



COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

Fifty-first Session

"Making a Difference in Food Security and Nutrition"

Rome, Italy, 23-27 October and 25 November 2023

DRAFT REPORT

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

1. The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) held its Fifty-first Session from 23 to 27 October and 25 November 2023. The session was convened in hybrid modality. The session was attended by delegates from 128 Members of the Committee, 10 non-Member States of the Committee, and by representatives from:

19 United Nations Agencies and Bodies;

226 Civil society organizations¹;

37 International agricultural research organization;

3 International and regional financial institutions;

141 Private sector associations and private philanthropic foundations²; and

41 Observers.

2. 1 Vice-President, 10 Ministers, 13 Vice-Ministers and 3 State Secretaries registered. The full list of Members, Participants and Observers will be available as document CFS 2023/51/Inf.5 at:

<https://www.fao.org/about/meetings/cfs/cfs51/list-of-documents/en/>

3. The report contains the following appendices: Appendix A – Agenda of the Session; Appendix B – Membership of the Committee; Appendix C – List of Documents; Appendix D – CFS

¹ Civil Society's participation was facilitated by the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples Mechanism (CSIPM). This figure includes 216 civil society organizations (CSOs) under the umbrella of the CSIPM.

² This figure includes 135 companies under the umbrella of the Private Sector Mechanism (PSM).

Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition; Appendix E – Explanation of position by Indonesia, Algeria, Cameroon, Kuwait, Malaysia, the Russian Federation, the Sudan and Senegal on the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition; Appendix F – Explanation of position by the Russian Federation on the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition; Appendix G - Explanation of position by Egypt on the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition; Appendix H – Statement by the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples Mechanism on the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition; Appendix I – Statement by the Holy See (Observer) on the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition; Appendix J – CFS Policy Recommendations on Strengthening Collection and Use of Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Data and Related Analysis Tools to Improve Decision-Making in Support of the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security; Appendix K - CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) 2024-2027; Appendix L – Result sheet of the vote on the proposal to suspend the 30 day deadline for nomination of candidates for the election of the Chairperson; Appendix M – Result sheet of the secret ballot to elect the two CFS Bureau Alternate members for the Europe region.

4. The Committee was informed that the European Union (EU) was participating in accordance with paragraphs 8 and 9 of Article II of the FAO Constitution.
5. The session was opened by the Chairperson of the Committee, Mr Gabriel Ferrero (Spain).
6. The Committee adopted the Provisional Agenda and Timetable.
7. The Committee appointed a Drafting Committee composed of Argentina, Brazil, China, Egypt, Gabon, Indonesia, Japan³, New Zealand³, the Russian Federation⁴, Spain³, the Sudan, Uganda and the United States of America³ as well as Mr Siragi Wakaabu (Uganda) as Chair of the Drafting Committee.
8. The session was recorded as agreed by the Members.

II. HIGH-LEVEL OPENING CEREMONY

9. Opening statements were delivered by: Mr António Guterres, United Nations Secretary General; H.E. Paula Narváez Ojeda, President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC); H.E. Dennis Francis, President of the United Nations General Assembly; Dr Qu Dongyu, Director General, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); Mr Alvaro Lario, President, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); Ms Cindy McCain, Executive Director, World Food Programme (WFP); Mr Bernard Lehman, Chairperson of the Steering Committee, High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE-FSN); and Mr Gabriel Ferrero y de Loma-Ororio, Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). The statements and video recordings are available at <https://www.fao.org/about/meetings/cfs/cfs51/list-of-documents/en/>

³ The United States of America, the European Union and Member States of the European Union which are members of the Committee, the United Kingdom, Norway, Japan, Australia, Canada and New Zealand disassociate themselves from the appointment of the Russian Federation as a member of the Drafting Committee.

⁴ The Russian Federation disassociates itself from the appointment of Japan, New Zealand, Spain and the United States of America as members of the Drafting Committee.

<https://www.fao.org/cfs/plenary/cfs51/statements/en/>

III. STRENGTHENING COORDINATED POLICY RESPONSES TO THE FOOD CRISIS –THE STATE OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE WORLD 2023

10. The Committee heard a presentation delivered by Mr Máximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist (FAO); a keynote intervention delivered by Mr Michael Fakhri, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food; followed by statements by Members, Participants and Observers.

