



# COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

<b>Thirty-ninth Session</b>
<b>Rome, Italy, 15-20 October 2012</b>
<b>Agenda Item III.a</b>
<b>POLICY ROUNDTABLE: SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION</b>
<b>Matters to be brought to the attention of CFS</b>

## *The Committee*

1. Urges Member States to design and put in place, or strengthen, comprehensive, nationally-owned, context-sensitive social protection systems for food security and nutrition, considering:
  - Inter-ministerial and cross-sectoral coordination, including the agriculture sector, to ensure that social protection is integrated with broader food security and nutrition programming.
  - The progressive development of comprehensive country-led social protection portfolios and action plans that ensure active, inclusive, meaningful stakeholder participation, and are sensitive to countries' differences in terms of policy, institutions and financial capacity.
  - Appropriate national assessments, including food security and nutrition assessments, to ensure the inclusion of food and nutrition insecurity-sensitive targeting, effective registration methods, gender-sensitive programming, institutional arrangements, delivery mechanisms, robust monitoring, accountability, and evaluation.
  - The particular challenges faced by fragile states and countries in protracted crises. The various components of effective social protection, including non-contributory social transfers or safety nets, insurance mechanisms, and access to social services, including recognition and strengthening of informal/traditional social protection mechanisms.
2. Calls upon Member States, international organizations and other stakeholders to ensure that social protection systems embrace a "twin-track" strategy to maximise impact on resilience and food security and nutrition, through:
  - Provision of essential assistance in the short-term while simultaneously protecting or building productive assets that support livelihoods and human development in the long-term.
  - Fostering integrated programs which improve agricultural livelihoods and productivity for the poor including through weather, crop and livestock insurance, farmer organizations and co-

operatives for market access, decent jobs and public works that create agricultural assets, home-grown school feeding that purchases food from local smallholder farmers, in-kind transfers (food, seeds), vouchers and cash transfers, agricultural livelihood packages and extension services.

- Establishment of strong linkages required with other sectors such as education, health, decent employment in rural areas and agriculture, and enhancing people's access, especially women, to markets and financial services, required for effective social protection.

3. Urges Member States, international organizations and other stakeholders to improve increase the use of social protection interventions to address vulnerability to chronic and acute food insecurity, considering:

- The importance of providing predictable and reliable access to social protection to all those in need at any time of the year, and at particularly vulnerable stages of life.
- That chronically vulnerable individuals, unable to participate in the workforce, might need permanent assistance, recognizing that not everyone can graduate out of poverty and food insecurity.
- Recognizing the life-cycle approach to nutrition, prioritize social protection that addresses the critical "first 1,000 days" from pregnancy to 2 years old, including ensuring access to social services particularly health care, ensuring adequate knowledge of all relevant aspects of child care, and access to affordable and acceptable nutritious food products through the marketplace where possible, appropriate and sustainable.
- Flexible mechanisms to monitor and adjust design features and modalities as appropriate;
- Social protection systems should be designed in such a way that they can respond quickly to shocks such as droughts, floods and food price spikes.

4. Reminds Member States that social protection programmes for food security and nutrition should be guided by human rights norms and standards and be complemented as appropriate by policies, guidelines, including legislation, as appropriate, to support the progressive realization of the right to food, social security, and gender equality through inter-alia:

- The consideration of provisions recommended by the International Labour Conference on the Social Protection Floors. Social protection can be a catalyst for the fulfilment of other relevant international rights.
- The grounding of social protection in national institutional frameworks and legislation, establishing, as appropriate, targets, benchmarks, indicators and institutional responsibilities.
- The adoption of integrated and mutually-supportive social protection and food security and nutrition strategies and policies, based on human rights standards and principles, including non-discrimination and equality (including gender), meaningful participation, transparency and accountability.

5. Request the CFS Bureau, in consultation with the Advisory Group and Secretariat, to support policy coherence, lesson-sharing and other initiatives as appropriate for social protection for food security and nutrition, through:

- Facilitation and convening of lesson-sharing events on social protection for food security and nutrition, including complementing existing global and regional platforms.
- Further exploration of the concept of the food security floor as posited by the HLPE, and its relationship with social protection floors, in consultation with Rome-based Agencies and relevant organizations and entities, such as the High-Level Task Force on Food Security (HLTF), the ILO, the World Bank.
- The CFS Open Working Group on Monitoring (OWG-Monitoring) to further clarify the role of CFS in monitoring, reporting and evaluation of social protection programmes for food

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security and nutrition, taking into account the roles of other relevant stakeholders and existing monitoring mechanisms.