HLPE Report on Multi-Stakeholders Partnerships to Finance Food Security and Nutrition in the Framework of the Agenda 2030 (to be presented at CFS 45 in 2018)

1. The 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development comprises the SDGs, as well as the commitments on climate change (COP21), and the greatly expanded agenda for international cooperation defined by the outcome of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development: the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA). The AAAA recognizes nutrition, agriculture and rural development together with ending hunger as one broad area where more and better investments, underpinned by adequate financing, are needed and could yield cross-cutting benefits for sustainable development.

2. To achieve the ambitious goals set in Agenda 2030, multi-stakeholder partnerships are expected to play an increasingly relevant role in its implementation, as fully recognised in SDG 17 “Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development”. The scale and ambition of the Agenda 2030 imply due attention to the means of implementation, including how to mobilize the resources needed. Partnerships are important vehicles for mobilising and sharing experiences, technology, knowledge, and resources to successfully implement the SDGs, especially in relation to food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture. Moreover, effective multi-stakeholder partnerships need to embrace innovative, sustainable and scalable approaches for advancing Agenda 2030 in an integrated manner.

3. The effectiveness, quality and impact of development financing should be improved in order to meet current food security and nutrition needs in the context of the Agenda 2030. In this connection, partnerships also appear promising in order to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of development finance. The partnerships are multi-stakeholder in nature, bringing together partners from national governments, humanitarian and development actors, donors, foundations, civil society and/or the private sector at both national and international levels.

4. While many partnerships exist and various of them have been well described, either as individual cases or as part of a specific type of partnership, there has been no systemic and comparative exercise in drawing lessons from the variety of partnerships that are (or have been) operational in connection to FSN. Nevertheless, such an exercise could assist the CFS in making recommendations that could facilitate and accelerate the implementation of Agenda 2030.

5. The HLPE could fill this gap and take stock of new evidence, analyse trends, identify new opportunities and challenges and provide recommendations that could result in evidence based policy guidance, in connection to partnerships in relation to financing for food security and nutrition. The HLPE
could also examine the potential for enhancing the role and effectiveness of multi-stakeholder partnerships as a modality for scaling up innovation, resources and action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals, with special attention to SDG2 and other food security and nutrition related goals.

6. This topic would include attention to resource mobilization for financing food security and nutrition from all main sources, namely domestic public and private resources; external private resources (both profit and non-profit); and external public resources from Official Development Aid (ODA), in various partnership combinations. It should also look at the effectiveness of such partnerships in reaching food security and nutrition (FSN) objectives. The report should further explore how partners can enhance their cooperation through establishing fully functioning partnerships in which multiple stakeholders work together for shared objectives, looking especially at:

- CFS like partnerships/platforms at country level to address food security and nutrition issues and help countries implement CFS products;
- Public-Private-Producers Partnerships for sustainable agriculture;
- Partnerships involving the UN, such as UN led partnerships and multi-stakeholders partnerships including UN agencies for food security and nutrition purposes;
- Partnerships with multilateral development finance institutions, including those involved in Private Sector Investment Operations, in particular on how to improve medium and small agribusinesses’ access to finance;
- Partnerships involving farmer organisations, farmer associations and cooperatives;
- Partnerships involving (philanthropic) foundations for food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture;
- FSN Partnerships that particularly aim at 'leaving no one behind'.

7. This HLPE report can contribute to the design of policies, initiatives and investments required to successfully implementing the Agenda 2030. It could lead to recommendations in connection with the various opportunities and challenges associated with the various forms of partnerships.

8. By developing this report, CFS would be contributing to the global effort to implement the SDGs by linking SDGs related to FSN (SDG2 and others) with SDG17, and by drawing attention to promising partnerships that can enhance the amount and effectiveness of finance for FSN. However, the lessons and recommendations could go well beyond and benefit the implementation of Agenda 2030 at large.

9. As the UN Secretary-General Special Adviser on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Dr David Nabarro reports, SDGs are undividable and interdependent and their implementation will require collective efforts, seeking for new financing sources as well as making better use of existing ones. Building new partnerships among a wide range of actors, including civil society, private sector, governments, philanthropic institutions, academia and others, is needed to achieve this ambitious common aim. The CFS, given its multi-stakeholder nature, is well positioned to contribute to the necessary debate around establishing partnerships for financing the Agenda 2030 and closing the gap, especially in connection to sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition and in advancing the parts of the Agenda within its mandate. The report will provide evidence that can be complemented by the diverse views, experiences and concerns of different partners and constituencies directly affected by food security and nutrition challenges.
10. CFS is uniquely positioned to address this issue, because of its mandate, its ability to bridge evidence-based discussions with a multi-stakeholder political and practice-informed discussion. Moreover, it brings together stakeholders that have important experience in working in partnership. Research into partnerships requires a multi-disciplinary approach for which the HLPE is particularly suitable given its capacity to cover a mix of expertise ranging from agricultural economics, finance, and sociology to rural development, from all regions in the world, as required for this study.

11. There has been substantial research and a high number of country, regional and global initiatives focused on partnerships and financing mechanisms, particularly to inform the discussions leading to Agenda 2030. There is substantial evidence base to draw on.