

CFS Bureau and (ad hoc) Advisory Group meeting and CFS Bureau meeting

Dates: 25 and 27 May 2022

Time: 14:00 - 17:00 and 9:00 – 12:00

Virtual/Hybrid meetings (Zoom Platform + King Faisal Room)

Bureau and Advisory Group Meeting Outcomes - With Bureau Decisions

Agenda

- A. Impacts on global food security of the conflict in Ukraine (III). Fostering coordinated global policy responses at the CFS**
 - a. Updates on the UN Global Crisis Response Group*
 - b. Briefing on the Security Council meetings and related activities*
 - c. Update on the special CFS HL intersessional event*
- B. Readout of UNCCD COP 15**
 - 1. CFS 50 Planning**
 - a. Guide to the preparation of the CFS 50 Final Report*
 - b. CFS 50 Guide*
 - c. Side Events*
 - 2. CFS Advisory Group Reporting Exercise**
 - 3. Workstream and Budget Updates**
 - 4. AOB**

The CFS Chairperson, Ambassador Gabriel Ferrero y de Loma – Osorio, opened the meeting informing that the substantive segment (agenda items A and B) of the Bureau and (ad hoc) Advisory Group meeting would be an open public discussion broadcasted live on the CFS [YouTube](#) channel to foster participation.

After that, the provisional agenda was adopted, and the CFS Chairperson informed that the meeting would be recorded, per usual practice, for the Secretariat’s note-taking purposes.

A. Impacts on global food security of the conflict in Ukraine (III). Fostering coordinated global policy responses at the CFS

The CFS Chairperson opened the item recalling the special meeting of the Bureau and the (ad hoc) Advisory Group, in April, in view of the deterioration of global food systems and the prospects of the impact of the war in Ukraine on global food security and nutrition. Since then, he underlined, what was originally a looming food crisis, it has already become a multi-layered and multi-causal global food crisis, whose impact adds to the pre-existing already dire situation determined by protracted crisis, climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic.

He also underscored the words of the UNSG, who recently expressed concerns for a famine that too many people may soon experience, in a way that the world hasn’t seen in decades, unless we act urgently; and he highlighted the efforts that the UNSG is deploying for what he called a “package deal”, aiming at

agreeing on the free flow of food and agriculture inputs to the global markets. His efforts through the UN Global Crisis Response Group (GCRG) are ongoing, and the CFS is fully engaged.

The CFS Chair also noted that the activity from governments, international fora and the international organizations is also increasing, in many fronts, and during these last weeks, multiple initiatives were launched: the FARM Initiative, from EU French Presidency; The Global Alliance for Food Security, by the G7; the IFIs Action Plan to Address Food Insecurity; and recently, the Roadmap for Global Food Security–Call to Action, that follows the Ministerial Meeting convened by the United States at the United Nations in New York, followed by the UN Security Council Open Debate on Conflict and Food Security.

With this introduction, the CFS Chairperson welcomed the guest speakers: Maximo Torero, FAO Chief Economist; Rebecca Grynspan, UNCTAD Secretary General and leading the UN Global Crises Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance Task Team; and Ambassador Cindy McCain, Permanent Representative of the US to the UN agencies in Rome.

In his presentation, the Chief Economist highlighted serious concerns for global food security and the affordability of healthy food, over the coming period. Affordability of food was already threatened by climate variability and COVID-19 pandemic, and it is now exacerbated by the current Ukraine crisis. He also expressed concerns for a very high concentration of food markets, where 30% of cereals internationally traded are originated from Russia and Ukraine, and for an equally highly concentrated market of fertilizers, which is an element of big concern for future global agricultural production. Energy market, transport, and trade export restrictions are additional elements of concern which may further impact global food security and affordability of food.

