

THE HIGH LEVEL PANEL OF EXPERTS ON FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

The High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) was created in October 2009 as an essential part of the CFS reform. The Steering Committee of the HLPE is appointed by CFS and it selects and manages Project Teams that provide scientific knowledge-based analysis and advice. HLPE reports are produced independently from CFS and its findings and recommendations serve as a basis for CFS policy discussions.

THE CFS SECRETARIAT

The CFS has a permanent Secretariat located in FAO, Rome which includes members from FAO, IFAD and WFP. Its task is to support the Plenary, the Bureau and Advisory Group and the HLPE in their work.

HOW DOES CFS WORK?

CFS holds an annual plenary session which informs, debates and recommends actions to be taken by CFS stakeholders on food security and nutrition issues. Policy round tables are held to provide policy advice on the most topical issues. Between the sessions, there are regular meetings of the CFS Bureau and Advisory Group. CFS also contributes to various food security and nutrition related events and initiatives throughout the year.

FIND OUT MORE

If you'd like to find out more visit the CFS website at www.fao.org/cfs or email the Secretariat on cfs@fao.org.



THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY(CFS)

Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life



THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY



Food security and nutrition is everyone's business. The CFS multi-stakeholder platform enables all viewpoints to be considered.



WHAT'S CFS?

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 global debate on food security and nutrition was focused, results orientated and inclusive. 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. CFS was reformed to address short term crises but also long term structural issues. The Committee reports annually to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC).

WHO IS PART OF CFS?

CFS is made up of Members, Participants and Observers. The membership of the Committee is open to all Member States of the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) or the World Food Programme (WFP) and non-Member States of FAO that are Member States of the United Nations. Member States are encouraged to participate in CFS sessions at the highest level possible.

THE CFS PROCESS

- Gives voices to all stakeholders concerned with food security and nutrition
- Encourages an exchange of views and experiences
- Builds on empirical evidence and scientific analysis
- Encourages the arrival at concrete recommendations and guidelines
- Encourages accountability

THE CFS BUREAU AND ADVISORY GROUP

The Bureau is the executive arm of CFS. It is made up of a Chairperson and representatives of twelve member countries. The Advisory group is made up of representatives from CFS Participants. These are:

- UN agencies and other UN bodies
- Civil society and non-governmental organizations particularly organizations representing smallholder family farmers, fisherfolks, herders, landless, urban poor, agricultural and food workers, women, youth, consumers and indigenous people
- International agricultural research institutions
- International and regional financial institutions such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, regional development banks and the World Trade Organization
- Private sector associations and philanthropic foundations
- Prominent individuals

The Advisory Group helps the Bureau advance the Committee's objectives in particular to ensure linkages with different stakeholders at regional, sub-regional and local levels and to ensure an ongoing, two-way exchange of information.

