

## **CFS Bureau and Advisory Group meeting and CFS Bureau meeting**

**Date: 08 December 2025**

**Time: 09:30 – 12:30 and 13:30 – 14:30**

**Hybrid meeting (King Faisal Room and Zoom Platform)**

### **Bureau and Advisory Group Meeting Outcomes - With Bureau Decision**

#### **Agenda**

1. Stocktake and review of CFS 53 plenary and side events, including follow-up actions
2. CFS Workplans, activities and calendar:
  - a. Collaborative governance
  - b. Building Resilient Food Systems policy convergence process
  - c. Uptake
  - d. High Level Forum on Artificial Intelligence
  - e. Global Thematic Event on Family Farmers
  - f. CFS Calendar for 2025/2026
  - g. CFS MYPoW Mid-Term Review
3. CFS contribution to the High-Level Political Forum (Workplan)
4. Streamlined Approach to CFS BurAg meetings
5. Any other business

The CFS Chairperson, Professor Anas Al-Nabulsi, welcomed the newly appointed CFS Bureau and (ad hoc) Advisory Group Members to the first Bureau and Advisory Group Meeting following CFS53 Plenary, and outlined the provisional agenda, which was subsequently adopted.

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

1. Stocktake and review of CFS 53 plenary and side events, including follow-up actions

Bureau and Advisory Group Members provided initial inputs and comments on CFS 53.

Positive feedback was provided on the CFS plenary, which was considered solid and relevant in terms of proposed topics, successful in terms of its outcomes and with content-rich discussions. Bureau and Advisory Group Members highlighted the positive balance and time allocation between panels, floor discussions and decision-making moments. While there is improvement compared to previous plenary sessions, the importance of increasing interactions and promoting dynamic discussions between diverse stakeholders was underlined by various members as a key aspect for future sessions.

Some Members stressed that too much time was allocated for statements from the floor, in particular on Monday afternoon. In this regard, it was recognized that this is a matter that has been



CFS/Bur/2025/12/08/Outcomes

repeatedly discussed at Bureau and Advisory Group level, without finding a suitable alternative that may balance the interest of Members and Participants to deliver their interventions from the floor and necessity to cover the extensive range of topics, in particular under the annual item The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World – Strengthening Coordination and Collaborative Actions.

It was noted that, while high level fora might be more meaningful during the intersessional period as a way to have more substantive discussions, the possibility to have dedicated sessions during the plenary session to present their outcomes with the participation of high-level speakers could be considered.

In general, the changes introduced this year during the CFS 53 plenary were appreciated, and the agenda and timetable of the session were assessed positively.

Concerns were expressed on the timing of the CFS plenary and its contiguity with the World Food Forum (WFF). Bureau and Advisory Group Members expressed that this solution has an impact on the visibility of the CFS plenary and on the participation of high-level officials, also recognizing the challenges involved in changing the dates (i.e. the term of election for the Chairperson). In this regard, it was noted that in order to promote its visibility and higher participation of relevant stakeholders, CFS should highlight and focus on its added value which refers to its inclusive multistakeholder platform, its evidence-based approach, the policy convergence process and the uptake of its policy products that are a tool for policy makers to advance food security and nutrition at country and regional levels. Also, suggestions were made to promote more interactions with the WFF.

The organization of the satellite sessions was recognized as an interesting innovation that ensured meaningful discussions on important topics with the participation of relevant speakers, and that enriched the outcomes of the CFS plenary. It was requested to avoid holding future satellite sessions in parallel and to use the sessions to highlight the interlinkages and ensure coordination with other relevant initiatives (i.e. CAADP). Members also highlighted the need to better link the discussions of the satellite sessions with the conclusions at the plenary session.

With reference to side events, Bureau and Advisory Group Members noted that the high number of events held in parallel made it difficult for Delegations to follow all of them. A more streamlined approach was suggested for future plenary sessions and some members suggested to link the side events with the themes of the plenary session and promote a more balanced regional approach. Others noted the difficulties of keeping a coherent focus in some cases due to the requests for mergers or to promote an inclusive participation when many organizers are involved.