Rebecca Grynspan briefed on the work of the UN GCRG that she leads. She highlighted that, from the first brief produced for the UNSG, it emerged that over 100 countries are already exposed to at least one of the dimensions of the crisis, showing that this is a much more general and global crisis than other crises before. She underlined that this is a cost-of-living-crisis, and we must give equally adequate attention to the energy and the financial crisis, otherwise up to 1.67 billion people in the world may be affected. There is a vicious cycle of energy, food, and finance crisis which must be broken. Not only cereals are worrying, other staples (e.g.; rice) need fertilizers to grow. Without, people are going to fall back into poverty, with serious risks of social unrest and defaulting of developing economies, already under financial stress. David Nabarro, co-lead of the Food workstream, highlighted the need for investing in safety nets and social protection in order to strengthen the resilience of populations at risk. He also referred to specific support needed by smallholder farmers and food workers.

Ambassador McCain briefed on the Roadmap for Global Food Security–Call to Action launched on 18 May at the Ministerial Meeting convened by the United States at the United Nations in New York. She informed that 36 countries had already endorsed the Roadmap, which aims at meeting immediate life-saving needs as well as providing long-term financing for social protection and sustainable development. The Call to Action speaks to, for example, avoiding barriers to trade, achieving safe transport through the Black Sea, increasing production of fertilizers in third countries, and investing in strengthened resilience of food systems. She informed that more than 5 billion USD have already been committed to this initiative, and invited all interested countries to join the Roadmap ensure that even the most vulnerable people are adequately fed.

The CFS Chair, finally, briefed on what the CFS plans to do in this context. He recalled that the Bureau at the meeting in April had agreed on organizing a special CFS high-level event, in July, for fostering global policy coordination. To this end, he has already been discussing with the Deputy UNSG, the RBAs, and

the UN GCRG Food Workstream leadership. He informed, that, based on the latest information, the high-level event may take the format of a hybrid meeting, jointly convened by the President of the General Assembly and the CFS, in New York, with virtual connection to Rome. The proposed title for this high-level event is “Coordinating Policy Responses to the Global Food Security Crisis”. The event may take place 14 or 15 July in the morning (EST) and afternoon (Rome). The event will be people-centered and will involve the UN system as well as the IFIs and others.

An open debate followed, with CSIPM highlighting the role of CFS as the legitimate space for global policy coordination and convergence in response to the global food crisis, while appreciating the UNSG’s GCRG and its invitation to the CSIPM to joining its Network group to provide broad and well-grounded information and analysis on how the crisis is affecting the most vulnerable groups and constituencies. In their remarks, CSIPM also highlighted that large-scale industrial food production, highly dependent on synthetic fertilizers, and globalization of food markets, especially of cereal crops, have failed to ensure food security and have an enormous climate and environmental footprint. Instead, small-scale food producers, agroecology and territorial food systems are the type of responses needed. CSIPM underscored that CFS, apart from being the platform to coordinate different initiatives in response to the crisis, it should also develop its own policy responses.

UN Women highlighted the huge burden of the crisis being carried by women and girls, and their efforts to produce sex-disaggregated data and analysis of impacts and responses to inform the work of the UN GCRG.

The interim coordinator of GAFF, Oliver Oliveros, stressed that responses should not lose sight of sustainable practices, regenerative production, and other progress highlighted at the UNFSS.

Members commended speakers for their interventions, and the CFS Chair for his efforts to organize a High-level event on global policy coordination, possibly in New York, during the HLPF. This event, according to some Members, may build on agreed CFS policy agreements and instruments. The CFS Chair proposed that the relevant policy recommendations already agreed, that may provide responses to this crisis, will be compiled by the CFS Secretariat with the assistance of the HLPE.

Bureau discussion and decision:

The CFS Chair informed about the activities that the CFS will be implementing, in the coming months, in response to the food crisis and in line with its mandate for global policy coordination. First, a high-level event, in July (tentative date 14 or 15 July), co-convened by the President of the General Assembly and the Chairperson of the CFS. This event will offer the opportunity to listen to the countries and the people most affected by the food crisis, and increasing coordination among the different initiatives being launched in response to the crisis. Second, we are updating the provisional agenda of CFS50 to include, under agenda item 2, an update of the current situation (SOFI 2022 Report is based on data from 2021) and a Ministerial discussion on the way forward and possible coordinated policy responses.

