

CFS 51 SIDE EVENTS GUIDANCE NOTE

THEMATIC FOCUS, SCENARIOS AND CRITERIA

BACKGROUND

The 51st Plenary session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS 51) will be held from 23 to 27 October 2023. In addition to the formal plenary sessions, CFS invites its Members, Participants and other global food security and nutrition stakeholders to apply for **36 side event spaces** – four side events per side event slot (see CFS 51 Draft Provisional Timetable for reference).

Side event applications will be selected by the CFS Chairperson from among applications received by the formal **deadline of 16 June 2023**. Side events will take place over the five days of Plenary - during mornings and lunchtime periods. Side event organizers will be able to choose whether they want to hold their side event for in-person participants only or allow remote participation in a hybrid format.

These 75-minute side events are intended to enrich and complement the CFS 51 Plenary sessions by highlighting work of relevance to the vision and mandate of CFS, including the use of CFS policy guidelines and frameworks to foster partnerships for advancing the 2030 Agenda - in particular, SDG 2.

THEMATIC FOCUS

Side events should have a thematic focus that relates to the vision and mandate of CFS.

For example, side event organizers could explore major issues and/or topics that are prioritized for the CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW), while others could include the launch of significant studies or reports by partners which relate to the CFS mandate and vision. Similarly, side events could contribute to ongoing efforts to coordinate global policy responses to the food crisis while driving long-term food systems transformation by reflecting key issues and topics of relevance to CFS that emerged from the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit – including Coalitions that are closely aligned with CFS's major policy tools and the reports by the CFS High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE-FSN).

While these topics can serve as guidance for side event organizers, it should be noted that the selection of side events is ultimately at the discretion of the CFS Chairperson.

CRITERIA, GUIDANCE AND CONDITIONS

The CFS 51 side events will be reviewed and selected using the following criteria:

1. Side events must be relevant to CFS's vision and mandate; ideally, the core theme and strategic objective of the event should be relevant to the core topics and issues that are under consideration in the context of the CFS MYPoW or previous policy products that remain especially relevant to the SDGs and 2030 Agenda.
2. Priority will be given to applications that reflect the CFS multi-stakeholder model and that include

a variety of CFS constituencies. Issues such as gender parity among speakers and panelists, diverse geographic representation, and youth presence will be positively considered.

3. Side events should maximize interactivity with a minimum of 30%-50% of the total time allocated for interaction with the audience. A maximum of 5-6 speakers including co-chairs is recommended.
4. In the event that two or more side event applications are received on a similar theme, organizers may be asked to consider merging their proposals. Such a request to merge is not obligatory, but may positively increase the prospects for its selection.
5. While interpretation in FAO's official languages (English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian and/or Chinese) is not mandatory (and entails set costs charged by FAO and borne by organizers), utilizing interpretation to maximize inclusiveness may also positively affect final selection decisions.
6. Following each side event, organizers must prepare a 500-word summary regarding outcomes and key observations from the event, within two weeks of CFS 51. These summaries will be posted on the CFS 51 side events webpage in their original languages.

TIMELINE

