

CFS INPUTS TO THE 2026 HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM (HLPF)

Transformative, equitable, innovative and coordinated actions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for a sustainable future for all

I. Assessment of achievements and/or impediments in implementing SDGs 6, 7, G, 11 and 17

At its 53rd session in October 2025, the Committee on World Food Security (CFS):

- took note that according to the Global Report on Food Crises 2025 an estimated 80 percent of acutely food insecure people live in conflict and protracted crises contexts. As such, comprehensively addressing hunger, including its root causes, cannot be done without addressing these ongoing crises, including their primary drivers which have far reaching consequences for the environment, health, sanitation and can lead to the adoption of harmful coping mechanisms. In this context, any actions should be in line with international humanitarian law and human rights obligations (*CFS53/Report, item II, para 17 xvi*)¹;
- recognized that conflicts, climate change, economic setbacks, trade restrictions, poverty, inequalities, biodiversity loss, environmental degradation and water scarcity, amongst others, exacerbate food insecurity. The war in Ukraine has increased food insecurity and market instability. Welcomed the diplomatic dialogue aimed at ending the conflict (*CFS53/Report, item II, para 17 xvii*);
- recalled that international humanitarian law prohibits starvation of civilians as a method of warfare and called on parties to armed conflict to comply with their applicable obligations relating to the protection of objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population in accordance with international humanitarian law (*CFS53/Report, item II, para 17 xviii*);
- strongly condemned the use of food and water as weapons of war in conflict areas. Noted the conclusions and recommendations of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Famine Review Committee: Gaza Strip 2025² stating that the famine in Gaza is man-made, and stressed the urgent need to ensure reliable, sustained, sufficient and unhindered access to essential goods and services - including food, water, medical supplies and energy - for civilians throughout conflict areas, including the Gaza Strip. Further reaffirmed the importance of the role of FAO, IFAD and WFP, in coordination with other United Nations agencies and international partners, in assessing and addressing, within their respective mandates, the impact of conflicts/occupation on food security, nutrition and agriculture, in conflicts of the world,

¹ Some Members have formally disassociated themselves from the CFS 53 Final Report, in whole or in part. See [CFS 53 Final Report](#) for details

² [IPC Famine Review Committee: Gaza Strip 2025](#)

including the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in the Gaza Strip. Welcomed the signing of the Declaration for Enduring Peace and Prosperity and encouraged all countries to support and ensure implementation of all food security and nutrition related elements of the agreement³ (*CFS53/Report, item II, para 17 xix*);

- highlighted the role of Multilateral Development Banks in fostering collaboration between different stakeholders, promoting access to finance, developing innovative and effective financing mechanisms as well as supporting public-private partnerships while respecting and supporting the progressive realization of the right to adequate food (*CFS53/Report, item III, para 21 h*);

In the current global context and with the objective of achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for a sustainable future for all, it is relevant to refer to the [CFS Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests in the Context of National Food Security](#) (endorsed in 2012). These include, among others, the following guideline:

- When conflicts arise, States and other parties should strive to respect and protect existing legitimate tenure rights and guarantee that these are not extinguished by other parties. Consistent with existing obligations under relevant national and international law, States should not recognize tenure rights to land, fisheries and forests acquired, within their territories, through forceful and/or violent means. Refugees and displaced persons and others affected by conflict should be settled in safe conditions in ways that protect the tenure rights of host communities (para 25.4).

II. **Key areas where innovative, inclusive and transformative solutions are being advanced to achieve the Goals under review, ensuring that no one is left behind**

Key area: Strengthening urban and peri-urban food systems to achieve food security and nutrition in the context of urbanization and rural transformation (policy recommendations)