11. The Committee stressed the need to refrain from using food and water as weapons of war in conflict areas, expressed the need for reliable, sustained, sufficient and unhindered access of essential goods and services to civilians throughout the Gaza Strip, and in other conflict areas, including but not limited to water, food, medical supplies, and energy, and stressed the role of FAO, IFAD and WFP, in coordination and collaboration with other United Nations agencies, international financial institutions and relevant bodies, to assess and address, within their respective mandates, the impact of the conflict on food security, nutrition, and agriculture in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in the Gaza Strip.

The full transcript of the session is included on the CFS website:

<https://www.fao.org/cfs/plenary/cfs51/sessions/en/>

IV. GLOBAL “INTERLINKAGES” DIALOGUES

12. The Committee heard contributions from a panel moderated by Dr. David Nabarro, which was composed of: H.E. Paula Narváez, President of ECOSOC; Ms Fatema Aref Almulla, Director of the Partnerships and Special Projects Department (the United Arab Emirates); Mr David Cooper, Secretary a.i. of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); H.E. Giovanna Valverde, Ambassador of Costa Rica to Kenya, UNEP and UN HABITAT; Mr Stefanos Fotiou, Director of UNFSS Coordination Hub and Director of SDG Office of FAO; and H.E. Ibrahim Mayaki, Former Prime Minister of Niger and African Union Special Envoy for Food Systems. This was followed by statements from Members, Participants, and Observers.

The full transcript of the session, including its process, is included on the CFS website.

V. EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS AND PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY: ENDORSEMENT AND UPTAKE OF THE CFS VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN’S AND GIRLS’ EMPOWERMENT (GEWE) IN THE CONTEXT OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

13. The Committee considered documents CFS 2023/51/3 “Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition” and CFS 2023/51/4/Rev.1 “Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition – Draft Decision”, as presented by the CFS Chair, Ambassador Gabriel Ferrero de Loma-Osorio (Spain), Ms Berioska Morrison Gonzalez (the Dominican Republic), Co-facilitator of the CFS OEWG on Gender Equality and Women’s and

Girls' Empowerment in 2023, Ms Tanja Grén (Finland) and Tomas Duncan Jurado (Panama), Co-chairs in 2022.

14. The Committee:

- a. endorsed CFS 2023/51/3 “Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition”, as a key intergovernmentally-agreed global policy framework in support of country-led efforts towards achieving food security and nutrition, taking note of their voluntary and non-binding nature;
- b. expressed its deepest appreciation for the work of the OEWG on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment and commended the effective leadership of the Chair and the Co-facilitator of the OEWG as well as of previous Co-chairs of this OEWG;
- c. welcomed the keynote interventions by Ms Luz Haro Guanga, Executive Secretary of the Network of Rural Women of Latin America and the Caribbean (REDLAC), and H.E. Ms. Paula Narváez Ojeda, President of ECOSOC and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations on how achieving gender equality and women’s and girls’ empowerment (GEWE) contributes to the progressive realization of the right to food in the context of national food security, and of human rights;
- d. urged Members to utilize the Voluntary Guidelines within their policies, strategies, programs and regulatory frameworks, and to share progress and experiences with the Committee in line with the standard monitoring practice of the Committee;
- e. encouraged all CFS stakeholders to support and promote at all levels, within their constituencies and in collaboration with other relevant initiatives and platforms, the dissemination, use, and application of the Voluntary Guidelines to support the development, enhancement and implementation of coordinated and multisectoral national policies, laws, programmes investment plans and innovative partnerships to tackle the root causes of gender inequalities and foster greater policy coherence among GEWE and food security and nutrition agendas, and mutually reinforcing policy measures;
- f. commended countries that have voluntarily pledged to deploy the Voluntary Guidelines in their own national policy and/or legislative circumstances, in conjunction with commitments related to the 2030 Agenda, and encouraged other countries to take similar steps to actively utilize this CFS policy agreement as a tool for national-level, multistakeholder action to address all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls, which negatively impact food security and nutrition for themselves and for their families, households, communities and countries, as well as related social, economic and sustainability issues;
- g. decided to transmit the Voluntary Guidelines to the Governing Bodies of FAO, WFP and IFAD for their further consideration regarding supporting their utilization at country level, in line with country requests and pursuant to Rule XXXIII, paragraph 17, of the General Rules of the Organization and Rule X, paragraph 1, of the CFS Rules of Procedure, and in accordance with paragraph 22 of the CFS Reform Document;
- h. decided to request the United Nations General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, to consider and ensure the wide dissemination of the Voluntary Guidelines on GEWE to all relevant UN Organizations and Agencies, including the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), consistent with Rule XXXIII, paragraph 15, of the General Rules of the Organization, Rule X, paragraph 4, of the CFS Rules of Procedure, and paragraph 21 of the CFS Reform Document;
- i. agreed to include the Voluntary Guidelines in the CFS Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (CFS GSF).