Lastly, it was suggested that ways to strengthen the communication and presence in social media during CFS plenaries should be explored in order to ensure a wide media coverage and visibility.

## 2. CFS Workplans, activities and calendar:

### a) Collaborative governance

The Chairperson introduced the provisional workplan for the workstream on *Collaborative governance for coordinated policy responses to emerging global food crises*, recalling the two Collaborative Governance Dialogues held in the previous intersessional period in 2025 and noting that the workstream is guided by the expertise of a Technical Task Team (TTT). The Secretariat provided an overview of the workstream, sharing the list of topics discussed by the Advisory Group and the Bureau in 2024.

Bureau and Advisory Group Members shared their priority topics for discussion in the current intersessional period and discussed the options in the context of the recommended criteria for selection.

Topics raised by stakeholders during the discussions were water governance, debt, inflation and cost of living, global trade systems, climate change, sustainable investment and financing, early warning systems, inequalities, CFS and food security and nutrition in the context of UN 80 and FAO reform, biodiversity, and the International Years of the Woman Farmer and of Rangelands and Pastoralists, information and data access, and the affordability of healthy diets.

Some Members of the Bureau and Advisory Group also recalled the need to highlight that in 2026 is the International Year of the Women Farmer and the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists. Other members also highlighted that discussions in this workstream should consider the realities of constituencies in countries most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition.

### **Bureau decision**

The Bureau selected two topics through consensus for discussion at the collaborative governance workstream during the 2026 intersessional period: (1) the affordability of healthy diets and nutrition; and (2) addressing gaps in information and data availability through multistakeholder processes.

### b) Building Resilient Food Systems policy convergence process

The Chair recalled that the purpose of this agenda item was to share some updates on the workplan already agreed by the previous Bureau last September.

The Secretariat highlighted the changes outlined in the background document, including the dates for the two weeks of negotiations in June and July 2026.

Bureau and Advisory Group Members were reminded of the 8 December deadline for submitting contributions to the Rapporteur's call for inputs and of the first Open Ended Working Group on 17 December.

### c) Uptake

The Chair introduced planned activities under the Uptake workstream.

The list of proposed uptake-related activities was well received by Bureau and Advisory Group Members.

With reference to the collaboration with the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty, a request was made to invite a representative of the Support Mechanism to a Bureau and Advisory Group meeting to present an overview of the interlinkages and potential entry points between the work of the Committee and the Global Alliance, and of how CFS policy products can inform the work of the Global Alliance at country level (policy basket).

Positive feedback was provided concerning the ongoing preparation of the CFS uptake toolkit for some policy products which will represent an important tool on how different CFS stakeholders can support the implementation of CFS policy products.

Suggestions were made on specific initiatives, topics or actors with whom synergies can be created, or linkages can be strengthened, in order to jointly promote the uptake of CFS policy products. These include local governments, FAO national offices, the International Years on Women Farmer and on Rangelands and Pastoralists, as well as the three Rio Conventions.

The mutual relationship between the usefulness and the use of a CFS policy product was stressed by referring to the planned Policy Recommendations on Building Resilience Food Systems.

Furthermore, it was requested that follow-up conversations are held at Bureau and Advisory Group level (following the [discussions held on 27 May 2025](#)) on the identification of national CFS focal points.

### d) High Level Forum on Artificial Intelligence, Digitalization and Data Governance

The Chairperson introduced the High-Level Forum on Artificial Intelligence, Digitalization and Data Governance, noting that the forum will tackle the opportunities and potential risks for food security and nutrition of new innovations such as AI, digital platforms and big data. He recalled that the preparation of the Forum will be guided by a Technical Task Team (TTT), for which nominations have been requested from Advisory Group Members, and issued a reminder for nominations by 12 December 2025.

