

## WORK-STREAMS AND ACTIVITIES UPDATES

**\*\*\*These updates cover the period since the 28 June 2021 CFS Bureau Meeting\*\*\***

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### **1. CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSN)**

A parallel session on CFS and its Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition is scheduled for 26 July (18.30, Rome time) in the context of the UNFSS pre-Summit. The event - entitled "Multilateral Policy Convergence for Food Systems Transformation; CFS and its Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition" - is intended to showcase how CFS is working to drive progress on SDG 2, including through its recently-endorsed Voluntary Guidelines. During the event, the CFS Secretariat will launch its dissemination platform as well as the promotional video on the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition.

### **2. Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment**

#### **Appointment of a new OEWG Chairperson**

Ms Satu Lassila, current Chairperson of the OEWG, will conclude her mandate as Permanent Representative at the end of July necessitating appointment of a new Chairperson by the Bureau. To this end, a message was sent to the Bureau Members and Regional Group Chairpersons on 30 June to invite expressions of interest from permanent representations by 15 July, and the Government of Finland responded with a nomination.

#### **Zero Draft**

The Zero Draft of the *CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition* was finalized, incorporating comments received at the OEWG meeting of 5 July 2021. The Zero Draft can be downloaded from the [working space of the CFS website](#).

#### **Regional Consultations**

Dates for the regional consultations have been finalized (except for Europe and Central Asia) as indicated below:

- Latin America and the Caribbean: 21-22 September 2021
- Europe and Central Asia: TBC
- Africa: 21-22 October 2021
- Near East and North Africa: 27-28 October 2021
- Asia and the Pacific: 3-4 November 2021
- North America: 15-16 November 2021

### **3. Data Workstream**

A kick-off public event for the new workstream on data collection and analysis tools for food security and nutrition took place virtually on 1 July 2021, 3:00 – 6:00 PM (Rome time) with over 300 participants in attendance. A link to the video-recording of the event as well as all presentations made are available on the updated [event webpage](#) on the CFS website.

#### **4. Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems**

A note has been sent to Regional Group Chairs, and CFS Bureau and Alternate members seeking nominations of a Rapporteur for the policy convergence process on promoting youth engagement and employment in agriculture that will officially kick off at CFS 49. With a deadline of **Monday 6 September**, nominations should be addressed to the CFS Chair and copied to [CFS@FAO.org](mailto:CFS@FAO.org). The objective is to have the Rapporteur appointed at the Bureau meeting scheduled for 10 September.

HLPE Report #16: “Promoting youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems” that will underpin this work was launched on 5 July 2021.

Bureau and Advisory Group members are encouraged to indicate to the CFS Secretariat potential youth organizations and/or representatives that are active on issues related to agriculture and food systems that could be possibly invited to CFS 49.

#### **5. Monitoring CFS Policy Recommendations on Water and Climate Change for FSN**

A call for experiences in the use and application of two sets of CFS policy recommendations on climate change and water in the context of food security and nutrition closed on 15 June 2021. Over 30 different contributions have been received from CFS stakeholders. The inputs will inform a monitoring event to be held at CFS 49 Plenary Session in October 2021.

#### **6. CFS 49**

The Forty-ninth Session of CFS (CFS 49) will be held virtually from 11 to 14 October 2021. Organized shortly after the United Nations Food Systems Summit, CFS 49 will focus on the 2021 State of Food Security and Nutrition report, uptake of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work and other ongoing CFS work-streams and priorities. The provisional agenda is available on the [CFS 49 webpage](#). More information on CFS 49 and registration details will be available on the same webpage in the coming days.

#### **Election of the CFS Chairperson**

A new CFS Chair will be elected at CFS 49 based upon the CFS Rules of Procedure. A note has been sent to Regional Group Chairs, and CFS Bureau Members seeking nominations that should reach the CFS Secretary ([cfs@fao.org](mailto:cfs@fao.org)) by no later than Friday, 10 September 2021.

#### **Drafting Committee**

Bureau Members, through their regional groups, are respectfully requested to nominate members of the CFS 49 Drafting Committee as well as the Chairperson of this Committee.

#### **7. Chairperson’s Outreach Activities**

The Secretariat continued to support Chair’s participation in numerous public events and meetings to advance knowledge of CFS, its multi-stakeholder model, and its policy products. Some of these engagements included:

- **29 June:** A webinar organized by the Secretariat of the IPPC.

