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OUTCOMES OF THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY (CFS) AND FOLLOW UP ACTIONS AT REGIONAL AND COUNTRY LEVEL

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Executive summary

The purpose of this document is to provide an update to the FAO Regional Conferences (RCs) on the main outcomes of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) since the RCs last met in 2012 and on the current main activities of the Committee. The document presents the focus on the outcomes of the CFS concerning among others the Agenda for Action for Addressing Food Insecurity in Protracted Crises Situations and the principles on responsible agricultural investment. Special attention is also put on biofuels and food security as well as Post 2015 development.

Matters to be brought to the attention of the Regional Conference

CFS invites RCs to take note of the CFS outcomes. In particular, the RCs are asked to consider the two key policy convergence processes currently under consultation, *Principles for responsible agricultural investments in the context of food security and nutrition* (CFS-RAI) and *Agenda for Action for Addressing Food Insecurity in Protracted Crises* (CFS-AforA) and to encourage the active participation of all stakeholders during the upcoming final negotiations which will take place in Rome at FAO HQs with the following calendar:

- Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investments in the context of food security and nutrition (CFS-RAI) – 19-24 May 2014
- Agenda for Action for Addressing Food Insecurity in Protracted Crises (CFS-AforA) – 29 July - 1 August 2014.

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OUTCOMES OF THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY (CFS) AND FOLLOW UP ACTIONS AT REGIONAL AND COUNTRY LEVEL

I. Overview of the 2012-2013 CFS Sessions

1. The purpose of this document is to provide an update to the FAO Regional Conferences (RCs) on the main outcomes of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) since the RCs last met in 2012 and on the current main activities of the Committee.
2. Since the reform of CFS in 2009, the key features and outcomes of the Plenary Sessions of CFS were presented at the last two RCs in 2010 and 2012 with the intention of strengthening the linkages between the RCs and CFS and fostering opportunities of mutual exchange of information and inputs in the field of food security and nutrition.
3. In the biennium 2012-2013, two annual and one extraordinary sessions of CFS were held. At the 38th Special Session held in May 2012¹, the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VG-GT) were endorsed by the Committee. They set out principles and internationally accepted practices which all stakeholders are encouraged to make use of when formulating strategies, policies and programmes on food security, nutrition, agriculture and the tenure of land, fisheries and forests.
4. The adoption of the first version of the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF) represents one of the major outcomes of the 39th Session of CFS held in October 2012². The GSF is an overarching framework and a single reference, which contains practical guidance for policy makers in food security and nutrition-related areas such as trade, agriculture, health, environment, natural resources and economic or investment policies. The GSF is updated annually to include the latest CFS policy recommendations. The Committee, at its 40th Session³, endorsed the second version of the GSF and encouraged all stakeholders to promote and make use of this version, while acknowledging its voluntary nature.
5. The Committee continued its efforts to provide scientifically sound and evidence based policy guidance on food security and nutrition action at all levels and to a wide spectrum of stakeholders. The reports by the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE)⁴ provide the basis for the policy round tables that are held in CFS Plenary Sessions. At its 39th Session, the Committee considered reports on *Social Protection for Food Security* and *Climate Change and Food Security* and at the 40th Session reports on *Biofuels and Food Security* and *Investing in Smallholder Agriculture for Food Security and Nutrition*. The outcomes of these policy round tables are summarized in the decision boxes (one for each theme) which were considered, discussed and endorsed by the CFS plenary. These recommendations constitute important policy guidance for further action by a wide range of stakeholders. At the 41st Session, two policy round tables will consider the issues of *Food Losses and Waste in the context of Sustainable Food Systems* and of *The Role of Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture for Food Security and Nutrition*, both informed by a report of the HLPE.

¹ <http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/025/md958e.pdf>

² http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/bodies/CFS_sessions/39th_Session/39emerg/MF027_CFS_39_FIN_AL_REPORT_compiled_E.pdf

³ <http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/029/mi744e.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-hlpe/en/>

6. The Committee took further steps towards monitoring and evaluating its work and effectiveness. In this context, the Committee acknowledged the progress made towards a framework for monitoring CFS decisions and recommendations and recognized the importance of monitoring for improving CFS effectiveness. As an important step in improving the CFS visibility and effectiveness, the Committee requested a plan of action to widely disseminate its plenary decisions and policy recommendations as part of the planned CFS Communication Strategy.