VI. LEVERAGING THE USE OF DATA FOR DRIVING FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION POLICY: ENDORSEMENT AND UPTAKE OF THE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ON STRENGTHENING COLLECTION AND USE OF FSN DATA AND RELATED ANALYSIS TOOLS

15. The Committee considered document CFS 2023/51/5 “CFS Policy Recommendations on Strengthening Collection and Use of Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Data and Related Analysis Tools to Improve Decision-Making in Support of the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security” and CFS 2023/51/6 “CFS Policy Recommendations on Strengthening Collection and Use of Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Data and Related Analysis Tools to Improve Decision-Making in Support of the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security - Draft Decision”, as presented by Mr Anthony Muriithi (Kenya), Rapporteur of the policy convergence process.

16. The Committee:

- a. endorsed document CFS 2023/51/5 “CFS Policy Recommendations on Strengthening Collection and Use of Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Data and Related Analysis Tools to Improve Decision-Making in Support of the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security” as an action-oriented, inter-governmentally-agreed, voluntary and non-binding, global policy framework in support of country-led efforts towards improving food security and nutrition policies and actions;
- b. expressed its deepest appreciation for the effective leadership of the Rapporteur, and commended the work of the HLPE-FSN to prepare the report on “Data collection and analysis tools for food security and nutrition”;
- c. welcomed the keynote intervention by Ms Francesca Perucci, Director of Policy and Partnerships, Open Data Watch, on the importance of leveraging the use of data for driving better and more targeted policies for food security and nutrition;
- d. called on all CFS stakeholders to support and promote the dissemination, use, and application of the Policy Recommendations at all levels within their constituencies, and in collaboration with other relevant initiatives and platforms;
- e. encouraged all stakeholders to share commitments and document lessons learned from using the Policy Recommendations and to share progress and experiences with the Committee in order to assess their continued relevance, effectiveness, and impact – in line with the standard monitoring practice of the Committee - which is based on the principles of participation, transparency, and accountability;
- f. recommended that FAO and the RBAs, in collaboration with other relevant international organizations, continue assisting Members in strengthening their capacity to apply the Policy Recommendations in support of the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security;
- g. decided to transmit the Policy Recommendations to the Governing Bodies of FAO, WFP and IFAD for their further consideration regarding implementation and supporting their utilization at country level, in line with country requests and pursuant to Rule XXXIII, paragraph 17, of the General Rules of the Organization and Rule X, paragraph 1, of the CFS Rules of Procedure, and in accordance with paragraph 22 of the CFS Reform Document;

- h. decided to request the United Nations General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council and the UN Statistical Commission, to consider, ensure and encourage the wide dissemination and implementation of the Policy Recommendations to all relevant UN Organizations and Agencies, consistent with Rule XXXIII, paragraph 15, of the General Rules of the Organization, Rule X, paragraph 4, of the CFS Rules of Procedure, and paragraph 21 of the CFS Reform Document;
- i. agreed to include the Policy Recommendations in the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (CFS GSF).