The CFS Secretariat briefed stakeholders on the High Level Forum, its goals, and the proposed workplan, noting that it is expected to take place in principle in July 2026. It was clarified that the TTT includes only members of the Advisory Group.

Stakeholders discussed the particular importance of reflecting voices from developing countries and most affected communities in the dialogue and of focusing the discussions and narrowing the scope on the added value of the CFS. Several Members emphasized the importance of the HLPE-FSN background note for informing the High Level Forum, the potential role of relevant experts in this field, as well as necessity to link the High Level Forum with relevant global fora on this topic.

#### e) Global Thematic Event on Family Farmers

The Chairperson introduced the workstream that will lead to the organization of a Global Thematic Event (GTE) on Empowering Family Farmers, due to take place at CFS54. The CFS Secretariat briefed stakeholders on the goal of the GTE, which is to take stock of the use and application of four sets of policy recommendations including: “Connecting Smallholders to Markets”; “Investing in Smallholder Agriculture for Food Security and Nutrition”; “How to Increase Food Security and Smallholder Sensitive Investments in Agriculture”; and “Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition.” The Secretariat also shared that, as per previous practice, a call for inputs will be released in mid-December to gather experiences from stakeholders on the use and application of these policy products.

A suggestion was made to make use of relevant ongoing initiatives or events scheduled in 2026 – such as the ongoing International Year on Women Farmers and the upcoming ICARRD+20 – to raise awareness on this GTE.

Furthermore, the relevance of the GTE and its linkages with the UN Decade on Family Farming and with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP) were highlighted. It was also recalled that the outcomes of the event on Monitoring CFS Policy Recommendations on Smallholders held in 2019 during the CFS 46 plenary could be used to inform this GTE.

#### f) CFS Calendar for 2025/2026

The Chair presented the calendar of events for the 2025/2026 intersessional period, outlining the already confirmed dates for events and highlighting the dates for the negotiations on Building Resilient Food Systems on 15-19 June 2026 and on 6-10 July 2026, both in the Red Room.

Some Members noted the workload of events in June and July 2026 and raised the idea of adjusting commitments. Additionally, Members drew attention to holidays in Spring 2026, including Eid Al-Fitr and Easter.

Some Members followed up on the discussion held during the Bureau meeting of 31 October 2025 regarding the organization of an in-person retreat with the CFS Secretariat and Bureau members. The proposed retreat would provide an opportunity to review and refine the workplan, examine internal processes, and consider the potential implications of the UN 80 process and FAO reform for the work of the Committee.

### 3. CFS contribution to the High-Level Political Forum (Workplan)

The Chair introduced the item providing an overview of the 2026 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), whose overarching theme is “*Transformative, equitable, innovative and coordinated actions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for a sustainable future for all.*”

The Bureau and Advisory Group Members welcomed the proposed workplan leading to the final submission of the CFS contribution on 2 March 2026. There was a proposal by the CSIPM to circulate the First Draft of the CFS contribution also within the Advisory Group, while recognizing that only Bureau Members hold the prerogative to participate in the silent procedure for approval.

### **Bureau decision**

The CFS Bureau approved the CFS 2026 Workplan concerning the CFS contribution to the HLPF and appointed H.E. Ivo Mouskourov, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Bulgaria to FAO, as Rapporteur for this process. The Bureau also approved the proposal put forward by the CSIPM and the workplan will be adjusted to reflect this decision.

#### **4. Streamlined Approach to CFS BurAg meetings**

A proposal for a streamlined approach regarding the structure and format of Bureau and Advisory Group meetings was presented by the CFS Chair, based on the outcomes of the discussions held in July 2025.

Bureau and Advisory Group Members welcomed the proposal that would ensure a more efficient use of meetings and avoid overlaps and repetitive discussions. At the same time, it was requested to allow enough time for discussions and decision-making by the Bureau, allocating the time required for fruitful debates and without precluding the possibility to continue in the afternoon, if required.