7. With regards to CFS workstreams and other activities, at its 40th Session the Committee adopted a Multi-Year Programme of Work for 2014-2015 (MYPoW) which includes a guidance note outlining the process for selection and prioritization of CFS future activities and suggested HLPE topics. CFS will take into account any relevant outcomes of the FAO RCs in the identification of food security and nutrition topics to be considered by the Committee in the current but also in future biennia.

8. At its 39th Session, the Committee also launched two consultative processes in line with the priority workstreams as identified in the MYPoW, which are highlighted below for the attention of the RCs:

- a) Principles for responsible agricultural investments in the context of food security and nutrition (CFS-RAI)
- b) Agenda for Action for Addressing Food Insecurity in Protracted Crises (CFS-AforA).

II. Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investments in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition (CFS-RAI)

9. At its 39th Session in 2012, CFS launched a two-year consultative process to develop and ensure broad ownership of principles for responsible agricultural investments (CFS-RAI). These are expected to promote investments in agriculture in a way that contributes to food security and nutrition and to the *Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security*.

10. Investing responsibly in agriculture, and particularly in smallholder agriculture, is essential for reducing poverty, creating decent employment opportunities, promoting food security and environmental sustainability. Agricultural investments can generate a wide range of developmental benefits. In order to do so, however, investments need to be responsible and specifically directed towards the achievement of such benefits, while aiming to avoid potential negative consequences that may arise from less responsibly planned investments patterns.

11. The CFS-RAI principles are intended to provide practical guidance to governments, private and public investors, intergovernmental and regional organizations, civil society organizations, research organizations and universities, donors and foundations. They will be voluntary and non-binding and should be interpreted and applied consistently with existing obligations under national and international law.

12. Regional consultations were held between November 2013 and February 2014 with the intention to receive feedback and inputs on the Zero Draft of CFS-RAI from a broad range of stakeholders and improve the existing draft and foster ownership of the principles on a global

level. The outcomes of the consultation will contribute to the preparation of the First Draft which will subsequently be negotiated by the CFS-RAI Open-Ended Working Group in Rome on May 2014. The resulting CFS-RAI principles will then be presented to the 41st Session of CFS in 2014 for endorsement by the Plenary. The report of the RAI consultation in Africa held in Johannesburg (28-29 November 2013) is in the annex of the present document.

III. Agenda for Action for Addressing Food Insecurity in Protracted Crises (CFS-AforA)

13. Protracted crisis situations are associated with severely reduced levels of food insecurity and have been recognized as a special category requiring a broad set of related policy and operational responses. Common characteristics of protracted crisis contexts include recurrent shocks, multiple underlying causes, the breakdown of local institutions, unsustainable livelihoods and food systems, longevity and the presence of conflicts and/or civil insecurity.

14. As highlighted in the State of Food Insecurity in the World 2010, food insecurity is significantly worse in countries in protracted crises than in the rest of the developing countries in four key food insecurity indicators: proportion of undernourished, proportion of children stunted, mortality rate of children under five years old, and the Global Hunger Index.

15. To help prevent and respond to food insecurity in these contexts, CFS, at its 39th Session in 2012, launched a two-year consultative process to develop and ensure broad ownership of an Agenda for Action to address food insecurity in protracted crises.

16. The Agenda for Action is intended to provide experience-based guidance and set out principles for action and describing associated practical actions that can be taken. The aim is to assist stakeholders in developing appropriate policies, investments, institutional arrangements, programmes and activities to improve food security and nutrition in protracted crises situations. The CFS-AforA will be voluntary and non-binding and should be interpreted and applied in line with existing obligations under national and international law.

17. The expected outcome is a greater understanding of the multi-dimensional causes of protracted crises, the sharing of more effective analytical tools to assist in identifying root causes and the appropriate combination of political technical responses to address them. New ways of working in partnership and harmonized action at global, regional, national and local levels will be identified. Improved monitoring of the overall progress made towards reducing the number of countries affected by protracted crises and the prevalence of food insecurity and undernutrition in those countries will also be included.

18. A global consultation will be held in April 2014 and its outcomes will contribute to the preparation of the First Draft of the document which will subsequently be negotiated by the CFS-AforA Open Ended Working Group in Rome in July 2014. The resulting CFS-A4A will then be presented to the 41st Session of CFS in 2014 for endorsement by the Plenary. See website for more details at: <http://www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-home/cfs-fipc/en/>.

