

CFS Bureau and Advisory Group meeting, and Bureau meeting

Date: 27 January 2026

Time: 09:30 – 12:30 and 13:30 – 14:30

Hybrid meeting (German Room and Zoom Platform)

**Bureau Meeting Outcomes -
With Bureau Decision**

Agenda

1. CFS 54 Provisional Agenda
2. CFS 54 Side Events process and criteria
3. CFS Reporting Exercise
4. Workstream updates and CFS Chair's outreach
5. Inputs on topics for the CFS retreat
6. Presentation of the CFS Uptake Toolkit
7. Any Other Business

The CFS Chairperson, Professor Anas Al-Nabusi, welcomed the Bureau and Advisory Group Members for the first joint meeting of 2026.

The Chairperson presented the provisional agenda for the meeting, which was adopted without amendments.

Participants were informed that, in line with usual practice, the meeting would be recorded for the Secretariat's note-taking purposes.

1. CFS 54 Provisional Agenda

The CFS Chairperson presented the draft CFS 54 Provisional Agenda which was well received by Bureau and Advisory Group (BAG) Members.

A request was made to include a space in the opening statements for an intervention by a rural woman or a pastoralist, as part of the International Year of the Woman Farmer (IYWF). In this regard, the CFS Chairperson was encouraged to engage with the co-Chairs of the IYWF to check the possibility of synergies and joint activities.

With reference to the panel on regional perspectives, it was suggested to follow last year's example and give space for the presentation of views and positions by relevant constituencies that are part of the CFS Participants category.

Appreciation was expressed about the inclusion of a satellite session in the Provisional Agenda, as this represented an important element for the success of CFS 53. While divergent views were expressed regarding the possibility of dedicating the satellite session to the role of CFS in the context of the ongoing FAO Reform and UN 80 Initiative, a suggestion was made to dedicate this year's satellite session to a discussion on how to improve collaboration and coordination with relevant initiatives and institutions. In this regard, a proposal will be presented by the CFS Secretariat to the next Bureau and Advisory Group meeting.

It was requested to consider anticipating the presentation of the outcomes of ICARRD+20, right after the discussion of the outcomes of the Collaborative Governance meetings. No objections to this request were received.

It was noted that currently item 2 of the CFS 54 Provisional Agenda covers a wide range of topics, and it was asked whether it is possible to move any of the sub-items elsewhere in the agenda as standalone items (i.e. the High-Level Forum on Artificial Intelligence, Digitalization and Data Governance).

Concerning item 5 on the CFS Strategic Direction, it was confirmed that this represents the kick start of the process that will lead to the development and finalization of the CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) for 2028-2031 which is expected to be presented for endorsement at CFS 55 in October 2027. In this context, some BAG Members requested that the discussions under this item are framed to take into account the ongoing UN 80 and FAO Reform processes, when relevant to the mandate of the CFS.

2. CFS 54 Side Events process and criteria

The CFS Chairperson introduced this agenda item with the objective of gathering views on the proposed process and criteria for CFS Side Events at CFS54 Plenary Session.

During the joint discussion, BAG Members stressed the importance of focusing on a set of core criteria, ensuring alignment with current and future CFS topics and providing space for interactive dialogue. It was also noted that interpretation and catering, being voluntary options, should not form part of the assessment for selection.

The Bureau and Advisory Group Members highlighted the importance of a clear and predictable application timeline, and that the application period be extended and the announcement of selection results be anticipated.

In line with the proposals to value stronger linkages between CFS Plenary and other decision-making processes beyond CFS, it was also suggested that side events' guidance should reflect not only alignment with the MyPoW 2024-2027, but also coherence with other discussions taking place in relevant regional and global fora on food security and nutrition.

In addition, some BAG Members further underlined the usefulness of circulating lists of past side event titles to provide applicants with an overview of past topics and avoid duplication.

Finally, the use of survey tools for collecting feedback by side events' participants was welcomed.

Bureau decision

The Bureau agreed that the call for proposals for CFS 54 Side events will be open from March 15 to May 30, and the results of the selection will be communicated by the end of June.

Catering and interpretation will not be considered under the selection criteria but included in the side events guidance notes as services which can be requested on a voluntary basis.

The side events guidance notes will consider the proposals made during the BAG discussion.

3. CFS Reporting Exercise

The CFS Chair and Secretariat presented the revised template for the Reporting Exercise for consideration by CFS Bureau and Advisory Group Members, highlighting the main aspects behind the revised focus of the exercise and the possibility to extend it on a voluntary basis to CFS Members.