Using its multi-stakeholder and inclusive approach, at the 53rd Plenary Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), 20-24 October 2025, the Committee endorsed the Policy Recommendations on [Strengthening urban and peri-urban food systems to Achieve Food Security and Nutrition in the Context of urbanization and rural transformation](#). These are envisioned as a focused, action-oriented guidance tool to strengthen urban and peri-urban food systems to achieve food security and nutrition in the context of urbanization and rural transformation and contribute to the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security, while taking into account multiple challenges such as climate change, including extreme weather events and slow onset events, loss of biodiversity, ecosystem degradation and desertification, political instability, economic downturns, debt and debt sustainability, increasing inequality, conflicts, man-made and natural disasters and rapid

and unplanned urbanization, and contributing to achieving all Sustainable Development Goals according to national priorities and contexts. (Rationale III)

III. Examples of efforts to enhance coordination on cross-cutting initiatives, programmes and activities aimed at scaling up impact across multiple goals, given their interlinked nature

During the 53rd Plenary Session of the CFS, held in October 2025, under agenda item II, “*Strengthening Coordination and Collaborative Action - The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2025*”, the Committee convened a panel discussion to examine challenges across regions and constituencies in achieving the SDGs. In addition, two satellite sessions, which took place simultaneously, focused on strengthening CFS partnerships with relevant international initiatives to promote food security and nutrition. These satellite sessions were titled: “*Promoting Responsible Governance of Tenure: the role of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (CFS- VGGT) in the context of the Second International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICCARD+20)*; and “*Keeping Food Security and Nutrition High on the Global Agenda: the role of CFS and its policy products in the context of the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty, G20 and G7*”, respectively. In particular, the Committee:

- reiterated the need to assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief, debt restructuring and sound debt management, as appropriate in order to end hunger and guarantee food security and nutrition (*CFS53/Report, item III, para 21k*);
- recognized CFS as a key platform for fostering dialogue, sharing good practices, and coordinating actions among stakeholders to strengthen responsible investment and financing for food security and nutrition (*CFS53/Report, item III, para 21l, ii*);
- underlined the importance of strengthening linkages and identifying potential synergies with relevant stakeholders, such as the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty, United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) Coordination Hub, and UN Resident Coordinators and Country Teams, among others, and invited them to further promote the integration of CFS policy products into legislation, technical programmes and policy frameworks (*CFS53/Report, item VI, para 2cd*);
- noted the importance of promoting coherent and well-coordinated policies and actions across the humanitarian, development, and human rights fields to address food insecurity and malnutrition, and strengthen resilience in protracted crises, in line with the principles of the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (CFS-FFA), with the engagement and coordination of multiple actors at all levels (*CFS53/Report, item VIII, para 31 h,i*);

- invited Members and participants to promote the integration of the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in policies aimed at addressing climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation, where feasible, including in the context of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). (CFS53 / Report, item II, para 17, viii)
- welcomed the preparations for the Second International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD+20) and encouraged all members to participate in the Conference; highlighted the relevance of the ICARRD+20 to strengthen implementation and optimize uptake of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (CFS-VGGT), particularly in the context of climate change; and encouraged Colombia, in collaboration with FAO, to present the results and recommendations of the ICARRD+20 to FAO Council, Committee on Agriculture (COAG), Committee on Forestry (COFO) and Committee on Fisheries (COFI), as well as the CFS 54 Plenary Session, for further consideration in FAO and CFS procedures, including in preparation for the High-Level Forum “Advancing equitable land governance for food security and nutrition: a global progress review on agrarian reform and tenure rights” to be held in 2027 (CFS53/Report, item II, para 17 xxvii).

IV. Follow-up actions and measures being undertaken by your intergovernmental body or forum to support the implementation of the Pact of The Future, the Sevilla Commitment, the outcome of the Second World Summit for Social Development, as well as to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

During the 53rd Plenary Session of CFS in October 2025, a *High-Level Forum on Strengthening Responsible Investment and Financing for Food Security and Nutrition* took place which drew and reflected on the outcomes of events which took place prior to the CFS Plenary in 2025, such as the 4th UN Conference on Financing for Development in Seville, Spain, including its preparatory process, and the second UN Food Systems Summit Stocktake (UNFSS+4) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia as well as the CFS Collaborative Governance Dialogue on Financing for Food Security and Nutrition and activities of relevant initiatives such as the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty (CFS53/Report, item III, para 18).