Members expressed strong support for these CFS activities and particularly for a high-level event to be organized in New York, during the High-Level Political Forum, and possibly co-convened with the President of the General Assembly. Members also indicated that this event should align with the outcomes of the last extraordinary session of the FAO Council, it should highlight CFS policy agreements as tools to respond to the crisis, it should not duplicate other events but add value, it should involve FAO’s Chief Economist and other technical experts, it should include space for national statements, and its ‘outcomes’ should be captured in a Chair’s Summary, whose content will be not negotiated by the Members.

B. Readout of UNCCD COP 15

Ambassador Seydou Cisse', Permanent Representative of Ivory Coast to the UN in Rome, provided a readout of UNCCD COP15, held in Abidjan from 9 to 20 May 2022, from the perspective of the host country government. The COP15 was held with the theme '**Land. Life. Legacy: From scarcity to prosperity**'. Ambassador Cisse' highlighted that desertification and climate change are major issues for Ivory Coast and the African continent, hence COP15 launched the so-called 'Abidjan legacy program', an instrument to accelerate sustainable development and to support agricultural transformation. This initiative is worth \$1.5 billion, and it is structured around 4 main pillars: (i) fight against deforestation and forest restoration; (ii) improving agricultural productivity through mechanization and soil restoration; (iii) actions to make current value chains more sustainable with more significant local processing, to generate more wealth and jobs, especially for youth and women, and the (iv) identification of future value chains that are soil-friendly and will resist climate change.

In concluding, Ambassador Cisse' recalled the appointment for UNFCCC COP27 in Egypt later this year to continue debating these issues and encouraged equally strong participation, including of the CFS Chairperson.

Ms Andrea Meza, Deputy Executive Secretary of UNCCD, spoke about a key message at COP15 of the importance of building drought and land resilience, through land restoration, especially in the face of the current global food crisis. She underlined that more than 125 countries have committed to achieve land-degradation neutrality, but they need support to generate the right policies and for their implementation on the ground, for example through agroecology or integrated approaches. She also underscored that UNCCD COP15 adopted more than 18 decisions about how to improve resilience and reduce land degradation. She recalled the launch-event of a new technical guidance for the implementation of the voluntary guidelines for responsible governance of land tenure (VGGTs), jointly organized by FAO and UNCCD, with the participation of the CFS. She also mentioned a new gender-analysis of the impacts of desertification and land degradation. She concluded with a call to action on drought preparedness. She said that we need to mobilize more resources, but there are opportunities for the three Rio Convention Secretariats and the CFS to continue working and collaborating together on this issue.

The CFS Chair concluded the substantive segment thanking all speakers for excellent briefings on these critical issues that significantly impact global food security and nutrition and thanking over 200 participants that followed the discussion online.

1. CFS 50 Planning

The document 'Guide to the preparation of the CFS 50 Final Report' was well received. Members found it a useful instrument to understand how the CFS 50 Final Report will be prepared and how each plenary item will be captured in the report. The Secretariat confirmed that the document and the process for the preparation of the final report are the same that have been in use since CFS 47.

The Chair reminded Members that each Regional Group should nominate Members for the CFS 50 Drafting Committee and one Member should volunteer for the role of Chairperson of the Drafting Committee.

CFS Chair presented the first draft of the CFS 50 Guide which aims to provide more information about CFS 50 sessions including their objectives, the run of show for each and proposed speakers and provide logistical information including on registration for Members and Observers which will close on 23 September 2022. He strongly encouraged members to include senior-level participation in their delegations such as a Minister, Vice Minister, State Secretary (or equivalent) and inform the CFS Secretariat by 23 September 2022 to be afforded priority protocol consideration on the Speakers' List. Chair noted that Guide will be updated on a rolling basis including with names of speakers upon confirmation. The Guide was well received by Members and Participants.

