Submission to the Committee on World Food Security

Recommendations for CFS Policy Convergence on Building Resilient Food Systems

Contributors:

Algeria

Introduction:

Algeria welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the CFS Policy Convergence on Building Resilient Food Systems and reaffirms its commitment to the CFS as the foremost inclusive platform for Global Food Security governance. This process builds on important CFS policy instruments, including the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF), the CFS Policy Recommendations on Water for Food Security and Nutrition, the HLPE-FSN Report on Building Resilient Food Systems, as well as the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, in particular Sustainable Development Goals 2 (Zero Hunger), 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), and 13 (Climate Action), which collectively give emphasis to the need for rights-based, efficient, and resilience-oriented approaches.

In line with these efforts, Algeria recognizes that food system resilience must address structural vulnerabilities, climate change impacts and inequalities affecting small-scale producers. Food security and food sovereignty have always been strategic national priorities, by combining short-term supply stabilization with long-term transformation of agriculture, water management, and local production systems.

This submission represents Algeria's vision, proposals, and practical experience to promote the development of concrete, actionable and user-oriented CFS policy recommendations.

Recommendations:

Algeria submits the following recommendations to the committee:

1. Priority Issues

- **Strengthening Food Sovereignty and reducing Import:** A top priority is to mitigate heavy reliance on imported food, as it makes food systems vulnerable to economic shocks and market volatility. Policy recommendations should focus on boosting local

production of key staples to ensure a self-reliant food supply. This includes strategic investments to compensate imports with national production, as well as building national reserves. Recommendations should also be accompanied by efficient mechanisms to curb food inflation and market volatility, notably through strategic reserves, market oversight and price stabilization tools.

- **Climate Resilience and Water Scarcity:** Building resilience to climate change and water scarcity is imperative, as different climate events such as drought crippled agricultural output and made global production volatile. Policies must address water management through expanded irrigation, rainwater harvesting, and efficient water use. Emphasis should be on climate-smart agriculture, through drought-tolerant crops and improved irrigation techniques to withstand future shocks. It is also important to strengthen early warning systems and climate adaptation plans at local level to protect farmers from extreme weather and ensure continuity of food production.

- **Agricultural Productivity and Irrigation Expansion:** Achieving higher yields and modernizing agriculture are central to a strong food system. Algeria supports structural transformations of agriculture driven by science, technology, and smart irrigation expansion. Policy recommendations should prioritize closing the yield gap. For instance, Algeria's efforts in modernizing farming practices and extending irrigation in Saharan regions aim to double cereal yields to 35–40 quintals/ha within five years. These measures will increase national production and enhance year-round productivity even in marginal areas.

- **Support for Local Agriculture:** Smallholders and family farmers must be empowered as active agents at the heart of a resillient food system. Policy recommendations should address improving farmers' access to land, finance, and subsidized inputs. Strengthening agricultural extension will also enable farmers to adopt new technologies and learn appropriate training for sustainable practices. High consideration must also be given to family farming and assistance to vulnerable populations to ensure that rural livelihoods are attractive and supported. Algeria has implemented reforms in this regard, where subventions go directly to family farmers and smallholders to stimulate production, improve their income and preserve purchase power. Hence, at national level, institutions should work closely with farmers to provide solutions based on real needs such as input distribution in remote areas and training on climate-resilient

techniques. Investing in capacity-building and inclusive support will raise productivity and income for smallholders, who are the main implementers of new policies on the ground.

- **Access to Markets and Value Chains:** It is important to strengthen value chains to ensure local production reaches consumers effectively. Policy measures should improve rural infrastructure such as storage units and roads for producers to acceed markets. This will help stabilize farmers' income and reduce post-harvest losses. Priority should be given to developing rural agro-industries and reducing food loss along the supply chain. By securing better markets and adding value locally, farming communities and enterprises will be more motivated to invest in sustainable production, thereby reinforcing food system resilience.

2. Complementary Elements to HLPE Recommendations

In addition to the areas highlighted by the HLPE-FSN Report, Algeria proposes complementary elements and considerations to enrich the policy recommendations:

- **Triangulation between National, Regional, and Global markets:** Algeria considers that resilient food systems require a balanced articulation between national, regional and international markets. Strengthening domestic production and national/regional value chains remains central to food sovereignty and resilience. Trade plays a stabilizing role, particularly for structural deficits in certain commodities and during climatic or geopolitical shocks. At the national level, well-regulated markets, adequate storage and strategic reserves are essential to stabilize supplies, prices, and producer incomes. At the regional level, enhanced cooperation can improve resilience through diversified sourcing, shared knowledge and infrastructure, and coordinated responses to food crises. At the international level, predictable, transparent and rules-based markets are critical, especially for net food-importing countries, and should avoid any practice that leads to excessive volatility, such as export restrictions and tariffs. Policy recommendations should improve coherence between food security and trade policies, recognizing trade as a complement rather than a substitute for national production, and ensuring coordination across the different levels of governance to strengthen overall food system resilience.