In this context, the Committee:

- recalled paragraph 24 of the Pact for the Future which reiterated that States are strongly urged to refrain from promulgating and applying unilateral economic measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries, taking note of Members' interventions on this matter (CFS53/Report, item II para 17 x);
- emphasized the role of the public sector in financing food security and nutrition, including through reallocation of national expenditures, creating enabling environments to promote responsible investment and enhance access to finance, aligning public financing policies with sustainable development objectives, including policy objectives

related to social, environmental, and economic development (*CFS53/Report, item III, para 21 d*);

- e) encouraged the private sector to responsibly invest in agrifood systems, particularly in developing countries, using a long-term, strategic approach, and emphasized the need to develop an enabling policy environment which facilitates responsible private investment in agriculture and food systems, and the role that public investments can play in incentivizing and derisking responsible private investments (*CFS53/Report, item III, para 21 e*);
- encouraged financing that is effective, innovative, sustainable and consistent with national policies and programmes as well as regulatory frameworks, particularly for developing countries, to encourage investment in food systems and to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food (*CFS53/Report, item III, para 21f*);
- underlined the critical importance of mobilizing and accessing resources for responsible investment for food systems actors, particularly small-scale producers, family farmers and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), including through private sector, for food security and nutrition objectives, and stressed the need to support them with resources and conducive public policies that ensure fair prices for their products and access to affordable credit at reasonable rates (*CFS53/Report, item III, para 21g*);
- highlighted the role of Multilateral Development Banks in fostering collaboration between different stakeholders, promoting access to finance, developing innovative and effective financing mechanisms as well as supporting public-private partnerships while respecting and supporting the progressive realization of the right to adequate food (*CFS53/Report, item III, para 21h*).

V. Recommendations and key messages to be considered for inclusion in the Ministerial Declaration of the 2026 ECOSOC High-Level Segment and HLPF

Key messages:

The Committee at its 53rd Plenary Session in October 2025:

- expressed deep concern that an estimated 638 to 720 million people, corresponding to 7.8 and 8.8 percent of the global population, respectively, faced hunger in 2024, with 512 million people still projected to be affected by hunger in 2030 (para 17 i);
- recalled that international humanitarian law prohibits starvation of civilians as a method of warfare and called on parties to armed conflict to comply with their applicable obligations relating to the protection of objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population in accordance with international humanitarian law (para 17 xviii);
- highlighted the lack of an early warning and rapid response mechanism to monitor and address situations impacting the progressive realization of the right to adequate food and requested CFS to continue to engage on this important issue (para 17 xxii);

- stressed the importance of the effective implementation of the CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (CFS-FFA) and requested regular updates on progress made in this regard, including accountability processes (para 17 xxlii);
- recognized the recommendations for the Committee to provide space for further discussions on promoting a joint understanding of relevant food security and nutrition issues, such as financing and responsible investment, to convene relevant actors for the sharing of best practices, monitoring, accountability and collaboration as well as to promote the uptake and use of CFS policy products for the progressive realization of the right to adequate food (para 17 xxiv);
- expressed the need to continue conversations about the role of CFS in facilitating collaboration around the governance of food security and nutrition issues, taking into consideration the UN 80 initiative of the UN Secretary-General, as appropriate (para 17 xxvi);
- highlighted the important role of international initiatives and fora, such as the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty, G20 and G7 as well as the UN and the multilateral system, to sustain political momentum and foster collective action for food security and nutrition; and stressed the importance of ensuring an active engagement of CFS in these contexts and promoting collaboration to support the translation of CFS policy products into concrete actions at national level in order to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security (para 17, xxviii).

Recommendations:

The HLPF is encouraged to consider the urgent need for governments, intergovernmental organizations, civil society, private sector and other relevant stakeholders to make use of CFS evidence-based policy guidelines and recommendations, as appropriate. In addition to contributing to ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture and food systems, they support the achievement of a number of SDGs in an integrated way.