The proposal was well received by the participants who highlighted the importance of strengthening the CFS capacity to collect information on the use of CFS policy products and giving more visibility to uptake efforts undertaken at different levels.

Different additions and amendments to the template were presented. It was suggested to add references to the results and the contribution to food security and nutrition of the uptake efforts as well as to the participation and engagement of different stakeholders. It was also proposed to request inputs on the means of implementation behind the uptake activities under discussion. Furthermore, it was recommended that specific attention is dedicated to the challenges faced and to the reasons behind less successful experiences. Finally, a space could be allowed for the presentation of concrete recommendations from the users of the policy products on how to make them easier to apply as a way to facilitate their application.

A proposal was made to reduce the number of questions included in the template and revise its format to make it easier for respondents to fill it and provide the required information. In this regard, it was highlighted that in order to increase the rate of responses, it is important to develop a more user-friendly template.

The CFS Secretariat took note of the comments and clarified that the outcomes of the Reporting Exercise will be collected and posted on the CFS website. At the same time, Bureau and Advisory Group members were informed of the intention of using these inputs to feed the development of the CFS digital repository that is expected to be created, based on the indications included in the Action Plan on CFS Uptake and subject to the availability of financial resources.

The importance of implementing a stronger uptake mechanism through FAO Country Offices was highlighted. In this regard, it was requested to have a discussion on this matter at the next Bureau and Advisory Group meeting.

Bureau decision

The Bureau agreed on the proposed revised approach concerning the CFS Reporting Exercise, including its specific focus on CFS uptake and its extension to CFS Members. The CFS Secretariat will revise the template to accommodate the inputs and comments that were provided during the Bureau and Advisory Group meeting and will circulate it for non-objection.

CFS Bureau Members also underlined the importance of ensuring consistency and avoid overlaps with other similar call for inputs.

4. Workstream updates and CFS Chair's outreach

The CFS Chairperson introduced this agenda item by inviting the focal points of the CFS Secretariat to present updates on each workstream. He also informed the Bureau and Advisory Group Members about his outreach activities and engagements as described in the background document. In particular, he stressed his participation in the meeting on *Monitoring the Implementation of the Arab Food Security Strategy*, organized by the League of Arab States and held at its General Secretariat in Cairo in December 2025. This participation served as an opportunity to strengthen continued cooperation between the League of Arab States and the CFS.

He further reported on his duty travel to the *Global Forum for Food and Agriculture* in Berlin, where he held a number of bilateral meetings aimed at strengthening the uptake of CFS policy products.

The CFS Chairperson also stressed the importance of the upcoming ICARRD+20 Conference in Cartagena next month, as well as the forthcoming FAO Regional Conferences as those are opportunities to engage with country policy makers and other representatives of the CFS stakeholders at regional and country level to inform and promote the use of CFS policy products.

Bureau and Advisory Group Members welcomed the updates from both the CFS Chairperson and the CFS Secretariat. In particular, the following updates were provided:

- The two annual meetings on Collaborative Governance are confirmed: the first one about the affordability of healthy diets and nutrition will take place in Geneva on 7 May; the second annual meeting on addressing gaps in information and data availability is scheduled for 16 July in Rome.
- A concept note for the High Level on Artificial Intelligence, Digitalization and Data Governance will be shared at the next BAG meeting. The event will take place on 1st July in Rome.
- The Zero Draft on Building Resilient Food Systems will be shared on 6 February and the second OEWG to discuss this document is scheduled for 19 March;
- Preparations for the Global Thematic Event (GTE) on Empowering Family Farmers are underway in coordination with the Technical Task Team. A call for inputs was issued by the CFS Secretariat on 15 December and will close on 15 April;
- The CFS Contribution Zero Draft to the 2026 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) was circulated on 30 January and inputs are welcome until 9 February. First Draft will be circulated on 19 February, and a revised version will be shared for non-objection by the Bureau;
- A common workplan presenting an overview of activities to be jointly carried out between the CFS and the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub (UNFSS) in 2026 to promote the uptake of CFS policy products will be shared with BAG Members;
- The HLPE coordinator announced that the draft HLPE-FSN note on Critical, Emerging and Enduring issues will be submitted to public consultation by March at the latest.

5. Inputs on topics for the CFS retreat

The CFS Chairperson introduced this agenda item by informing participants that a CFS Bureau retreat is planned to take place on 29 May. The Retreat is intended to provide a dedicated space for strategic reflection, building on key elements that have emerged during previous Bureau and Advisory Group meetings and Plenary Sessions.

The joint discussion highlighted the need for an open dialogue on the role of the CFS, including how it can be further strengthened, how it can facilitate collaboration around governance of food security and nutrition issues, taking into consideration, as appropriate, the UN 80 Initiative and the ongoing reduction of resources available for international development and humanitarian assistance.

