

Forty-ninth session

Making a difference in food security and nutrition

11–14 October 2021

Guide to CFS 49

WELCOME TO CFS 49

Welcome to the forty-ninth plenary session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS 49), to be held from **11-14 October 2021**. Among other items, the session will focus on the 2021 State of Food Security and Nutrition report, uptake of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, the CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work, and other ongoing CFS workstreams and priorities.

CFS 49 LOGISTICS

Dates and times: Monday, 11 October – Thursday, 14 October 2021. Plenaries to be held virtually, or possibly in hybrid format; all side events held virtually.

Morning sessions: 9:30 – 12:30; **afternoon sessions:** 14:30 – 17:30, Rome time.

Hosting: CFS 49 will be hosted on the ZOOM platform as a ZOOM meeting and will be open to invited participants. See the [FAO guidance on effective participation in Zoom meetings](#). The session will also be available via webcast for observers.

Participation and languages: CFS 49 is open to Members of the Committee, Participants and Observers, and its sessions will be conducted in all FAO languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish).

High-level participation: In the event that a Member delegation will include senior-level participation such as a Minister, Vice Minister, State Secretary (or equivalent), those delegations should inform the CFS Secretariat by 6 October to be afforded priority protocol consideration on the speakers' list.

Registration for Member and Non-Member states: Diplomatic representatives designated to attend the Forty-ninth session of CFS must register online using their protected password reserved for FAO Permanent Representatives at <http://permreps.fao.org/> before **6 October 2021**. Instructions for online registration can be downloaded from the Permanent Representatives Website (PRWS).

Registration for other Stakeholders: Participants and Observers designated to attend the 49th Session of CFS should send an email to CFS49-Registration@fao.org by **24 September 2021** indicating name and last names, organization, official title, address, and **email address**. Personalized links to access the virtual meeting will be made available upon receipt of the above information.

More information: Please visit the [CFS 49 web page](#). Latest news, documents and updates on CFS 49 will be posted on this web page.

Timekeeping: CFS 49 provides an opportunity for meaningful dialogue and interaction. Delegates are asked to keep their interventions succinct (three minutes or less) and relevant to the item under discussion. Lengthy formal statements are strongly discouraged. Prior to the start of a session, delegate statements should be emailed to cfs@fao.org for forwarding to FAO's Conference Services interpreters. All statements and presentations received from session speakers will be posted on the [CFS 49 web page](#) (in their original language).

Social media: Connect with us [@UN_CFS](#) and use the hashtag #CFS49 in your social media outreach. A social media toolkit is available on the [CFS 49 web page](#).

Enquiries: Please contact the CFS Secretariat at cfs@fao.org.

ANNOTATION OF THE AGENDA

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

The Membership of the Committee will be confirmed, the CFS 49 Agenda and Timetable adopted, and the Drafting Committee appointed.

Background Documents:

- CFS 2021/49/1/Rev.1 – CFS 49 Provisional Agenda
- CFS 2021/49/Inf.1 – CFS 49 Provisional Timetable
- CFS 2021/49/Inf.2/Rev.1 – Guide to CFS 49 (this document)
- CFS 2021/49/Inf.4 – Membership List
- CFS 2021/49/2 – Guide to the Preparation of the CFS 49 Final Report

II. STATE OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE WORLD 2021, ITS POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND THE ROLE OF CFS IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19 *(for information and discussion)*

Well before the COVID-19 pandemic, the world was already off-track to meet global commitments to end hunger and malnutrition in all its forms by 2030. The pandemic has made achieving these commitments significantly more challenging.

This year, the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) 2021 report estimates that between 720 and 811 million people in the world faced hunger in 2020 – as many as 118 million more than in 2019. Nearly 2.37 billion people did not have access to adequate food in 2020 – an increase of 320 million people in just one year. The high cost of healthy diets and persistently-high levels of poverty and income inequality continue to keep healthy diets out of reach for some 3 billion people across the world.

Session Rollout:

The session will open with statements by the following individuals, or their delegates (whose statements will be posted on the CFS 49 Session document webpage):

- The UN Secretary-General
- The President of ECOSOC (invited)
- The CFS Chairperson
- The Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- The President, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- The Executive Director, World Food Programme (WFP)
- The Chair of the High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) Steering Committee

A keynote address by Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs, Director of the Center of Sustainable Development at Columbia University, will follow opening statements. Following Professor Sach's keynote, a presentation on SOFI 2021 and its policy implications will be made. Delegates will then have the opportunity to make interventions, highlighting policy options for the way forward, as well as the role CFS is expected to play as it strives to achieve its vision *"for a world free from hunger where countries implement the voluntary guidelines for the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security"*.

This item will continue in the afternoon with delegation statements. At the end of the session, draft conclusions will be presented for discussion and agreement.