While voluntary in nature, CFS policy guidance instruments are the result of inclusive processes that ensure that the voices of all relevant stakeholders, particularly those most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition, are heard in the food and agriculture policy dialogue. In CFS, all multi-stakeholder consultations feed into the CFS Plenary, where Member countries remain the ultimate decision makers as well as principal actors in the attainment of food security and nutrition for all.

With reference to SDG 6 (ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all), the following Policy Recommendations/guidelines are highlighted as relevant:

The Policy Recommendations on *Strengthening Urban and Peri-Urban Food Systems to Achieve Food Security and Nutrition in the context of Urbanization and Rural Transformation (2025)* include the following recommendation:

- Promote access to and investments for the provision of services and basic physical and social infrastructure for all, without discrimination, including for housing, reliable and affordable energy, safe drinking water and sanitation, waste management, education, hygiene and information and communications technologies to enable access to safe food handling, targeting of the poorest, those in vulnerable situations and those most likely to be left behind (Para 25);

CFS endorsed the Policy Recommendations on [Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and nutrition](#) in 2024. These include, among others, the following recommendation:

- Promote universal access to and investment in services, including humanitarian assistance, that are relevant to food security and nutrition, such as healthcare services, immunization, disability, rehabilitation, psychosocial support, education at all levels, housing, energy supply, sanitation, safe drinking water, transport, communication and digital and physical infrastructure (para 27).

CFS endorsed the [CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition](#) in 2023. These include, among others, the following recommendation:

- Women's access to water is crucial for agriculture, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture production and for household and domestic purposes. Women's access to water is often unequal, in particular for Indigenous women, women in local communities and women in situations of conflict, protracted crises and shocks. Women represent up to half of the labour force in aquaculture, largely in processing and trading, but typically receive lower labour returns and income than men (para 63);
- Promote and fund, especially in regions with permanent or regular lack of water, innovation and technologies and facilities for access to and sustainable management of water - such as cisterns - for household consumption and food production, with a focus on the rights and needs of women and girls. There should be no discrimination on any basis, *inter alia* age, class, race, disability and gender-based and ethnic discrimination and stereotypes, in matters of access to and use of equitable distribution of water for both consumption, food production, and of sanitation and hygiene (para 70, iv);

CFS endorsed the [Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition](#) (VGFSN) in 2021. These include, among others, the following recommendations:

- Coordinated policies and processes are required to enhance policy coherence and coordination in addressing policy fragmentation across sectors such as health, agriculture, education, environment, water, sanitation, gender, social protection, trade, employment, and finance - all of which impact on food systems and nutrition outcomes, along the three pillars of sustainable development (para 26);
- Governments should foster policy coordination and coherence across sectors and agencies to reduce all forms of malnutrition from a food systems perspective. These sectors and agencies may include those impacting health, agriculture, education, environment, water,

sanitation, gender equality, social protection, trade, employment, and finance.

Governments should include the sustainability of food systems as a priority in order to effectively align relevant sectors around a common set of goals (para 52, section 3.1.1 a).

CFS endorsed the [CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises](#) (CFS-FFA) in 2015. These include, among others, the following recommendations:

- Promoting inclusive, non-discriminatory and sustained access to relevant basic services such as education, health, safe drinking water and sanitation (Principle 1, x);
- Supporting nutrition-specific policies and actions, in particular exclusive breastfeeding up to six months where possible, and continued breastfeeding to two years of age and beyond, with appropriate complementary feeding; optimal infant and young child feeding; enabling access to required nutrients through diverse and healthy diets; micronutrient supplementation or food fortification; provision of safe food and drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities; promotion of good hygiene and care practices; and community-based management of acute undernutrition (Principle 2, ii).