IV. Follow-up actions at regional and country level⁵

19. The following paragraphs (20 through 33) are excerpts from the CFS 40th final report (CFS 2003/40 Report) which may be discussed if need be as areas related to the Africa region and that could require follow-up at regional and country level. The tentative selection is not exhaustive and could be reviewed by the Regional Conference and relevant other actions could be considered if deemed necessary.

Actions towards enhanced policy coherence for food security and biofuels

20. The Committee encouraged governments to seek coordination of their respective food security and energy security strategies, giving due consideration to the sustainable management of natural resources. It recommended the following action points, their development and implementation, by the appropriate stakeholders.

21. Governments, FAO, Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS), GBEP, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and other international organizations are encouraged to regularly share with CFS the results of their work on biofuels-food security linkages.

22. Governments, FAO, and all other relevant stakeholders are encouraged to promote and facilitate exchange of information and cooperation on biofuels and food security links. This includes analysis, assessments and projections as well as providing transparent information on assumptions, methods, tools and gender-disaggregated data.

23. Governments and other stakeholders are encouraged to implement policies and investments for the production of biofuels and food in accordance with national development strategies and multilateral agreements applicable to food security. Special attention should also be given to the situation of vulnerable groups and small scale food producers.

24. Governments and other appropriate stakeholders are encouraged to review biofuels policies - where applicable and if necessary - according to balanced science-based assessments of the opportunities and risks they may present for food security, and so that biofuels can be produced according to the three pillars of sustainable development.

25. FAO is invited to inform CFS of the progress made in building capacities in member states with respect to biofuel policies in coherence with food security and initiatives on biofuel policies at multiple levels. This would be based on existing works and material e.g. the GBEP sustainable bioenergy indicators, the FAO BEFS Approach; as well as the VGGT, which governments and all stakeholders are encouraged to promote, make use of and to support their implementation.

26. FAO, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders and in consultation with member states as appropriate, is invited to propose a programme of work aimed at strengthening the capacity of interested countries and operators to assess their situation with regards to biofuels, taking into account food security concerns at global, regional and national levels, legitimate

⁵ Section IV was incorporated in order to address the requests received by the Regional Office for Africa from representatives of the Member countries to include follow-up actions at regional and country level as items for discussion.

land tenure rights, to manage the related risks and opportunities, and to monitor impacts. This could take advantage of the GBEP capacity building programme.

Actions to promote Research and Development (R&D) on biofuels and food security

27. Food security, smallholder and gender concerns should be integrated as appropriate in the design, monitoring and evaluation of R&D on biofuels. R&D is important in improving the efficiency of biofuels regarding both resources and processes, and in exploring new technologies including biofuels of the second and third generations. Research partners are encouraged to devise solutions adapted to the needs of all stakeholders, especially those in least-developed countries and of women and smallholders who are most in need of access to modern energy services.

28. International cooperation (including south-south cooperation), and public sector, and public-private partnerships have an important role to play in supporting these research topics. It is important to ensure that lessons learned from these partnerships are reflected in future cooperation.

29. R&D, as appropriate, should strengthen capabilities to adapt biofuel production and processing units so that they can modulate their supply chain between food, feed and energy.

Actions with regard to linkages between energy and food security

30. Stakeholders are encouraged to support more energy and other resource use efficiency, increased use of sources of renewable energy and improved access to sustainable energy services, including among others in agri-food chains, according to each country's specificities.

31. Governments and operators should support the participation of farmers, in particular smallholders and women, in food-energy security programmes (including on biofuel production and consumption), as appropriate on the basis of fair and equitable conditions.

32. CFS encouraged public and private sectors to support the integration of sustainable biofuel production into agricultural and forestry policies, according to each country's specificities.

Potential engagement of CFS with post-2015 Development Agenda process

33. The CFS highlights the essential role of food security and nutrition and poverty eradication in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda and mandates the Bureau, in consultation with the Advisory Group, to explore ways for the CFS to provide inputs to the decision-making process on the post-2015 development agenda in New York.

V. Matters to be brought to the attention of the Regional Conferences

34. CFS invites RCs to take note of the CFS outcomes. In particular, the RCs are asked to consider the two key policy convergence processes currently under consultation, *Principles for responsible agricultural investments in the context of food security and nutrition* (CFS-RAI) and *Agenda for Action for Addressing Food Insecurity in Protracted Crises* (CFS-AforA) and to encourage the active participation of all stakeholders during the upcoming final negotiations which will take place in Rome at FAO HQs with the following calendar:

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Annex : Report of the RAI consultation in Africa - Johannesburg (28-29 November 2013)

<http://www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-home/resaginv/en/>.