Background Documents:

- CFS 2021/49/3 – State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021, its policy implications and the role of CFS in the context of COVID-19 – Draft Conclusions
- CFS 2021/49/Inf.13 – The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World: Transforming food systems for food security, improved nutrition, and affordable healthy diets for all

III. FORUM ON UPTAKE OF THE CFS VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON FOOD SYSTEMS AND NUTRITION (VGFSYN) *(for discussion)*

As foreseen in the Committee on World Food Security's (CFS) Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) 2020-2023, this forum on the uptake of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN) will provide an opportunity to discuss and mobilize political commitments by governments, donors, civil society, private sector, and the UN system for further promotion and implementation of the VGFSyN that were adopted on 10 February 2021. This forum will also help translate commitments for action made in the Rome Declaration on Nutrition in the context of national food system and nutrition-related policies.

The forum will bring together different food systems and nutrition actors to:

- Share plans and ideas concerning uptake of the Voluntary Guidelines;
- Focus on how the Guidelines present a useful tool in the hands of policy makers and development partners;
- Explore how the Guidelines can be used at regional, country, and local levels;
- Discuss the role of different stakeholders and coordination mechanisms in promoting their uptake;
- Discuss how to mobilize commitment of stakeholders to drive the uptake and context-specific operationalization of the Voluntary Guidelines.

Session Rollout:

This agenda item will be divided into two sections:

1. FORUM ON UPTAKE OF THE CFS VGFSYN

The section will consist of:

- Introduction by Mr Thanawat Tiensin, CFS Chairperson;
- Keynote speakers interventions comprised of representative and practitioners from among CFS stakeholders, including Member Representatives;
- **Q&A session** between the audience and panelists based upon the guiding questions below.

The following questions will help guide the discussion, along with questions/comments from the floor:

1. What concrete actions and strategies your government/constituency is planning to implement to promote the uptake of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition on the ground?
2. What forms of multi-sectoral collaboration and coordination mechanism are foreseen to promote policy coherence and reduce policy fragmentation between sectors relevant to food systems and nutrition?
3. How can stakeholders' commitment be mobilized to drive context-specific operationalization of the Voluntary Guidelines?
4. How do you expect the Voluntary Guidelines to support policy makers as well as the activities of the UN and other international organizations at a technical, programmatic and operational level?

2. PROGRESS REPORT ON FOLLOW-UP TO ICN 2, INCLUDING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF ACTION ON NUTRITION 2016-2025

This section will consist of:

- Presentations by representatives from FAO and WHO on the progress made in following up on ICN2

commitments and in implementing the Decade of Action on Nutrition, including the development and implementation of the Decade's Work Programme.

At the end of the session, draft conclusions will be presented for discussion and agreement.

Background Documents:

- CFS 2021/49/4 – Forum on uptake of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN) – Concept Note
- CFS 2021/49/5 – Forum on uptake of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN) – Draft Conclusions
- CFS 2021/49/6 – Progress report on follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), including implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition
- CFS 2021/49/Inf.14 – The CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN)

IV. THE UN FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR CFS *(for discussion)*

In the aftermath of the United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS), scheduled to take place in New York City during the High-Level Week of the United Nations General Assembly, the Committee will discuss the outcomes of the UNFSS and consider its potential implications for the work and role of CFS as the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform dealing with food security and nutrition.

Chaired by the CFS Chairperson, and considering discussions and decisions of both Pre-Summit and Summit, the agenda of this session will seek to stimulate a constructive debate about how the CFS - its platform, its policy products, its program of work, and/or its HLPE – are or may be implicated with respect to follow-up to the UNFSS.

Session Rollout:

- Presentation by a senior UN official closely associated with the preparation of the UNFSS, knowledgeable about decisions taken at that Summit as well as governance of multilateral food security and nutrition policy.
- Moderated discussion among CFS Members and Participants, to debate views and positions on what steps, if any, Members and CFS stakeholders may wish to consider with respect to aligning CFS, its policy products, its HLPE, and its Multi-Year Program of Work with outcomes of, and decisions taken, at the UNFSS.

At the end of the session, draft conclusions will be presented for discussion and agreement.

Background Documents:

- CFS 2021/49/7/Rev.1 – The UN Food Systems Summit and its implications for CFS – Draft Conclusions
- CFS 2021/49/Inf.15 – The UN Food Systems Summit and its implications for CFS

V. CFS MULTI YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK (MYPow) 2020-2023 *(for decision)*

Chaired by the CFS Chairperson, the objectives of this agenda are: to review the implementation of the CFS MYPow and agree on any needed adjustments, taking into account resource and workload implications; and to provide an update on the preparation process towards the development of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment, including the next steps in the policy convergence process.