CFS endorsed the Policy Recommendation on [Water for Food Security and Nutrition](#) in 2015. These include, among others, the following recommendations:

- Invest in the modernization, improvement and sustainable extension of rainfed and irrigated agricultural systems, and technologies adapted to local contexts with special attention to those used by smallholder food producers, in order to enhance the productivity of water considering, where appropriate, public-private partnerships with appropriate regulations to safeguard the public interest (para 4b);
- reduce pollution, restore, depollute and protect water bodies from contamination and ensure water quality is preserved for domestic, agricultural and food-related uses, including through targeted incentives and disincentives (para 1c).
- Review and implement water policies and strategies, as appropriate, so that they are comprehensive and incorporate FSN concerns across sectors, and promote transparency and accountability by all actors for their impact on water for FSN, thus contributing to the progressive realization of both the right to safe drinking water and sanitation and the right to adequate food in the context of national food security (para 2a);
- Implement policies for equal opportunities and security in access to water and land for food producers - both women and men - and promote responsible investments in line with the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests and the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems so that they can use water effectively to improve their livelihoods and meet their FSN needs (para 3a);
- Put in place mechanisms to ensure that any water related policies, reforms, investments or actions by any actor take into account the FSN of affected populations, with particular attention to the most vulnerable and marginalized (para 3c);
- Develop and promote investments to: improve household availability of and access to safe water for drinking and sanitation; reduce the drudgery and burden of water collection and

disposal for all, in particular women and girls; reduce the incidence of water related health risks; improve conditions for hygiene and food safety; enhance nutritional status; and provide access to safe drinking water to all workers at the workplace (para 3 f);

- Fully observe the international human rights obligations as they relate to water for FSN and acknowledge the linkages between the right to safe drinking water and sanitation and the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security (para 8a).

CFS endorsed the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food security (VGGT) in 2012. These include, among others, the following recommendations:

- States should facilitate sustainable, non-discriminatory and secure access and utilization of resources consistent with their national law and with international law and protect the assets that are important for people's livelihoods. States should respect and protect the rights of individuals with respect to resources such as land, water, forests, fisheries and livestock without any discrimination (para 8.1);
- Noting that there are publicly-owned land, fisheries and forests that are collectively used and managed (in some national contexts referred to as commons), States should, where applicable, recognize and protect such publicly-owned land, fisheries and forests and their related systems of collective use and management, including in processes of allocation by the State (para 8.3);
- States should ensure that the publicly-held tenure rights are recorded together with tenure rights of indigenous peoples and other communities with customary tenure systems and the private sector in a single recording system, or are linked to them by a common framework (para 8.4);

With reference to SDG 7 (Ensure access to affordable reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all), the following Policy Recommendations are highlighted as relevant:

CFS endorsed the Policy Recommendation on Biofuels and Food Security in 2013. These include, among others, the following recommendations

The Committee:

- Highlighted that energy and food security are linked and acknowledged the challenge of achieving both food security and energy security, considering the four dimensions of food security (availability, access, stability and utilization) (para 1 c);
- Encouraged governments to seek coordination of their respective food security and energy security strategies, giving due consideration to the sustainable management of natural resources (para 2);
- Stakeholders are encouraged to support more energy and other resource use efficiency, increased use of sources of renewable energy and improved access to sustainable energy services, including among others in agri-food chains, according to each country's specificities (para 13);
- Food security, smallholder and gender concerns should be integrated as appropriate in the design, monitoring and evaluation of RCD on biofuels. RCD is important in improving the efficiency of biofuels regarding both resources and processes, and in exploring new technologies including biofuels of the second and third generations. Research partners are encouraged to devise solutions adapted to the needs of all stakeholders, especially those in least-developed countries and of women and smallholders who are most in need of access to modern energy services (para 19);
- Governments and operators should support the participation of farmers, in particular smallholders and women, in food-energy security programmes (including on biofuel production and consumption), as appropriate on the basis of fair and equitable condition (para 14).