It was also suggested that specific attention is given in the context of the CFS Retreat to discuss how CFS policy products can support and can be systematically integrated into the programmatic work of the Rome-based Agencies. In this regard, the CFS Retreat could be an opportunity to discuss where we are today and the actions that can be undertaken to strengthen a systemic support to the uptake of CFS policy products.

Bureau and Advisory Group Members were informed that a draft agenda will be shared at the next Bureau and Advisory Group meeting in April, followed by guiding questions that the Secretariat will circulate ahead of the retreat to support preparation and ensure a substantive discussion during the CFS Retreat.

6. Presentation of the CFS Uptake Toolkit

An overview of the content and structure of the CFS Uptake Toolkit was presented as an instrument that provides indications of how different stakeholders can support the integration of CFS policy products into policies, programmes and legal frameworks. It was clarified that the document has been prepared based on the experiences gained in the uptake of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT), the Responsible Agricultural Investment Principles (RAI) and Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Food.

Based on the provisions included in the Action Plan on CFS Uptake that was endorsed at CFS 52 in 2024, the toolkit provides an overview of tools, guidance, platforms and practical approaches that were implemented to facilitate the translation of CFS policy products into actions at national and local levels. Additionally, it presents a framework illustrating how these resources support various stages of uptake, including awareness raising, diagnostics, policy processes, implementation and monitoring.

It was suggested that an uptake checklist summarizing the main steps to be followed and entry points to consider at the different stages of the implementation of CFS policy products be included in the toolkit. Finally, it was clarified that the draft toolkit will be shared shortly with CFS Members and Participants to seek their inputs to strengthen the value and relevance of the document.

7. Any Other Business

No additional discussion took place under this agenda item.

Annex 1: Attendance list Bureau and Advisory Group meeting

CFS Bureau Members: Prof. Anas Al-Nabulsi (Chairperson); Mr Luiz Andrade De Souza (Brazil); H.E. Ivo Mouskourov (Bulgaria); Mr Li Hanghao, Ms Bengliang Bai (China); H.E. Jhenifer Mojica Florez, Ms Laura Quintero Buritica, Mr Jaime Andres Gnecco Daza (Colombia); Mr Michel Lévêque (France); Mr Jujjavarupu Balaji (India); H.E. Raed Al Thukair (Saudi Arabia); Ms Jemina Moeng (South Africa), Ms Jacqueline Mbuya (Tanzania).

CFS Bureau Alternates: Mr Maarten De Groot (Canada); Ms Zaida Acosta (Dominican Republic); Ms Ibtihal Khreesha (Jordan); Ms Estefani Lewis (Panama); Ms Maria Cătălina Constantin (Romania); Ms Christina Blank (Switzerland); Ms Pathumwadee Imtour, Ms Napat Prasertsuvan, Ms Saranya Norkaew, Ms Federica Veschi (Thailand); Ms Nadia Kasraoui (Tunisia); Dr Nkumbu Nalwimba (Zambia).

Observers: Ms Ioulia Drossinou (European Union); Ms Victoria Weidenhoefer (Germany).

Advisory Group: Ms Dubravka Bojiic, Ms Abigail Turner, Mr Guenter Hemrich, Mr Ricardo Rapallo, Mr Eric Jesper Karlsson (FAO); Ms Carolin de Bruin, Ms Majia Peltola, Mr Fenton Beed (IFAD); Ms Jacopo Valentini (WFP); Mr James Stapleton, Ms Anne Huie (CGIAR); Ms Magdalena Ackermann, Ms Giulia Simula, Mr Matteo Perego, Ms Nora McKeon, Mr Dionicio Canahui, Ms Souad Mahmoud (CSIPM); Ms Fabrizio Moscatelli, Ms Carlotta Cramer (PFM); Ms Daniela Morra (PSM); Ms Paola De Meo (Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food); Ms Stien Gijssels (UN-Nutrition).

CFS Secretariat: Ms Adriana Herrera Moreno (CFS Secretary), Ms Fatiha Terki, Mr Lorenz Franken, Mr Marco Marzano de Marinis, Ms Chiara Cirulli, Mr Emilio Colonnelli, Ms Marina Calvino, Ms Valentina Delle Fratte, Ms Tatiana Moruz, Ms Eleonora Viotti (CFS Secretariat); Mr Alexandre Meybeck (HLPE-FSN Coordinator), Ms Paola Termine, Ms Silvia Meiattini (HLPE-FSN Secretariat).

Annex 2: Attendance list Bureau meeting

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