

**\*\*These updates cover the period since the 18 September 2020 Bureau and Advisory Group Meeting\*\***

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### **1. Food Systems and Nutrition**

Six meetings of the Friends of the Chair took place between 9 October and 6 November 2020 leading to informal consensus on a number of paragraphs of the draft Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition. Interpretation in French and Spanish for these meetings was made possible via an extra-budgetary contribution made by the Government of France for this purpose.

An updated version of the draft Voluntary Guidelines will be presented to the OEWG for discussion ahead of a (and final) second round of negotiations that will take place between 14 and 18 December 2020. Invitations and information on negotiation format, modalities and working procedures will be sent to OEWG members in due course.

All information and background documents on the workstream and the draft Voluntary Guidelines are available at: <http://www.fao.org/cfs/workingspace/workstreams/nutrition-workstream/en/>

### **2. Agroecological and other Innovative Approaches**

H.E. Yaya Olaitan Olaniran, Minister and Permanent Representative of Nigeria to FAO, will serve as the new Rapporteur for the CFS policy convergence process on Agroecological and other Innovative Approaches.

On the basis of workload considerations, the host agency's ability to service this workstream within the RBA calendar, and in consultation with the Chairperson, Secretary, and new Rapporteur, it was agreed that negotiations on the Policy Recommendations will commence after CFS 47. Dates are being discussed with the Rome agencies and will be communicated to the membership as soon as possible.

As a result, a one-day, extraordinary CFS Plenary session (CFS 48) will be organized to formally endorse the policy recommendations. It is worth noting here that a similar adjustment was necessary in 2012, when an extraordinary CFS Plenary session was held mid-year to adopt the CFS VGGT.

### **3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**

The first meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment was convened on 30 October. The meeting was co-chaired by Ambassador Josephine Ouedraogo, Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso to RBAs and Ms Satu Lassila, Permanent Representative of Finland to RBAs. The core objective of this meeting was to discuss and seek agreement on draft "Terms of Reference" (TORs) for the *CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition*. Upon receipt of useful input and views expressed by the group, a revised version of the draft TORs is being prepared, integrating comments made



during the meeting and written comments received afterwards, for presentation and adoption at CFS 47 in February 2021. The draft TORs were prepared by the CFS Secretariat with the support of a Technical Task Team on Gender (TTT) composed of experts nominated by CGIAR, CSM, FAO, IFAD, IAT, PSM, UNICEF, UNSCN, UNWOMEN, WFP, and WB.

The preparation of the Guidelines and various consultations will start after adoption of the TORs.

#### 4. Chairperson's Outreach Activities

The CFS Chair had a number of engagements and outreach activities during this period. These include:

- After participating in APRC at the start of September, the CFS Chair participated in all other FAO Regional Conferences (Near East and North Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, Europe and Central Asia), calling upon members and other stakeholders to make use of CFS's policy products to transform food systems to deliver healthy food, for healthy diets, and a healthy planet.
  - He also encouraged countries that are not yet Members of the Committee to consider joining.
- In the margins of the CFS High-Level Special Event, 13-15 October 2020, the CFS Chair delivered remarks at the CSM 10th anniversary celebration and at the Food Systems Dialogue organized by the PSM.
- Chair continues to actively reach out to key partners to brief them on ongoing CFS work in the implementation of the Programme of Work, and to mobilize resources for the Committee, especially its Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment workstream for which extra-budgetary resources are needed.
- On 29 September, on the occasion of the first observance of the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste, Chair published a [media article](#) highlighting the work CFS has performed on the topic.
- Other outreach and speaking engagements:
  - Annual meeting of the Global Alliance on Sustainable Livestock (GASL);
  - Dialogue with family farmers in Asia and the challenge of building sustainable food systems;
  - Regional network event organized by FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa on Multistakeholder engagement for transformation of food systems to deliver healthy diets and improve nutrition; and
  - *The journey of food* in the global Food Systems relay on World Food day - October 16.

#### 5. CFS at the 2020 FAO Regional Conferences

At the invitation of the FAO Director-General CFS participated in all FAO Regional Conferences where we organized virtual multi-stakeholder special events to:

- Highlight CFS's work on food systems and nutrition and the relevance of CFS policy convergence products and encourage their uptake at the country and regional levels;
- Raise awareness about the upcoming CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition and urge CFS members and other stakeholders to commit to implementing



the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, once adopted at CFS 47; and

- Encourage countries that are not members of CFS to join

### **6. CFS High-Level Special Event**

Held from 13-15 October, with over 5,000 registered participants, the CFS Secretariat organized a three-day virtual event that addressed the state of global food security and nutrition, the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the links between the CFS and planning for a 2021 UN Food Systems Summit. The event featured keynote addresses and presentations by senior leadership of FAO, IFAD, and WFP, along with the heads of WHO, UNICEF, numerous ministers, and other senior leaders of the food security and nutrition communities. All remarks, presentations, videos and Zoom recording links are available on the CFS public website: [www.FAO.org/CFS](http://www.FAO.org/CFS).