With reference to SDG G (build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation), the following Policy Recommendations are highlighted as relevant:

The Policy Recommendation on *Strengthening urban and peri-urban food systems to achieve food security and nutrition in the context of urbanization and rural transformation* (2025), include, among others, the following recommendations:

- Strengthen public and private investment, including Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) and Public-private Producer Partnerships, in infrastructure dedicated to storage, processing, marketing and logistics and enhance capacities in the intermediary segments of urban food value chains, including local fresh produce markets, farmers markets, territorial markets, supermarkets and modern convenience stores, to increase consumers' access to affordable, diversified, safe and healthy diets that encompass a variety of foods, including fresh and whole foods, while promoting sustainable food systems and respecting regional and cultural specificities and supporting local economies, as well as developing and strengthening accountability mechanisms, in accordance with national contexts (para 8).

The CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition (2023), highlight that:

- Foster and support innovation in financial products and services provision to diversify offerings available to women in agriculture and food systems. Support and raise awareness among financial product and service providers to allow and enhance financial inclusion, and encourage them to create financial products and services tailored to the needs of women, in particular rural micro-, small- and medium-scale producers and entrepreneurs (para 58 iii);

CFS endorsed the Policy Recommendations on [Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems that Enhance Food Security and Nutrition](#) in 2021.

These include, among others, the following recommendations:

- Strengthen innovation platforms and promote digital technologies and applications that enhance sustainable agriculture and food systems to facilitate wider networking, taking into account traditional and ancestral knowledge, consistent with context-specific needs of small scale producers and family farmers (para 3 w).

CFS endorsed the [Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems](#) (CFS-RAI) in 2014. These include, among others, the following recommendations:

- Promoting innovative technologies and practices, including smallholders' own innovations, such as through awareness raising and technical assistance, farmer to farmer skills sharing, as well as the transfer of technology as mutually agreed among individuals, local, national, or international parties (*Roles and Responsibilities of stakeholders*, para 40 ii).

With reference to SDG 11 (make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable), the following Policy Recommendations are highlighted as relevant:

The Policy Recommendations on *Strengthening Urban and Peri-Urban Food Systems* in 2025. These include, among others, the following recommendations, in its entirety, is relevant to the achievement of SDG 11.

The CFS policy product specifies that “*These Policy Recommendations are addressed primarily to national and subnational governments, in particular regional/metropolitan/municipal departments as well as relevant networks of cities*”. However, among its provisions, the following recommendations are highlighted as particularly critical:

- Ensuring food security and nutrition across the rural-urban continuum requires policies that comply with internationally agreed human rights instruments and respect principles such as participation, accountability, non-discrimination, transparency, human dignity, empowerment and the rule of law. (Rationale, para v)
- Strengthen responsible investment in technical, social and organizational mid-stream activities including investment in all forms of innovation, such as resilient, energy-efficient and affordable storage systems, biodegradable or recyclable packaging and digital platforms, as well as measures in reducing food loss and waste, to effectively leverage the opportunities that urban and peri-urban food systems provide (para 7);
- Strengthen public and private investment, including Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) and Public-private Producer Partnerships, in infrastructure dedicated to storage, processing, marketing and logistics and enhance capacities in the intermediary segments of urban food value chains, including local fresh produce markets, farmers markets, territorial markets, supermarkets and modern convenience stores, to increase consumers' access to

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affordable, diversified, safe and healthy diets that encompass a variety of foods, including

fresh and whole foods, while promoting sustainable food systems and respecting regional and cultural specificities and supporting local economies, as well as developing and strengthening accountability mechanisms, in accordance with national contexts (para 8);