- **Territorial Governance and Inclusive Institutions:** Strengthening governance at regional and local levels is crucial for resilient food systems. Algeria recommends

promoting participatory governance mechanisms where local authorities and communities participate in decision-making. This could involve supporting local food policy and water use councils, as well as farmer cooperatives in the design of programs. Improved territorial planning can align agricultural development with local ecological considerations: for instance, integrating land use planning with water resource management in each region. By coordinating national strategy with local implementation capacity, and ensuring transparency and accountability, policies will be more responsive to the realities on the ground. This inclusive governance approach will help align national directives and local action, making resilience-building measures more effective.

- **Protection of Natural Resources and Ecosystems:** Building resilience also requires preserving the natural resource base that food systems depend on. Algeria recognizes the need for policy measures to protect and regenerate soils, water sources, forests and rangelands. In Algeria, combating desertification and strategic use of groundwater is a priority. Thus, recommendations should promote reforestation, anti-desertification programs such as the Algerian "Green Dam" initiative to halt Sahara encroachment, and efficient water-use regulations. A stronger integration of environmental management into food system policies will ensure that improving production does not come at the expense of long-term sustainability. Protecting biodiversity and local plant genetic resources, as well as promoting climate mitigation co-benefits like carbon sequestration in soils are additional considerations that complement the resilience agenda.

3. Practical Example: Resilient Greenhouse Agriculture in Biskra, Algeria

To illustrate how these policy recommendations can be applied in practice, Algeria offers the example of the greenhouse agriculture development in the Wilaya (province) of Biskra. It is an oasis area at the edge of the Sahara with a desert climate (annual rainfall <150 mm) that became a hub for off-season vegetable production. Over the past two decades, concerted government support and local innovation have enabled farmers to greatly intensify production despite harsh climatic conditions.

Investments in irrigation and technology were made through national programs like the Agricultural and Rural Development Plan (PNDA). Farmers were able to receive support to reclaim land, install modern irrigation systems and greenhouses. As a result, Biskra now hosts

over 25,000 hectares of greenhouses that allow year-round growing of different products,with the region producing 37% of the country's vegetables today.

This example illustrates resilience-building in different dimensions: First, by expanding irrigated agriculture in an arid zone, Biskra's farmers relied less on unpredictable rainfed crops. Groundwater and efficient drip irrigation allowed to follow policy directions of irrigation in southern regions. Second, the adoption of protected cultivation (greenhouses) and improved techniques has increased yields and quality of products while overcoming climatic constraints. Third, the development of this local production hub has improved livelihoods: the greenhouse sector created thousands of jobs for rural youth and women, creating a dynamic agricultural economy. The growth of agribusiness and market activity in Biskra helped reduce local unemployment to less than 10%, and significantly lowered poverty rates in farming communities. The region now supplies the national market with fresh products all year around, reducing importation of vegetables during the off-season.

The success of the greenhouse agriculture in Biskra closely reflects the proposed policy recommendations. Strong government commitment through directed subsidies, credit facilities, and extension services to family farmers allowed them to invest in new agricultural methods. Farmers organized into cooperatives and benefitted from improved market access via new wholesale markets and transportation lines connecting them to urban centers and markets. The focus on sustainable practices is evident as well: Despite some challenges such as pest management in greenhouses, many growers have learned to optimize input use and maintain health of greenhouse soils. This ongoing learning and adaptation shows the great importance given to evidence-informed extension support on the ground.

To conclude, the Biskra greenhouse experience shows how well-integrated policies can build a resilient food system at local level. By combining investment in infrastructure, direct support to smallholders and vulnerable populations, climate adaptation, and market development, a formerly under-utilized dryland area is now an important element for Algeria's food sovereignty. It is a concrete demonstration of Algeria's vision, where food policy promotes self-sufficiency, sustainability, and inclusive growth in action. The forthcoming CFS policy recommendations can draw on such example to guide other regions, in particular neighbouring ones, in implementing resilient food system strategies that are adapted to their specific contexts and challenges.