VII. CFS STRATEGIC DIRECTION TOWARD 2030: THE MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK (MYPoW) 2024-2027

17. The Committee considered document CFS 2023/51/7 “CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) 2024-2027”, as presented by the CFS Chair.
18. The Committee:
 - a. reiterated its concern over the immense challenges to be overcome for achieving Zero Hunger by 2030 with an estimated 691 - 783 million people in the world (around 9.2 percent of the world population) still suffering from hunger;
 - b. endorsed the CFS MYPoW for 2024-2027 which, through its cross-cutting focus areas, prioritized thematic workstreams and supporting activities, provides a comprehensive framework to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food and the achievement of SDG 2;
 - c. recognized the broad, inclusive nature and strategic vision of the MYPoW process which aims at eliminating hunger and malnutrition through improved policy convergence/coherence at global level, leading to strengthened actions at national and regional levels, as outlined in Annex B of the CFS implementation report ([CFS 2018/45/3](#));
 - d. noted that the implementation of the MYPoW will be contingent on sufficient financial and human resources, taking into consideration a manageable workload, in accordance with document [CFS 2018/45/3](#);
 - e. agreed to develop concise, timely and action-oriented policy products;
 - f. noted that in 2025 a mid-term review will take place in order to assess and adjust, if necessary, the remaining elements of the MYPoW, complementary to the annual update of the rolling section;
 - g. strongly encouraged, in line with CFS 50 deliberations, the three Rome-based Agencies to honour their commitment to share equally the costs of the CFS Secretariat budget, through either cash or in-kind contributions, as a symbol of joint ownership and shared commitment to the Committee via effective Rome-based Agency collaboration;
 - h. strongly encouraged, in line with the CFS Reform Document, FAO, IFAD and WFP as well as other CFS stakeholders to provide space for CFS considerations in the agendas of their Governing Bodies and Regional Conferences, as appropriate;
 - i. requested the Chair and Secretariat, consistent with the CFS Resource Mobilization and Outreach Strategies, respectively, to continue their efforts to expand and diversify the CFS

financing base, including by reaching out to CFS Member States, private foundations, the private sector, and financial institutions;

- j. emphasized the application of the Rome-based Agencies' safeguards against potential conflict of interest regarding CFS funding.

VIII. ADDRESSING MULTIPLE DIMENSIONS OF INEQUALITIES: REDUCING INEQUALITIES FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

19. Mr Bernard Lehmann, Chairperson of the HLPE-FSN Steering Committee, introduced the HLPE-FSN report on "*Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition*". Mr Bhavani Shankar, HLPE-FSN Project Team Leader, presented the main findings and recommendations of the HLPE-FSN report.

20. The Committee:

- a. acknowledged with appreciation the work of the HLPE-FSN to prepare the report on "*Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition*" and the presentations made by Mr Bernard Lehmann and Mr Bhavani Shankar on the main policy relevant evidence included in the report;
- b. recalled the provisions contained in paragraph 21 of the Rolling Section of the CFS MYPoW 2020-2023⁵;
- c. called for the nomination of a Rapporteur of the policy convergence process which, based on the HLPE-FSN report and other relevant available science- and evidence-based sources, will be identifying areas for policy convergence and agreement;
- d. recognized the importance of an inclusive process, open to all interested stakeholders, leading to the preparation of an agreed set of recommendations to be presented to the Committee for endorsement at CFS 52 in October 2024.

IX. PROGRESS REPORT ON FOLLOW-UP TO THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NUTRITION (ICN2), INCLUDING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF ACTION ON NUTRITION

21. The Committee:

- a. welcomed, in the context of the ongoing implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the document "Progress report on follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), including implementation of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition" (CFS 2023/51/Inf.17) presented jointly by FAO and WHO and took note of its findings;
- b. remained deeply concerned about the ongoing food insecurity and malnutrition in different regions of the world and their ongoing negative impact on health and nutrition,

⁵ Following the launch of the HLPE-FSN report in 2023, the identification of a Rapporteur among CFS Members and a plenary discussion at CFS 51, CFS will conduct a policy convergence process. The process will lead to the development of Policy Recommendations to be presented to the Committee for endorsement at CFS 52.

especially in Africa, in the Near East and North Africa, in South and West Asia, in the Pacific and in parts of Latin America and the Caribbean, and in this regard underlined the urgent need for joint efforts at all levels to respond to the situation in a coherent and effective manner;

- c. recognized the work done by different institutions in promoting the use of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition at country level and stressed again their contribution in helping to translate commitments for action made in the ICN2 Rome Declaration on Nutrition in the context of national food systems and nutrition-related policies;
- d. heard a presentation by Mr Phommy Inthichack, Deputy Director General, Department of Planning and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Laos, on activities implemented to promote the use and application of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition at country level;
- e. reiterated its request to be periodically updated by FAO and WHO on further progress in the implementation of ICN2.