CSIPM shared some comments on the Guide. In their view, the plenary debate on the global food crisis (day 1) needs to address the problem as a multidimensional, systemic crisis. In this respect, they welcome a Ministerial Segment of the Plenary, since it can catalyze political attention, but the debate should also give special attention and space to the people and constituencies most affected by this crisis. This plenary debate should conclude with a decision of the Committee on developing policy coordination to address the crisis and its causes. This decision, should have a direct and explicit implication for MYPOW Rolling Section. Panels should reflect gender and regional balance. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food, or the directors of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) and of Euronext Paris could be invited as speakers. The Special Event, on the last day, should be an exchange of concrete examples of how governments, social movements, Indigenous Peoples, Intergovernmental Organizations and other relevant actors are responding to the new food crisis, offering an opportunity to deepen the discussion of day 1.

The CFS 50 Timetable was updated and the revised provisional timetable will be circulated with the Outcomes document.

Members and participants raised some specific questions on the content and the organization of CFS 50 that were addressed by the Secretariat. In particular, it was clarified that CFS 50 is currently being organized as a hybrid event, adhering to rules and regulations of FAO (host agency) and Italy (host government). Panelists of the Global Thematic Event will include those selected based on the submissions, through the FSN Forum, of their experiences in use and application of the CFS-RAI Principles. The HLPE report #17 on data analysis and tools for food security and nutrition will be released at the end of August, as an Inf document of CFS 50, but its launch will be organized on 8th September 2022.

The UCLG representative informed that their annual meeting will be organized in Korea 13-14 October, coinciding with CFS 50, but she suggested that a hybrid moment might be co-organized with the CFS.

Regarding the CFS 50 side events, the CFS Chair briefed Members on CFS 50 side events noting that 32 side events will be organized across the 4 days of CFS 50 - during morning and mid-day breaks, in a virtual format, with few exceptions that will be convened in a hybrid format.

These side events will aim to enrich and complement the plenary sessions by highlighting work of relevance to the vision and mandate of CFS. The CFS Chair noted that, of the 32 approved side events, a certain number of events can be expected to:

1. Reflect the major issues and/or topics that are contained within the CFS 2020-2023 Multi-Year Program of Work (MYPoW);
2. Others should reflect key issues and topics of relevance to CFS that emerged from the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit – including Coalitions that are closely aligned with CFS's major policy tools and the reports by the CFS High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE);

3. At least one side event is expected to address the nexus of science policy interfaces and coordination efforts intended to foster and facilitate more collaborative work around science, data, research and sustainable food production.

The CFS Chair clarified that all side events will be solicited through a public call for applications to be issued in early June with a deadline of 15 July. Selection will be done by the CFS Chairperson based on the criteria shared with the Bureau.

Bureau discussion and decision:

Responding to a Member, the CFS Secretariat clarified that the discussion on the HLPE Note on Critical Emerging and Enduring Issues for food security and nutrition will be captured in the CFS 50 final report with a draft conclusion, while a CFS Chair summary of the plenary discussion will also be prepared and will be used as an instrument for the development of the CFS MYPOW 2023-2027. With this clarification, in line with the provisions of Annex B of the response to the CFS evaluation, the Bureau approved the document Guide to the preparation of CFS 50 Final Report.

Regarding the CFS 50 Guide, the Bureau agreed that some flexibility would be necessary on the roll out of item 2 and its conclusions, noting that the global food crisis is evolving day by day. The CFS Chair encouraged Members to inform the Secretariat as soon as possible in case Ministers or other high-level delegates would be interested in participating in any of the plenary sessions, and especially, the Ministerial Segment on day 1 of CFS 50, as part of Agenda item 2. Additional updates to the Guide will be shared ahead of the Bureau's next meetings in July, and again in September.

Regarding the CFS 50 side event process, the HLPE coordination unit informed that the Steering Committee may submit a joint application with other science-policy interfaces.