- **30 June:** FAO event on “Building back better: Instruments and interventions to promote responsible agricultural investment”, where the Chair promoted the use of the CFS-RAI Principles.
- **5 July:** Launch of the HLPE report on [“Promoting youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems”](#).
- **6-7 July:** A Global Dialogue on Agriculture and Biodiversity organized by FAO.
- **07 July:** Speaking role at the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.
- **14 July:** Participation in the CFS side event at the HLPF entitled ‘*Global Policy Coordination for SDG-2; CFS amid COVID19*’.

## 8. HLPE Updates

**HLPE Report #16: “Promoting youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems”** was successfully launched on 5 July 2021 at a virtual event graced by the FAO Director General. The [Executive Summary](#) of the report and the full [report](#) are available in English. The Executive Summary will be released in the other 5 UN languages in the coming weeks. A [press release](#) on the report is available on the CFS website.

### **COVID-19 Issues Paper**

An update of the figures and global analysis outlined in the issues paper is currently underway. The updated issues paper will be available in all 6 FAO languages six weeks before CFS 49. In addition, an information document with focus on the variety of COVID-19 situations around the world will also be produced based on a survey that was conducted in [EN](#), [ES](#) and [FR](#).

### **UNFSS Science Days**

HLPE Steering Committee Member, Prof Jennifer Clapp, participated in a parallel session on “Strengthening the science-policy interface across disciplines and policy areas, including economics and health-, nutrition-, climate-, ecological-sciences” during the UNFSS Science Days. HLPE Chairperson Prof Martin Cole moderated a parallel session on “Pushing the frontiers of science for food systems: bio-science innovations”.

### **UNFS Pre-Summit**

HLPE Vice Chair Prof Bernard Lehmann will participate in a CFS Session at the pre-Summit entitled “Multilateral policy convergence for food systems transformation: CFS and its Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition”, on 26 July at 18.30 hours Rome time.

### **HLPF**

HLPE Steering Committee Member, Prof Jennifer Clapp participated in the CFS side event at the 2021 HLPF sponsored by the Dominican Republic. The side event, held on 14 July at 13.30 (CET) focused on “Global policy coordination for SDG2: CFS amid COVID-19”.

## 9. Communications and Outreach

The Secretariat continues to drive the positioning of CFS and its products through multiple channels including supporting the staging of bespoke events; production, dissemination and amplification of content and messages on multiple channels including the website and social media; consistent branding of CFS products and processes; and engagement with partners and stakeholders. Some of the notable engagements in the period include:

### **HLPF Side Event**

The Secretariat organized a side event at the 2021 HLPF on 14 July 2021. Sponsored by the Dominican Republic, the side event focused on “Global Policy Coordination for SDG2: CFS amid COVID-19”. More details including a recording of the event are available on this [webpage](#).

### **UNFSS pre-Summit Session**

CFS is organizing a plenary session at the UNFSS pre-Summit. Entitled “*Multilateral Policy Convergence for Food Systems Transformation; CFS and its Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition*” the session will be held on 26 July 2021, 18:30 – 19:20 as part of the official [Pre-Summit programme](#) accessed by all delegates and interpreted in all six FAO languages plus Italian.

The session’s objectives are:

1. Promote CFS’s multi-stakeholder model and its products especially the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSN) and their use in global, regional, and national food systems transformation processes;
2. Feature the unique science-policy interface and expert reports of the CFS High-Level Panel of Experts (CFS HLPE); and
3. Explore the role of CFS in the Food Systems Summit and follow-up, and promote use of the CFS VGFSN and other policy products.

More details on the session will be available on the CFS website in the coming days.

### **WTO Global Dialogue on Trade**

The CFS Secretary facilitated a breakout group at the WTO global dialogue on trade on 6 July 2021. In this role, the Secretary promoted the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition and their application in trade and nutrition.

### **Youth Event**

As part of the outreach effort for HLPE report #16, and in a bid to continue engaging young people in the work of CFS, the Secretariat gave a presentation at a virtual event organized by the Youth Alliance for Zero Hunger, the Future Agro Challenge and I4Nature on opportunities for youth to engage in policymaking on 15 July 2021.

### **Expo 2020 Dubai**

The Secretariat continued engaging with the FAO and UN teams in the UAE as well as UAE’s Ministry of Food and Water Security to explore the possibility of CFS participating in the Expo Dubai to promote the work of CFS and its products. The Expo, to be opened on 01 October 2021 and run until 31 March 2022 expects close to 200 participating countries and an estimated 25 million visitors which presents an opportunity to showcase CFS’s model of



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UN inter-agency collaboration, and its inclusive multi-stakeholder approach to the development of policy guidance to address global food insecurity and malnutrition.