- Encourage and support social innovations such as producer-to-consumer platforms, including community supported agriculture, community gardens, farmer field schools, family farming, cooperative models, such as agricultural and food cooperatives, associations of producers, processors, distributors, food hubs and farmers' markets that would help to pool costs, benefits, risks and to achieve economies of scale and to enhance access to affordable, diversified, safe and healthy diets that encompass a variety of foods, including fresh and whole foods, while promoting sustainable food systems and respecting regional and cultural specificities, as well as promoting the use of information and communication technologies to foster economic and social development in rural areas, particularly across the rural-urban continuum, while contributing to equity, social inclusion and resilience; (para 9)
- Strengthen, support and promote the important role of territorial and informal markets, including all types of supply chains, linking them into the national and subnational zoning policies, as well as spatial and urban planning. This would promote: (i) market access for smallholder farmers, fisher folks, and family farmers, women, youth and traditional gatherers; (ii) sustainable management and use of natural resources, including land, forests and water; (iii) increased access to affordable, safe, healthy, nutritious and sustainably produced food for all residents across the rural-urban continuum, including in particular urban food deserts; (iv) food losses and waste reduction (para 11)
- Tackle urban and peri-urban food deserts, especially in low-income areas, by supporting and investing in local markets, mobile food vendors and logistics infrastructure in order to foster geographic equity to access affordable, diversified, safe and healthy diets that encompass a variety of foods, including fresh and whole foods, while promoting sustainable food systems and respecting regional and cultural specificities (para 13);
- Address power imbalances and inequalities among different actors within agriculture and food systems across the rural-urban continuum to foster competition and diversification of food distribution channels. This entails supporting traditional and community markets, street food vendors, supermarkets and online delivery services; (para 14)
- Support non-market channels, such as food distributions, community kitchens, solidarity kitchens, food banks and school meals which: (i) promote decent work and dignified livelihoods; (ii) increase the resilience of households; (iii) enable equitable access to affordable, diversified, safe and healthy diets that encompass a variety of foods, including fresh and whole foods while promoting sustainable food systems and respecting regional and cultural specificities; and iv) promote the progressive realization of the right to adequate food; (para 15)
- Strengthen the capacities of peasants, smallholder farmers³³, family farmers, traditional gatherers, - especially women, youth, persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples and local communities - to access international, regional, national and local markets, by strengthening cooperatives, farmers collectives, associations, networks and other organizations, as well as promoting unions, enterprise and entrepreneurship, which can

expand their bargaining power and allow meaningful participation in agriculture and food systems value chains, including in territorial markets (para 16)

- Increase responsible investment in infrastructure - including transport, mobility, services, technologies - aiming at strengthening inclusive, equitable and sustainable connectivity, ensuring that it benefits areas where poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is prevalent. This entails adopting territorial approaches as well as strengthening connectivity and linkages among local, regional, national and international markets and trade, including for smallholders and family farmers, to support food security and nutrition (para 26);
- Enhance equitable and affordable access to essential healthcare services and well-being for all across the rural-urban continuum to improve food security and nutrition outcomes, particularly for women of childbearing age, pregnant and breastfeeding women, youth, boys and girls, while also safeguarding the availability, quality, connectivity of, access to and benefits from green and blue spaces , especially in densely populated areas sustainably, to support human health and well-being (para 27);
- Design interventions and adopt best practices, including inclusive and participatory contingency planning and early warning systems that integrate disaster risk reduction into urban planning and design and prioritize risk mitigation and adaptation to enhance the resilience of food supply chains across the rural-urban continuum. Strengthening critical infrastructure including cold storage, cooling facilities, safe and affordable water, distribution and trade networks is essential to ensure that food security and nutrition needs are met for urban and peri-urban residents during times of crisis. This also requires addressing gaps in supply chain management to ensure continuity in distribution and prevent disruptions across food systems (para 30);
- Include local and subnational governments and all relevant stakeholders in the development of national food security and nutrition policies and strategies. Their contributions as stewards of local knowledge and experience are essential for enhancing the quality, sustainability and accountability of interventions, particularly those targeting the poorest, those in vulnerable situations and those most likely to be left behind and for promoting inclusive and strategic governance (para 36);
- Invest in and learn from local governments, city food networks, local universities, civil society organizations, including farmers' organizations, cooperatives, businesses and

enterprises in social and solidarity economies (SSEs) and local knowledge institutions, as well as peer-to-peer exchanges and leverage diverse knowledge, including traditional knowledge and digital tools to inform, participatory frameworks and multi-level, multi-stakeholder platforms. This ensures transparency, enables progress and uptake tracking and facilitates sharing of lessons, results, challenges, and good practices between cities, territories, across sectors and policymakers (para 48).