2. CFS Advisory Group Reporting Exercise

Representatives of UN Nutrition, CSIPM, PSM, and CGIAR presented their reports on the activities carried out in 2021 as ad hoc members of the CFS Advisory Group. In addition to their key role as 'advisors' of the Bureau, attention was paid to their active role in the various CFS OEWGs as well as their valuable contributions to the negotiations of policy agreements.

Bureau and Advisory Group members were also informed of their efforts in promoting the use, application, and dissemination of CFS policy outcomes, through their incorporation in programmatic activities at country level, organization of national dialogues and multi-stakeholder discussions, development of training and capacity building activities and dissemination among relevant actors.

Bureau discussion:

The Bureau discussion highlighted the extreme usefulness of the Advisory Group reporting exercise and the richness of the contributions. The Bureau suggested that in the near future there is a reflection on how best use this material and how best take advantage of the links and connections brought by the Advisory Group. It was suggested that this exercise should also help finalizing the discussion about the composition of the Advisory Group.

Responding to a comment from a Member, the CFS Chair clarified that some constituencies such as parliamentarians or local authorities would participate in CFS, if so decided, as autonomous constituencies, without replacing national governments who are legitimate Members of the Committee.

3. Workstream and Budget Updates

Members sought clarification on the composition and on the role of the core groups. CFS Secretariat explained that the core groups are a pilot effort to support the dissemination, uptake and use of CFS policy agreements, after their endorsement. Two core groups have been established, one for the VGFSyN and one for Agroecological and other Innovative approaches. These core groups are made of CFS Secretariat staff, and technical experts from the RBAs, CGIAR, the UN system etc. Core groups have been instrumental to reach out to some important partners including IFIs, WTO or WHO, who can support implementation of CFS products.

Members sought clarifications on the budget, particularly on the meaning of acronyms used, and on the unspent balance from previous biennia. The CFS Secretary clarified that only a very small balance remained unspent for the last biennia. Member States requested the Secretariat to provide information in writing showing unspent balances from 2010 until the most recent closed biennial cycle for discussion at the next Bureau Meeting. The CFS Chair underlined the need to raise funds for the full implementation of the MYPOW.

4. Any Other Business

New Zealand thanked the CFS Secretariat for its sustained support and quality work, informing that a new colleague is soon coming to Rome and will replace Don Syme in the CFS Bureau.

CSIPM raised some comments about the next rounds of negotiations, foreseen to be held in person in Rome. They expressed their expectation that a medium-size delegation of about 20 members will be allowed in the building during the negotiations, with the understanding that these delegates will rotate in the negotiation room to express the voices of their 11 constituencies within the CSIPM. To this effect, they asked the CFS Chair's support to: obtain FAO's access to the building for the delegation; obtain visa support letters to facilitate travels; and obtain a room for delegates at FAO headquarters for the duration of the negotiations to allow parallel consultations. The Secretariat is following up.

Annex 1: List of attendees of the Bureau and Advisory Group meeting

CFS Bureau Members:

H.E. Gabriel Ferrero (CFS Chair/Spain); Ms Antonietta Patricelli (Angola); Mr Manash Mitra (Bangladesh); Ms Lara Lobo (Brazil); Mr Li Hanghao (China); Mr Mina Rizk (Egypt); Ms Silke Stallkamp (Germany); Mr Anthony Muriithi (Kenya); Mr Cheik Oubey Mohamed Lemine (Mauritania); Mr Don Syme (New Zealand); Mr Tim Kränzlein (Switzerland); H.E. Cindy McCain, Mr Sean Cox, Mr Andrian McAdams, Mr Nathan Miller (USA).