Session Rollout:

This agenda item will be divided into two sub-items:

1. UPDATE OF THE ROLLING SECTION OF THE CFS MYPoW 2020-2023 *(for decision)*

CFS Members will be asked to consider the annual update of the rolling section of the CFS 2020-2023 MYPoW, as prepared by the Bureau in consultation with the Advisory Group. This is in line with the provisions of Annex B of the report CFS Evaluation: Implementation of the Response to Evaluation (CFS 2018/45/3, adopted at CFS 45) on the new MYPoW structure and process. The CFS Chair will introduce document CFS 2021/49/8 and invite interventions by CFS stakeholders.

Following discussion on the rolling section, a draft decision will be presented for endorsement by Plenary.

2. CFS VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION *(for discussion)*

An update on the preparation of the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition will be presented.

At the end of the discussion, draft conclusions will be presented for discussion and agreement.

Background Documents:

- CFS 2021/49/8 – CFS MYPoW 2020-2023 Update of the Rolling Section – with Draft Decision
- CFS 2021/49/9 - Zero Draft of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition
- CFS 2021/49/10 - CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition – Draft Conclusions
- CFS 2021/49/Inf.16 – CFS Annual Progress Report 2021

VI. PROMOTING YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND EMPLOYMENT IN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS *(for discussion)*

This agenda item marks the beginning of the CFS policy convergence process on Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems. The objectives of this session are to provide plenary with an opportunity to discuss the relevant policy findings of the HLPE Report on "Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems", and give guidance on the issues to be addressed in the development of CFS Policy Recommendations on this topic.

Session Rollout:

This agenda item will be divided into two parts:

Part 1:

- The Chairperson of the CFS HLPE Steering Committee, Mr Martin Cole, will introduce the HLPE report.
- The HLPE Project Team Leader, Ms Hannah Wittman, will present an overview of the main findings and recommendations of the HLPE Report, focusing on implications for the upcoming CFS policy convergence process.

Part 2:

Delegates will have an opportunity to ask questions on the findings of the report. Delegates are encouraged to share their views on the basis of the following guiding questions:

1. What are the priority policy areas to be addressed by the CFS policy convergence process?
2. How can CFS foster the participation of youth in food security and nutrition-related policy-making?
3. Are there any relevant initiatives and experiences on youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems that CFS can build upon?

At the end of the session, draft conclusions will be presented for discussion and agreement.

Background Documents:

- CFS 2021/49/11 – Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems – Draft Conclusions
- CFS 2021/49/Inf.17 – HLPE Report (2021) on Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems

VII. MONITORING CFS POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER *(for discussion)*

Climate change and water scarcity are among the most serious threats to food security and nutrition and require special attention and appropriate responses. Moreover, food systems, responsible for the consumption of over 70 per cent of fresh water resources and between 21 and 37 per cent of all greenhouse gas emissions, place hard pressure on biodiversity, soils, and the environment.

This CFS 49 monitoring event will take stock of the uptake of the CFS policy recommendations on “Food security and climate change” and the CFS policy recommendations on “Water for food security and nutrition” endorsed in 2012 and 2015, respectively. The event is informed by the documented experiences and good practices of a broad range of stakeholders in the use and application of these recommendations, and will enable a multi-stakeholder discussion that will contribute to monitoring progress in implementing the policy recommendations at national, regional and global levels. Some 30 written submissions were received from various stakeholders and summarized in CFS 2021/49/Inf.18 “Monitoring CFS Policy Recommendations on Climate Change and Water: Summary of Stakeholder Contributions”. All written submissions received from stakeholders are available on the [CFS 49 web page](#).

The event will also provide an opportunity to reflect on how the potential application of CFS policy outcomes could advance progress for the achievement of the SDGs in the context of follow up to the Food Systems Summit, the Climate Action Agenda, the UN Decade of Action on the SDGs, and the three Rio Conventions.

Session Rollout:

The session will have three main parts:

1. A keynote speech underscoring the interlinkages between water, climate, food security and nutrition, and the need for a closer alignment between water, climate, food security and nutrition policies.
2. A moderated panel discussion comprised of representatives and practitioners selected among CFS stakeholders, including Member representatives and UN experts. The discussion will pay special attention to the challenges met, results obtained, and good practices that have contributed to (or are expected to contribute to) successful outcomes, as well as how CFS stakeholders can better support efforts by governments and others to foster greater uptake of these two specific CFS policy recommendations.
3. Open Q&A with participants

At the end of the session, draft conclusions will be presented for discussion and agreement.