With reference to SDG17 (Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development), the following Policy Recommendations/guidelines are highlighted as relevant:

CFS endorsed the Policy Recommendations on [Strengthening Collection and Use of Food Security and Nutrition Data and Related Analysis Tools to improve decision-making in support of the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security](#) in 2023.

These include, among others, the following recommendations:

- Governments should strive to: a) establish - or, when appropriate, strengthen existing - effective national multi-sectoral and multistakeholder FSN mechanisms responsible for guiding FSN policy and programme planning, linked to national development planning, and for setting local, national, regional and global priorities for better production and use of data in FSN decision-making, aligned to required analysis, within the data and statistical systems, to inform these policies. Such mechanisms should ensure that civil society, academia, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, those in vulnerable situations and those subject to various forms of discrimination, and other relevant stakeholders have an active and well-defined role in determining priorities (para 1 a);

The *Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition* include, among others, the following recommendations:

- Governments, intergovernmental organizations and development partners, across sectors at all levels, should work to enable healthy diets and improved nutrition through sustainable food systems, strengthened policy and legal frameworks and institutional capacities that address the multiple causes and consequences of malnutrition in all its forms and food related economic, social and environmental challenges. This coordination should establish and/or strengthen multisectoral, multilevel and multistakeholder mechanisms that oversee the design and implementation of evidence- and science based, context specific policies, strategies, and interventions respecting cultural diversity that contribute to improved nutrition outcomes at national, sub-national and local levels (para 3.1.2a)

CFS endorsed the Policy Recommendations on [Investing in smallholder agriculture for Food Security and Nutrition](#) in 2013. These include, among others, the following recommendation:

- in order to address constraints on investment in smallholder agriculture in general, with special attention to those faced by women and youth, and thereby improve food security and nutrition, the CFS encouraged governments, together with smallholder organizations and other national and international stakeholders (civil society, local organizations, private sector, research institutions and international development partners), to improve

governance for agriculture and rural development through a coordinated multisectoral approach, with particular focus on smallholder agriculture, ensuring adequate participation of all relevant organizations, especially those representing smallholder farmers. This involves developing context-specific solutions for smallholder-sensitive public and private investments (para 1 c 8);

The *Voluntary Guidelines to support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the context of the national food security* include, among others, the following recommendation:

- States, international organizations, civil society, the private sector, all relevant nongovernmental organizations and other stakeholders should promote the strengthening of partnerships and coordinated action, including programmes and capacity development efforts, with a view to strengthening the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security (Partnerships with NGOs/CSOs/private sector, para 14);

With reference to the *CFS Principles on Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems* (CFS RAI) at CFS 50 the Committee discussed the importance of boosting financing for sustainable development and access to resources for actions and efforts to achieve SDG 2 by 2030, in line with the integrated and indivisible framework of the 17 SDGs. Among other actions, Members:

- Agreed that responsible investment in sustainable agriculture and food systems, aligned with the SDGs, is essential for enhancing food security and nutrition and in supporting the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security, and that appropriate responses - such as a significant increase in financing sustainable and inclusive food systems - are required to address the four pillars of food security and nutrition, and the SDGs (CFS 50 Report, para 26 c); and
- recognized that the CFS-RAI Principles, since their adoption in October 2014, have been utilized at global, national, and local levels, with coordinated effort applied by CFS Members, its Advisory Group, and the CFS Secretariat to ensure their dissemination and application in various international fora (CFS 50 Report, para 26 e).

The Policy Recommendations on *Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition* include, among others, the following recommendations:

- Governments and all relevant stakeholders should facilitate the participation and representation of people facing inequalities, especially the poorest and most vulnerable directly or through their formal and informal organizations and build inclusive, accessible, transparent and accountable institutions, mechanisms and partnerships to foster their capacity to make their own decisions, collective action and meaningful participation in relevant negotiations and decision-making processes, in accordance with national contexts, including by empowering individuals, civil society organizations, communities and other stakeholders to actively participate in shaping policies related to agriculture and food systems (para 8).