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COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

Fifty-third Session
"*Making a Difference in Food Security and Nutrition*"

Rome, Italy, 20-24 October 2025

HIGH-LEVEL FORUM ON STRENGTHENING RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT AND FINANCING FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION – CONCEPT NOTE

I. Background and Objectives

Recent assessments of global progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and particularly on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 on the eradication of hunger, indicate that the efforts made up to now remain insufficient, underlining that a change in pace is urgently needed. Financing plays a critical role in this effort and recent trends concerning the shrinking of funding for development could exacerbate current challenges.

Estimates of the financing required to achieve SDG 2 by 2030 included in 2024 State of World Food Security and Nutrition (SOFI) report, jointly produced by FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO, range from USD 176 billion to USD 3 975 billion. These estimates only focus on the eradication of undernourishment, whereas additional financing is needed to increase the affordability of healthy diets[1]. These financial needs emerge in the context of increasingly complex and interconnected global crises, underscoring the urgency of collaborative action and coherent policymaking.

According to the 2025 Global Report on Food Crises, funding to humanitarian food sectors is projected to drop by up to 45 percent, risking a deepening of acute food insecurity. Nutrition services to at least 14 million children are at risk, leaving them vulnerable to severe malnutrition and death. Reductions in overseas development assistance will impact government fiscal capacities to support vulnerable populations, particularly in low-income countries. Data collection on the food security and nutrition status of vulnerable populations will also be affected[2].

To address these challenges, the CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) 2024-2027 includes a workstream, which "will discuss cost estimates to properly finance sustainable and inclusive food

[1] FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2024. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2024 – Financing to end hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms. Rome. https://doi.org/10.4060/cd1254en
[2] *FSIN and GNAFC. 2025. GRFC 2025. Rome*, https://www.fsinplatform.org/grfc2025

systems that are not just capable of ending hunger and malnutrition, but simultaneously eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities in all their dimensions, and deliver on climate, biodiversity, soils and the rest of the SDGs. It will reflect on the status and evolution of financing in agriculture and food systems on a regular basis, informed by the work carried out by the UN System and International Financial Institutions (IFIs) among other stakeholders. It will include deliberations on how standards and principles, such as the CFS-RAI[3], can be used to further mobilize responsible investments and will advance the debate on topics such as blended finance, de-risking, moving beyond Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) and tracking its flows." (MYPoW A.1.3)

The CFS 52 report highlighted that this workstream will leverage the convening power of the Committee in advancing a shared understanding of financing for food security and nutrition and its mapping of available innovative financing, including fostering synergies, for food security and nutrition, in line with the progressive realization of the Right to Adequate Food (CFS 52 Report, 15d).

Specifically, the workstream envisions the organization of a Global Thematic Event on 'Empowering Family Farmers' in 2026 given the recognized key role of family farmers in reducing malnutrition and contributing to the promotion of sustainability in all its dimensions, and the convening of a *High-Level Forum on Strengthening Responsible Investment and Financing for Food Security and Nutrition* during the 53rd Session of the CFS Plenary in October. The Forum will bring together high-level representatives of Member States and key CFS stakeholder groups to:

a) Identify solutions to improve investment and financing for food security and nutrition in line with the progressive realization of the right to adequate food, considering the mobilization of additional resources as well as a better use of existing ones; and

b) Draw on and reflect upon the outcomes of key events leading up to the 2025 CFS Plenary, including the 4th UN Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4) in Seville, the UN Food Systems Summit + 4 Stocktaking Moment (UNFSS+4) in Addis Ababa, the Collaborative Governance Dialogue on Financing for Food Security and Nutrition, as well as activities of other relevant initiatives such as the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty.

The High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE-FSN) was requested to prepare a background note to inform the session and provide a common evidence base for discussions. The HLPE-FSN note assesses the status of major financial flows to food security and nutrition and reviews various estimates of the cost of ending hunger. It also highlights key policy pathways to strengthen financing for food security and nutrition and analyses the strategic role of the CFS. Additionally, the note includes updates on recent developments and international events.

This session provides an opportunity for Member States and stakeholders to present good practice examples, exchange experiences and discuss challenges associated with the implementation of specific financing solutions and policy measures, including but not limited to:

- Alignment and reallocation of public financial resources to support food security and nutrition, including analysis of where and what type of resources (private, public, national, international) are being allocated with regards to food systems;
- Blended finance mechanisms;
- Innovative investments in digital platforms and cooperative financial institutions;
- Domestic resources mobilization and non-traditional public investment strategies;
- De-risking approaches to attract additional investments;

[3] CFS-RAI: CFS Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems. CFS. 2014. *Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems*. Rome, FAO. https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/au866e

- Non-traditional investors;
- Broader financing strategies, for example, debt swaps;
- Public-private initiatives;
- Mechanisms linked to climate financing;
- Financing solutions and policy measures which are supportive of small-scale producers' and family farmers' self-financing mechanisms.

As such, the High-Level Forum can contribute to:

a) Increasing awareness and visibility for the importance of diverse, effective and innovative solutions to increase and improve the effectiveness of investment and financing for food security and nutrition;

b) Mobilizing additional financial resources for food security and nutrition, in line with the progressive realization of the right to adequate food; and

c) Identifying key actions for the Committee on World Security (CFS) in fostering multi-stakeholder collaboration and promoting policy coherence.

The High-Level Forum on Strengthening Responsible Investment and Financing for Food Security and Nutrition will commence with opening remarks by the Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), followed by two panel sessions.

The first panel will set the stage for the discussions, featuring perspectives from the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE-FSN), as well as insights on the outcomes of relevant global initiatives related to financing for food security and nutrition, including the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4) and the United Nations Food Systems Summit +4 (UNFSS+4) Stocktaking Moment, from representatives of the hosting entities.

The second panel will focus on identifying challenges, exploring solutions, and discussing policy responses to promote responsible investment and financing for food security and nutrition. This session will include contributions from CFS stakeholders and representatives of relevant institutions.

Following the panel discussions, Members and Participants will be invited to engage in an open dialogue guided by the following questions:

- In view of the 4th UN Conference on Financing for Development in Seville and the UN Food Systems Summit + 4 Stocktaking Moment in Addis Ababa and other relevant global initiatives, what should be prioritized to mobilize additional financial resources for food security and nutrition?
- How can the international community contribute to closing the existing gap in financing for food security and nutrition and promoting responsible investment?
- Which solutions to improve financing and investment for food security and nutrition are most relevant at national level and to small-scale producers?
- How can the CFS contribute to identifying viable solutions among key stakeholders and institutions to improve financing for food security and nutrition, and strengthening responsible investments?

More information on the format and roll-out of the High-Level Forum is provided in the Guide to CFS 53 (CFS 2025/53/Inf.2).