With reference to the workstream updates, it was requested that an item is kept during Bureau and Advisory Group meetings, as this promotes transparency and provides relevant information and inputs for discussion, including on the CFS Chair's engagements in different fora and events.

#### **5. Any other business**

The Chair raised the issue that, though CFS Bureau and Advisory Group meetings as well as other important CFS events are scheduled well in advance, the Committee is often faced with clashes from other FAO and RBA events. The Chair appealed to Members to support him in bringing attention in the relevant governing bodies to the need to coordinate meetings better within the RBAs, so as to enable the smooth functioning of the CFS with appropriate participation.

Some Members shared reflections on the outcomes of the FAO Council relevant to CFS. The need to take a unified message of CFS Members to the FAO Council to further advance the agenda of the CFS was noted, as well as the need to advocate for resources and to focus on implementation of CFS policy products through FAO national offices.

Additionally, Members recalled the opportunity to hold a Bureau and Advisory Group in-person retreat, recommending using the opportunity to reflect on the implications for CFS of the UN 80 and FAO reform.

### Annex 1: Attendance list CFS 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 (China); Ms Laura Quintero Buritica, Mr Jaime Andres Gnecco Daza (Colombia); Mr Francois Gautier (France); Mr Jujjavarupu Balaji (India); Ambassador Raed Al Thukair (Saudi Arabia); Ms Jacqueline Mbuya (Tanzania).

**CFS Bureau Alternates:** Mr Maarten De Groot (Canada); Ms Ibtihal Khreesha (Jordan); Ms Estefani Lewis (Panama); Ms Maria Cătălina Constantin (Romania); Ms Christina Blank (Switzerland); Dr Nkumbu Nalwimba (Zambia).

**Observers:** Ms Verena Kochan (Germany), Ms Ioulia Drossinou (European Union).

**CFS Advisory Group:** Mr Guilherme Brady, Mr Mauro Conti (FAO); Ms Laura Turner (WFP); Ms Carolin de Bruin (IFAD); Ms Charyl Harrison (WFP); Mr James Stapleton (CGIAR); Ms Giulia Simula, Ms Nora McKeon, Mr Dionicio Canahui, Ms Souad Mahmoud (CSIPM); Ms Paola De Meo (Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food).

**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 Carlotta Cramer, Ms Marina Calvino, Mr Kennedy Kariuki, Ms Valentina Delle Fratte, Ms Tatiana Moruz, Ms Eleonora Viotti (CFS Secretariat); Mr Alexandre Meybeck (HLPE-FSN Coordinator), Ms Silvia Meiattini (HLPE-FSN Secretariat).

### Annex 2: Attendance list Bureau meeting

**CFS Bureau Members:** Prof. Anas Al-Nabulsi (Chairperson); Mr Luiz Andrade De Souza (Brazil); H.E. Ivo Mouskourov (Bulgaria); Mr LI Hanghao (China); Ms Laura Quintero Buritica, Mr Jaime Andres Gnecco Daza (Colombia); Mr Francois Gautier (France); Mr Jujjavarupu Balaji (India); Ambassador Raed Al Thukair (Saudi Arabia); Ambassador Nosipho Nausca Jean Jezile (South Africa); Ms Jacqueline Mbuya (Tanzania); Mr Paul Welcher (United States of America).

**CFS Bureau Alternates:** Mr Maarten De Groot (Canada); Ms Ibtihal Khreesha (Jordan); Ambassador Francisco Ameglio, Ms Estefani Lewis (Panama); Ms Maria Cătălina Constantin (Romania); Ms Christina Blank (Switzerland); Dr Nkumbu Nalwimba (Zambia).

**Observers:** Ms Verena Kochan (Germany).

**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 Carlotta Cramer, Ms Marina Calvino, Mr Kennedy Kariuki, Ms Valentina Delle Fratte, Ms Tatiana Moruz, Ms Eleonora Viotti (CFS Secretariat); Mr Alexandre Meybeck (HLPE-FSN Coordinator), Ms Silvia Meiattini (HLPE-FSN Secretariat).