Background Documents:

- CFS 2021/49/12 – Monitoring CFS policy recommendations on climate change and water – Draft Conclusions
- CFS 2021/49/Inf.18 – Monitoring CFS policy recommendations on climate change and water: Summary of stakeholder contributions
- CFS 2021/49/Inf.19 – CFS policy recommendations on Food Security and Climate Change, endorsed at CFS 39 in 2012
- CFS 2021/49/Inf.20 – CFS policy recommendations on Water for Food Security and Nutrition, endorsed at CFS 42 in 2015

CFS SECRETARIAT'S SPECIAL EVENT

Chaired by the CFS Secretary, the objective of this session is twofold: first, to celebrate the 13th observance of the UN International Day of Rural Women, particularly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery; second, to consider how the three Rio Convention bodies will respond to the need to transform food systems for food security and nutrition, and their respective relevance to CFS and its various policy products.

Session Rollout:

The session will have two parts:

Part I: Mark International Day of Rural Women (60 mins)

The first part of the Special Event will be a celebration of the 13th observance of the UN's International Day of Rural Women.

- Brief remarks by a senior IFAD official (as sponsor of this item) on their support to rural women food producers and communities, including steps to address the COVID-19 pandemic, recovery, and strengthening of their food security, nutrition, and resilience;
- Keynote remarks by a rural woman farmer;
- Q&A session among delegations and guests, aimed at highlighting policy relevant issues linked to building resilience among rural women farmers to address COVID-19 recovery and future threats to food security and nutrition.

Part II: The 3 Rio Conventions and the CFS: Perspectives on Synergies and Opportunities (120 minutes)

This part of the Special Event is meant as a follow up to the Ministerial Round Table¹ held at the UNFSS pre-summit, in which links between (and across) the Rio Conventions were highlighted. It will feature a moderated, in-depth discussion on how the three Rio conventions, how they are inter-related on questions of food security and how they intend to respond to the need to transform and develop food systems. The conversation will also explore their relevance to CFS and its policy products (i.e., CFS VGGT, VGFSyN, PRs on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches) in the context of the three topic-related upcoming Conference of Parties (COP) that will be held shortly after CFS 49. It will further aim to refine possible and most effective areas of synergies and opportunities for enhanced mutual support and collaboration for the achievement of sustainable development, food security and biodiversity in particular.

The session will be introduced by the CFS Secretary, who will present the speakers, and invited guests. A high-level segment of keynote addresses will set the scene and highlight existing and emerging synergies or areas of collaboration. It will be followed by a moderated panel discussion in which the Moderator will ask each of the guests to describe key issues within their respective Conventions for food security/food systems, and ask them how their work reflects synergies between and among the three Conventions, as well as with CFS and its policy products especially in the context of the upcoming COPs.. A floor debate will follow.

Invited to participate in this discussion will be:

- Mr Ibrahim Thiaw, Executive Secretary, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- Ms Elizabeth Mrema, Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD)
- Ms Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Dr Inger Andersen, Chair, UN Task Force and Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- His Excellency Franz Perrez, Ambassador, Federal Office for the Environment of Switzerland
- Three high-level country representatives closely engaged with the UN Convention on Biodiversity:
 - Ms Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, Egypt

¹ See link to the Ministerial Round Table on the UNFSS and Rio Conventions on Biodiversity, Climate Change and Desertification (28 July, UNFSS Presummit) event: <https://vimeo.com/user145891411/download/583392734/aa41258a85>

- o The 2 co-chairs of the OEWG for the development of a post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework:
 - Mr. Basile van Havre, DG for Biodiversity Policy and Partnerships, Environment and Climate Change Canada
 - Mr. Francis Ogwal, National Environmental Management Authority, Uganda
- A representative from CGIAR
- Dr Ismahane Elouafi, FAO Chief Scientist

Background Documents:

- CFS 2021/49/Inf.22: HLPE Issues Paper on COVID-19;
- CFS 2021/49/Inf.18: Monitoring CFS policy recommendations on climate change and water: Summary of stakeholder contributions

VIII. OTHER MATTERS

During this item, a new CFS Chairperson will be elected, and new Bureau Members and their Alternates will be presented for decision. Arrangements for the CFS 50 Plenary Session in October 2022 will be discussed. The CFS 49 Final Report, as presented by the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee will also be adopted (advanced electronic copies of the Final Report will be made available during the early afternoon of Thursday 14 October 2021).

NOTE ON CFS 49 SIDE EVENTS

To enrich and complement the CFS 49 Plenary and give partners and other stakeholders an opportunity to highlight their work, CFS will organize 12 virtual side events over the four days – 3 per day, in parallel, during the lunch break. The side events, chosen from among submissions received by the CFS Chairperson, are organized by CFS stakeholders. A full schedule of all side events will be made available in due course on the [CFS 49 webpage](#). For questions on CFS 49 side events, please contact the CFS Secretariat: CFS-side-events@fao.org.