CFS Bureau Alternates:

Mr Maarten de Groot (Canada); Ms Diana Infante (Dominican Republic); Ms Purnta Cita Nugraha, Mr Caka Awal, Ms Ida Rayu Rathi, (Indonesia); Mr Manar Al Sabah (Kuwait); H.E. Victor Vasiliev, Ms Ekaterina Vybornova (Russian Federation); Mr Bennie Lombard (South Africa);

Advisory Group:

Mr Maximo Torero Cullen, Mr Mark McGuire (FAO); Ms Wi Wang, Ms Jordana Blankman (IFAD); Mr Marco Cavalcante, Mr Jacopo Valentini, (WFP); Ms Stineke Oerema (UNN), Ms Carla Kraft, Jemimah Ms Njuki (UNW); Mr Rodney Cooke (CGIAR); Mr Fabrizio Moscatelli (Gates Foundation); Ms Paola De Meo (SR RtF); Mr Martin Wolpold-Bosien, Mr Andre Luzzi, Ms Magdalena Ackermann, Ms Paula Gioia, Mr Tyler Short, Ms Giulia Simula, Ms Betsy Diaz, Ms Sofia Monsalve, Ms Patti Naylor, Ms Dee Woods, Ms Saima Zia, Ms Nora McKeon (CSM) Hala Barakat, Mr Luca Bianchi, Kris Youth, Shiney Vargese, Thierry Kesteloot (CSIPM); Ms Annelies Deus (OECD); Ms Robynne Anderson, Mr Brian Baldwin (PSM); Ms Rebeca Grynspan (SG UNCTAD); Ms Emilia Saiz, Mr Massimo Perrino (UCLG); Andrea Meza Murillo (UNCCD); Mr Felipe Dizon (World Bank); Ms Luisa Volpe (WFO); Ms Abdel Motaal Doaa (WTO).

Observers:

Ms Lieselot Germonprez (Belgium); Mr Jiri Jilek (Czechia); Mr Damien Kelly (EU); Mr Kamal Elblihi (Marocco); Ms Catalina Constantin (Romania); Ms Viktoria Galyas (Sweden); Ms Jennifer Clapp (HLPE StC); Mr Davis Nabarro (4SD); Mr Antonio Onorati (ARI); Mr Frederic Cavé (SUN Movement); Ms Julia Munroe (UCLG); Mr Oliver Oliveros, Mr Mattheus Zanella (Global Alliance for the Future of Food); Ms Mekdes Getahun (FAO).

CFS Secretariat:

Mr Chris Hegadorn (Secretary), Mr Evariste Nicoletis (HLPE Coordinator), Ms Paola Termine (HLPE), Mr Fabio Isoldi, Ms Françoise Trine, Mr Antonio Salort-Pons, Ms Giorgia Paratore, Ms Chiara Cirulli, Mr Waiganjo Njoroge, Ms Tatiana Moruz, Mr Martin Schunk, Mr Pascal Lemasle, Ms Silvia Meiattini.

Annex 2: List of attendees of the Bureau meeting

CFS Bureau Members:

H.E. Gabriel Ferrero (CFS Chair/Spain); Mr Guillermo Spika (Argentina); Ms Antonietta Patricelli (Angola); Mr Manash Mitra (Bangladesh); Ms Lara Lobo (Brazil); Mr Li Hanghao , Ms Li Xi (China); Mr Mina Rizk (Egypt); Ms Silke Stallkamp (Germany); Mr Anthony Muriithi (Kenya); Mr Don Syme (New Zealand); Mr Tim Kränzlein (Switzerland); Mr Sean Cox, Mr Andrian McAdams, Mr Nathan Miller (USA).

CFS Bureau Alternates:

Mr Maarten de Groot (Canada); Ms Berioska Morrison, Ms Diana Infante, Ms Moira Vargas (Dominican Republic); Ms Punta Cita Nugraha (Indonesia); Ms Ekaterina Vybornova (Russian Federation); Mr Bennie Lombard (South Africa).

Observers:

Mr Damien Kelly (EU Delegation); Ms Delphine Babin-Pelliard (France); Ms Rita Piccinno (Italy).

CFS Secretariat:

Mr Chris Hegadorn (Secretary), Ms Françoise Trine, Ms Giorgia Paratore, Mr Emilio Colonnelli, Mr Fabio Isoldi, Ms Chiara Cirulli, Mr Waiganjo Njoroge, Ms Tatiana Moruz, Mr Martin Schunk, Mr Pascal Lemasle.

