to policy development.**

**CFS develops global level voluntary recommendations that should be taken up, refined and integrated at regional and national levels, ideally through a multi-stakeholder approach.**

24. If you are aware of any multi-stakeholder bodies addressing food security and nutrition at a regional or country level, please name them in the text box below.

25. If you answered question 24, rate how useful CFS work could be to the multi-stakeholder bodies you have indicated above, on a scale from 1 (not useful at all) to 5 (very useful).

- 1 (not useful at all)     2     3     4     5 (very useful)     Don't know

If you wish to provide additional comments (for example on how CFS could add value to the multi stakeholder bodies you indicated), use the text box below.

26. Do you think that CFS has a comparative advantage in providing advice and support in response to specific requests from countries regarding their own food security and nutrition challenges?

- Yes  
 No  
 I don't know

27. If you answered "Yes" to question 26, indicate in what area(s) should CFS provide advice and support to countries.

- Policy advice  
 Evidence, research  
 Technical support  
 Connecting countries to sources of technical advice  
 Other

Other (please provide some details in the text box below)

28. If you answered “No” to question 26, indicate why.

- This is a service technical agencies are better placed to provide
- CFS lacks resources and capacity to develop tailored responses
- CFS comparative advantage lies in conceptual work at the global level
- Other

Other (please provide some details in text box below)

## Opinion survey of CFS Effectiveness

A few more details about you.

**We would like you to help us better understand the demographics of the respondents. Remember, all data is confidential and will not be linked back to you.**

29. Year of birth

30. Gender

- Male
- Female
- Prefer not to answer

31. What's your country of origin?

Select your country of origin from the drop down list. Please select only one country.

32. Have you attended any CFS Plenary Sessions or otherwise participated in CFS since the reform 2009?

- Yes
- No

## Opinion survey of CFS Effectiveness

Thank you!

**Thank you for answering this questionnaire. Before submitting your responses, you can provide additional comments on how to improve the effectiveness of CFS.**



**Otherwise, click the "Done" button to submit your responses. Once you have clicked "Done", you will not be able to edit your answers.**

33. Use the text box below if you wish to provide additional comments on how to improve the effectiveness of CFS.

Click the "Done" button to submit your responses.