X. MONITORING CFS POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ON PRICE VOLATILITY AND FOOD SECURITY AND ON SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

22. The monitoring event on the use and application of the CFS policy recommendations on Price Volatility and Food Security, and on Social Protection for Food Security and Nutrition, was moderated by Mr Maximo Torero, Chief Economist of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) with keynote presentations on the importance of addressing food price volatility challenges and strengthening social protection mechanisms for food security and nutrition by Mr Seth Meyer, Chair of the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS); Mr David Kaatrud, Director Programme, Humanitarian and Development Division (WFP); and H.E. Mohamed Béavogui, Former UN Assistant Secretary General and Director General of African Risk Capacity (ARC).

23. A moderated panel discussion on the use and application of the CFS policy recommendations on Price Volatility and Food Security, and on Social Protection for Food Security and Nutrition was composed of:

- H.E. Domingo F. Panganiban, Senior Undersecretary, Department of Agriculture, the Philippines;
- Mr Renato Domith Godinho, Special Advisor for International Affairs, Ministry for Social Development and Assistance, Family and Fight Against Hunger, Brazil;
- Mr Michael Keller, Chair of the Private Sector Mechanism (PSM);
- Ms Patty Naylor, Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples Mechanism (CSIPM);
- Ms Stefania Lenoci, Head of the Private Sector, Advisory and Implementation Unit, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

The full transcript of the session is included in the CFS website
<https://www.fao.org/cfs/plenary/cfs51/sessions/en/>

XI. OTHER MATTERS

a) **Modalities for a Philanthropic Foundations Mechanisms for relations with the CFS**

24. The Committee acknowledged the document CFS 2023/51/Inf.22 “Proposal for Modalities for a Philanthropic Foundations Mechanism for Relation with the CFS” and expressed appreciation for the constructive involvement by philanthropic foundations in the work of the Committee.

b) **Date of the Fifty-second session of CFS**

25. The Committee proposed that the Fifty-second session of CFS be held from 21 to 25 October 2024 at FAO Headquarters in Rome, as indicated in the Calendar of the FAO/IFAD/WFP Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2023-2024. The exact dates will be communicated by the FAO Director-General of FAO and the Chairperson of the Committee, in line with Rule VII of the CFS Rules of Procedure.

c) **Election of Chair, Bureau members and Alternates**

26. The Committee decided, through a vote⁶ by roll call requiring a two-thirds majority, to exceptionally suspend the 30 calendar days requirement established in Rule II, paragraph 4, in order to allow nominations received no later than 7 days before the opening of the 51st Session of CFS, to be considered valid for the election of the CFS Chairperson at this session.

27. The Committee elected Ms Nosipho Nausca-Jean Jezile, Permanent Representative of South Africa to the UN Agencies in Rome, as the Chair of CFS.

28. The Committee elected by acclamation the following Members of the CFS Bureau and their Alternates:

i) Members:

- Africa: Burundi and Nigeria;
- Asia: China and India;
- Europe: France and Switzerland;
- Latin America and the Caribbean: Argentina (2023-2024) and Brazil (2023-2024), Cuba (2024-2025) and the Dominican Republic (2024-2025);
- Near East: Egypt and Kuwait
- North America: the United States of America;
- South-West Pacific: New Zealand.

ii) Alternates:

- Africa: the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mali;
- Asia: Indonesia and Thailand;
- Latin America and the Caribbean: Cuba (2023-2024) and the Dominican Republic (2023-2024), Argentina (2024-2025) and Brazil (2024-2025);
- Near East: Morocco and the Sudan;
- North America: Canada;
- South-West Pacific: Australia.

⁶ Roll call vote with total vote casts: 115; votes in favour: 115; votes against: 0; abstentions: 0. The result sheet is included in Appendix L.

29. The Committee elected through a secret ballot vote the following Alternate Members of the Bureau:

- Europe: Norway and Romania⁷.

⁷ The result sheet of the vote is included in Appendix M.